

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Thank you for your interest in the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. The mission of the L.A. Area Chamber is to design, advance opportunities and solutions for a thriving regional economy that's inclusive and globally competitive. The activities of a chamber of commerce can vary, below is a list of the most common questions we receive, along with contact information for other L.A. resources.

1. WHAT IS A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?

A chamber of commerce is a business membership organization that typically focuses on improving the business climate and quality of life in a community, through advocacy, networking and business development programs.

2. WHY SHOULD I JOIN THE L.A. AREA CHAMBER?

Companies join a chamber of commerce to increase their organization's visibility and invest in the future of their community. Started in 1888, the L.A. Area Chamber is the largest and oldest chamber of commerce in the L.A. region, and the Chamber has played a role in building L.A.'s water system, freeways, port, transit system and more. The Chamber is the voice for business and advocating on its behalf."

3. HOW DOES OUR CHAMBER RELATE TO OTHER CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE?

There are more than 3,000 chambers of commerce operating at the local, regional, state and national level throughout the United States. Each of these organizations is incorporated and operated separately, rather than as a chapter or franchise of some larger network of organizations. While the L.A. Area Chamber may partner with local chambers throughout the area on various issues, and may maintain membership in the state and U.S. Chamber, the L.A. Area Chamber is not tied to or a subsidiary of any of those organizations. Any connection the L.A. Area Chamber has to other chambers is one of voluntary affiliation or membership, and does not extend to control or governance.

4. WHERE CAN I FIND ECONOMIC DATA AND INDUSTRY DEMOGRAPHICS FOR LOS ANGELES OR INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING MY BUSINESS TO L.A. COUNTY?

Contact our partner organization, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, 213.622.4300, 888.452.3321 or laedc.org.

5. I'M THINKING ABOUT VISITING L.A. WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ON TOURISM, CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND UPCOMING CONVENTIONS?

Contact our partner organization, Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board, 800.366.6116 or discoverla.com or the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, 213.202.5500 or culturela.org.

History

Founded in 1888, the L.A. Area Chamber has helped shape the region we live in today. The Chamber worked with the motion picture industry to make Hollywood the world-renowned home of the stars. The Chamber helped secure water resources from the Owens Valley and Colorado River to our region. And, the Chamber lobbied for Federal assistance in dredging the largest man-made harbor in the world out of the mud flats in San Pedro, developing Los Angeles into a port city. Today, the Chamber continues to shape the region through its strategic initiatives and advocacy efforts surrounding key issues facing Southern California.

Key Stats

- Representing interests of more than 235,000 businesses in L.A. County or with more than 400 members ranging from multi-national conglomerates to individual entrepreneurs, the Chamber represents a diverse membership of businesses from the Los Angeles region impacting five counties – Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura. We are an advocate for business – across local, state, federal and global levels.

Our Vision

A Thriving Region for All

Our Strategic Priorities

- Global Engagement
- Advocacy through Civic Engagement and Public Policy
- Community Collaboration for Economic Growth & Mobility

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6. I PLAN TO START A BUSINESS IN LOS ANGELES.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

L.A. is the small business capital of the world, and there are plenty of resources to help you start your business.

For more information, contact:

- U.S. Small Business Administration, 818.552.3201 or sba.gov
- The Southern California Minority Supplier Development Council (SCMSDC), 213.689.6960, or www.scmsdc.org
- Pacific Coast Regional Business Corporation, 213.674.2696 or pcrcorp.org
- SCORE, a partner of the Small Business Administration, score.org (for business counseling and feedback on your business plan)

To register a business name, contact:

- L.A. County Department of Registrar/Recorder and the L.A. County Clerk, 562.462.2177 or lavote.net

For a business license in the City of Los Angeles, contact:

- Office of Finance Division, 213.473.5901

For a business license in an unincorporated part of L.A. County, contact:

- L.A. County Business License Office, 213.974.2011

7. HOW DO I FILE A COMPLAINT ABOUT A LOCAL BUSINESS?

Contact the Better Business Bureau, 888.983.3122 or bbb.org or the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs, 213.974.1452 or dca.ca.gov.

8. WHERE CAN I OBTAIN A BIRTH, DEATH OR MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE?

Contact the Los Angeles County Registrar, 562.462.2137 or lavote.net.

9. HOW CAN I CONTACT CITY HALL AND OTHER LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS?

There are 88 cities in L.A. County, each with their own municipal governments. Most often, we receive inquiries about L.A. City Hall, which is located at 200 N. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, 213.485.2121 or lacity.org.

10. HOW CAN I ADVERTISE WITH THE L.A. AREA CHAMBER?

Advertising opportunities in our print and email newsletters and on our website are available exclusively to Chamber members. To receive a copy of our ad rate sheet or for more information, contact Shannon Smith at 213.580.7532 or ssmith@lachamber.com.

11. HOW CAN I PROMOTE AN EVENT TO CHAMBER MEMBERS AND THE L.A. COMMUNITY?

Submit your event for posting to our free online Community Calendar at lachamber.com/events.
For more information contact 213.580.7500.

12. I JUST MOVED TO LOS ANGELES. WHO DO I CALL TO TURN ON MY UTILITIES?

For the City of Los Angeles, dial 311 or go to lacity.org
For the County of Los Angeles, dial 211 or go to lacounty.gov

Key Stats

- The Chamber supports seven public policy committees and three industry councils, which collectively help set the Chamber's advocacy agenda.
- Each year, the Chamber leads hundreds of business leaders to Los Angeles City Hall, Sacramento and Washington, D.C. to advocate for a strong economy and desirable living environment throughout the L.A. region.
- Working in partnership with the Southern California Leadership Network (SCLN), the Chamber's leadership programs graduate nearly 100 future leaders through its Leadership Southern California, Leadership L.A. and other programs each year.

Contact us

P: 213.580.7500

F: 213.580.7511

lachamber.com