



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

TUESDAY | Nov. 8, 2005

THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE:

We Elected a Reformer, So Let's Reform.



Coming up at the Chamber

[View all upcoming events on our web calendar.](#)

WED | Nov. 9
5th Annual Westside Mixer
[more info](#)

WED | Nov. 9
The Connection Point:
Follow-Up and Follow-
Through
[more info](#)

MON | Nov. 14
Mobility 21 Annual Summit:
L.A. County Moving
Together
[more info](#)

TUE | Nov. 15
Transportation & Goods
Movement Committee
Meeting
[more info](#) | [register](#)

THU | Nov. 17
Economic Development &
Land Use Committee Meeting
[more info](#) | [register](#)

THU | Nov. 17
Environmental Quality
Committee Meeting
[more info](#) | [register](#)

TUE | Nov. 22
Referral Network
A Growing Companies program
sponsored by Wells Fargo
[more info](#)

THU | Dec. 1
Member Orientation
[more info](#)

THU | Dec. 1
New Member Reception
[more info](#)

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, with more than 1,400 members, is the voice of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information, visit www.lachamber.org

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Today is Election Day in California—a special election called by Gov. Schwarzenegger on his reform agenda. Other propositions are on the ballot, but the reason for the election—and indeed, most of the attention, has been focused on his four reform initiatives: Propositions 74 through 77.

The outcome of today's election surely will not mean the end of these matters. If any or all of them pass, opponents will probably try to find ways to challenge them in court, or come back to the voters at a later date to ask for reconsideration. If the measures fail, those who support them will not end their calls for reform—and they shouldn't.

This election must not mean the end of the governor's efforts to reform, especially in the following key areas:

Budget Reform: Who can say that California's budget system, which has allowed for the creation of massive deficits, does not need a complete overhaul to prevent the fiscal irresponsibility that we have witnessed from continuing to occur in the future?

Political Reform: I don't believe that I'm exaggerating when I say that in the 35 years I've been observing California politics, I have never seen a campaign for ballot initiatives that has contained more misrepresentations, fabrications and outright falsehoods than this one. We must find a way to end the loopholes created in campaign finance legislation that allow a seemingly endless stream of money to pour into campaigns, and we must find a way to promote truth in campaigning, while being respectful of First Amendment rights to free speech.

Additionally, our system of allowing legislators to draw their own districts, which perpetuates both their own rule and that of their parties, is a system which should end. It is the rawest form of self-interest legislation imaginable.

Education Reform: Nobody—not even teachers and their unions—can stand up and say that California's education system is not broken. Too many children drop out or, if they stay, finish with inadequate skills. We must change this system and improve the futures of our children and our economy.

I don't know how voters will finally decide the fate of these initiatives. But one way or another, the legislature and the governor must unite in a bipartisan coalition to develop solutions to these challenges, so that we can get California and our elected officials focusing on how to move our economy forward and restore prosperity to our great state.

And that's *The Business Perspective*.

Russell J. Hammer
President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

The Business Perspective is an award-winning weekly opinion column by Rusty Hammer, President & CEO, L.A. Area Chamber

L.A. Business THIS WEEK

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Our system of allowing legislators to draw their own districts should end. It is the rawest form of self-interest legislation imaginable.

Please tell us your thoughts on this issue. Include your name, company and email address and your response may appear in next week's *Business Perspective*.



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