

A United Front Needed For Bond Success



Coming up at the Chamber

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

WED | May 10
Power Hour Breakfast
With Jamey Power, EVP of J.D. Power and Associates
[more info](#)

FRI | May 12
The California Small Business Roundtable
[more info](#)

MON-THU | May 15-18
Access Washington D.C.
[more info](#)

TUES | May 23
Referral Network
[more info](#)

WED | May 24
Environmental Quality Committee Meeting
[more info](#)

WED | May 24
Transportation & Goods Movement Committee Meeting
[more info](#)

WED | May 24
Southern California Leadership Network Graduation & Class Report
[more info](#)

THURS | May 25
Export Seminar Session #5: Export Compliance
[more info](#)

THURS | May 25
Land Use, Construction & Housing Committee Meeting
[more info](#)

WED | May 31
25th Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon
[more info](#)

FRI | June 9
Accenture Pancakes & Politics
[more info](#)

FRI | June 9
Health Care Committee Meeting
[more info](#)

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce 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

350 S. Bixel St.
Los Angeles, CA 90017
213.580.7500 tel
213.580.7511 fax
info@lachamber.org

Let's give credit where credit is due.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, Senate Minority Leader Dick Ackerman and Assembly Minority Leader George Plescia, came together last week to put a historic [infrastructure bond measure](#) on the November ballot. The legislature passed the measure and we will have our chance, for the first time in decades, to invest systematically in improving the state's crumbling infrastructure.

Congratulations and good work to all those involved in making this happen. Just a few months ago it appeared that the governor's proposal to begin investing in infrastructure would not make the light of public debate because of partisan bickering that derailed it from the June ballot.

The measure is nowhere near the size or scope of what was proposed in the governor's [Strategic Growth Plan](#), but it is a good start. The plan calls for \$37.5 billion in new bonds when, paired with other resources, represents \$116 billion in investment for our state in transportation, air quality, education, flood prevention and housing.

The Capitol was united last week in its bipartisanship. Democrats and Republicans, northerners and southerners, liberals and conservatives all worked together to come to this point. It doesn't happen that often, so it was a welcome sign. But the battle to pass the bond issue will require that this bipartisanship continue through the election.

We have a gubernatorial election in November and already the credit game is beginning. Candidates are accepting the glory and minimizing the contributions of others. Parties are taking credit on the one hand but placing blame for delays on the other. With enough credit to go around for everyone, we cannot afford to allow this to continue. Any negativity could doom the bond to defeat.

If the bond passes and is implemented with speed and cost effectiveness, voters will keep investing. If we botch the job, we can probably call it quits.

Effective implementation requires an adequate and fair process to determine which projects will be funded. We must find ways to implement design-build practices and encourage public-private partnerships – both of which will assure projects are brought on line quickly and in the most cost effective manner possible.

Now is the time to come together – for all of California. This is a unique opportunity for voters to approve what we hope will be the first step in a multi-year process to repair our crumbling infrastructure and prepare California for the future.

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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