



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

TUESDAY | August 1, 2006

THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE:



Let's Bond Over Infrastructure



Coming up at the Chamber

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

THU | Aug. 3 Starting Your Own Business Workshop

Presented by SCORE
[more info](#)

TUE | Aug. 8 Referral Network

[more info](#)

TUE | Aug. 8 Joint Environmental Quality and Transportation & Goods Movement Committee Luncheon

[more info](#)

FRI | Aug. 11 International Trade & Investment Committee

Featuring Rep. Howard Berman

[more info](#)

TUE | Aug. 15 Southern California Leadership Network Recruitment Reception

[more info](#)

THU | Aug. 17 Export Seminar Session #8

Freight and Logistics - Delivering Goods
[more info](#)

FRI | Aug. 18 Policy Briefing with U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer

For Circle Level Members Only
[more info](#)

TUE | Aug. 22 Referral Network

[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

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Californians will have the opportunity to embark on a comprehensive program this fall to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure and make new investments for our future growth. We urge California voters to embrace Propositions 1A through 1E and we are proud to be a leader in this effort.

Thanks to a display of bipartisanship leadership, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, and Speaker Fabian Núñez came together to craft this critical set of proposals. They know, as do we, that California's future depends on finding ways to [improve transportation, build schools, strengthen levees, develop housing and improve emergency facilities](#). Propositions 1A through 1E do just that.

The Chamber has long been an advocate to get the state to embark on such a program. Last year we convened a special Infrastructure Task Force to study what areas are in the greatest need of investment. We met with the Schwarzenegger administration and state legislators to share the business community's priorities and objectives throughout the process. And infrastructure was the major theme of this year's Access Sacramento trip in March, when more than 100 business and civic leaders descended on the State Capitol urging lawmakers to push ahead.

If the bonds do not pass, we will tie the hands of our economy and make living in California less desirable for our growing citizen base... We must get started now.

Our lobbying efforts paid off, and the measures will be before the voters on Nov. 7.

- Proposition 1A will permanently dedicate the gasoline sales tax revenue to transportation purposes to prevent raiding these funds for general purposes, which has occurred in the past.
- Proposition 1B will fund \$19.9 billion to improve local streets, expand public transportation, reduce highway traffic congestion and improve port security.
- Proposition 1C dedicates \$2.85 billion for affordable housing construction, emergency shelters and infill development incentives, including homeownership assistance and building new parks.
- Proposition 1D provides \$10.4 billion in school construction funds to build new schools, modernize existing facilities, relieve over crowded schools and invest in workforce development programs.
- Proposition 1E will make \$4.09 billion available for emergency preparedness and flood protection, especially among California's vulnerable levee system.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of a positive vote on Propositions 1A through 1E in November. These infrastructure needs have been growing for 30 years and must be addressed. The result of this ballot will affect the economic vitality of every business and the quality of life for every citizen.

If the bonds do not pass, we will tie the hands of our economy and make living in California less desirable for our growing citizen base. The state's population will swell to 50 million people by 2020. Our infrastructure is stretched beyond capacity under current conditions. Imagine sitting in traffic or going to school today along with 14 million more Californians. If we are to remain a global economic leader and if we are to improve the quality of life for us and our children, we must get started now.

Fortunately for L.A., we have made many investments in these areas. Over the past decade, we have passed bonds totaling \$19.2 billion to build new schools – the largest school construction and repair program in the nation's history. And voters will be deciding on a [\\$1 billion housing bond](#) for L.A. this fall. Even though we have taken some of our own steps already, we have substantial infrastructure needs that this bond issue will address and an enlightened self-interest in supporting this comprehensive program that will benefit our entire state.

The stakes are high. These proposals must pass. But they won't unless we can get the word out to the voters. We urge the business community not only to vote for these proposals, but also to contribute to the [statewide campaign to educate voters](#). Please [contact me](#) if you would like to participate in a fundraising event the Chamber is sponsoring with FuturePorts and State Sen. Don Perata

by
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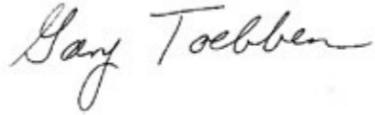
L.A. Business THIS WEEK

View the latest issue of the Chamber's [weekly email newsletter](#). [Contact us](#) to subscribe.

on Friday, Aug. 18.

It is an investment in our future and your business.

And that's *The Business Perspective*.



Gary L. Toebben
President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

*The Business Perspective is a weekly opinion piece by Gary Toebben,
President & CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce,
produced with the input of Senior Policy Advisor Rusty Hammer.*

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