



TUESDAY | February 6, 2007

THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE:

A Better L.A. is Our Business in Sacramento and D.C.



Coming up at the Chamber

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

WED | Feb. 7
Small Business Owners Roundtable
[more info](#)

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

SAT | Feb. 10
Cash For College Workshops
[more info](#)

TUE | Feb. 13
Referral Network
[more info](#)

THU | Feb. 15
Export Seminar Series: Developing & Expanding Export Markets
[more info](#)

THU | Feb. 15
Land Use, Construction & Housing Committee Meeting
[more info](#)

FRI | Feb. 16
Accenture Pancakes & Politics
Featuring Connie Rice, co-director of The Advancement Project, and L.A. City Councilmember Tony Cardenas
[more info](#)

FRI | Feb. 16
Doing Business with Rosario, Argentina
[more info](#)

WED | Feb. 21
International Trade & Investment Committee Meeting
[more info](#)

WED | Feb. 21
Transportation & Goods Movement Committee Meeting
[more info](#)

WED | Feb. 21
Energy, Water & Environment Committee Meeting
[more info](#)

THU | Feb. 22
Education & Workforce Development Committee Meeting
[more info](#)

FRI | Feb. 23
Principal For a Day
[more info](#)

TUE | Feb. 27
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

Advocacy on state and federal issues has been a priority of the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce since 1888. As the oldest business organization in Los Angeles, our founders understood the powerful and essential role that business could play in lobbying for the best interests of the community in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. For 118 years the Chamber has been a trustee of the region, not simply an advocate for business on business legislation.

As trustees for the future we must champion economic growth and quality of life for the L.A. region. Our mission is to ensure the growth and sustainability of this region, which has been blessed with so many physical assets and a constant flow of talented people.

We implement this mission by championing an annual advocacy agenda, which in broad terms, sets forth the most important initiatives that the L.A. region needs addressed in our state and nation's capitol. Our top priorities for 2007 include:

- Improve California's business climate for existing companies and entrepreneurs, while enhancing our image as a state that welcomes and embraces companies that offer the promise of creating new and higher paying jobs.
- Ensure that California businesses are not overly burdened by excessive taxation, government regulations, workplace standards and other employer costs that cause companies to select other locations.
- Invest in the unique status of L.A. as one of the world's leading international ports and airports.
- Relieve congestion and gridlock to assure that the transportation infrastructure of our region meets the demands of citizens, businesses and the goods movement industry in the 21st century.
- Achieve full health care access and lower costs for all Californians.
- Increase the availability of affordable housing and reform the state's land use laws to assure adequate housing.
- Reward and recognize public schools that dramatically improve their high school graduation rates and increase the number of students who pursue post-secondary education.
- Implement environmental policy that, through incentives rather than penalties, balances and promotes public health and economic growth.
- Develop a national immigration policy that addresses the economic realities of our future work force needs and recognizes the positive contributions that immigrants, both past and current, have had on the California economy.

The Chamber cannot make progress in these important initiatives if we act alone. We will seek to build coalitions with other organizations with which we share common goals. When we visit Washington, D.C. in March and Sacramento in May, we will go in partnership with other business organizations and local government officials who share this common vision for the future of our region.

Most importantly we need you. Learn more about our [advocacy agenda](#) and [sign up now](#) for Access Washington, D.C., March 26 - 29. There is no substitute for individuals and business owners who take the time to communicate with their legislators.

There is no more important effort in which we must engage. It was true 118 years ago and it is true today.

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.

by Gary Toebben, President & CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

L.A. Business THIS WEEK

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