



GREATER

— COACHELLA VALLEY —

CHAMBER

2020

LEGISLATIVE

PLATFORM

POLICY PLATFORM

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The Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce is pleased to share our Legislative Platform. This document is designed to allow chamber staff to respond in a timely manner to legislative action when it pertains to business.

AGRICULTURE

Support:

- Industry accepted water conservation practices.
- Farmer's commitment to providing safe food that is verified through government, 3rd party, retail, and self-audits.
- Farmer's use of crop protectants used in accordance with Federal, State, County and Local laws and regulations in the production of agricultural commodities.
- Control measures in the event of an exotic agricultural or environmental pest outbreak that could pose economic loss to agricultural production.
- Environmental regulations that do not exceed Federal standards for agricultural land use.
- Research and development, public awareness, and educational programs of biotechnology agricultural commodities.
- Labeling of food and other agricultural commodities that defines the country of origin.

COMMUNICATIONS

Support:

- Legislation and regulations that will encourage innovative utility and telecommunications infrastructure.
- New innovative technology in the utility industry to improve the business climate in the Coachella Valley.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS REGULATIONS

Support:

- A business-friendly political and regulatory environment in the Coachella Valley, State and federal government.
- Incentive-based programs for business available at the local, county, state and federal levels.
- Job creation measures across all industry sectors.
- Time-critical bonds and measures, with defined sunset clauses, that add infrastructure to support and facilitate commerce.
- Reform of burdensome regulatory processes at the local, state and federal government.
- Policies that promote efficiency in government and consolidation of services.
- Tort reform to reduce businesses exposure to excessive litigation.
- CEQA reform to eliminate excessive redundancies and promote economic development.
- Market based incentives in lieu of government mandated policies.
- Reasonable government standards of business signage, ordinances and regulations applied uniformly for all businesses.
- Privatization of government services when economically viable.
- Government functions that enhance the economic base of private enterprise in the Coachella Valley and surrounding region.

Oppose:

- Measures increasing business taxes and fees unless such fees/taxes are mandated to projects that improve the overall economic viability of the Coachella Valley business community.
- Legislation or regulations that impose health and safety standards that are not based on sound scientific and empirical data and place our business community at a competitive disadvantage to competing community's.
- Unfunded government mandates.
- Government mandates that unduly regulate or tax business.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE TRAINING

Support:

- Regional Plan for College and Career success.
- Regional college and career pathways/linked learning efforts to assure local students a meaningful high-quality work experience through alignment with local workforce needs.
- Career technical education (CTE) and academy programs in the Coachella Valley.
- Vocational education, hands-on learning and alternate educational paths.
- Welfare-to-work process through legislation that provides for training, tax credits and other incentives that assist local businesses.
- Legislation that provides incentives for a well-trained and flexible workforce.
- Retraining programs for displaced workers.

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

Support:

- Continuous efforts to responsibly recharge the Coachella Valley aquifer.
- Additional in-state reliable energy generation, infrastructure/transmission and renewable generation balanced to maintain a robust and economically viable economy.
- Water conservation and reclamation.
- Energy efficiency programs and conservation of natural resources.
- Local representation on utility boards and commissions that service our member footprint.
- Defense of free markets.

HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Support:

- Efforts to preserve access to high quality healthcare while lowering the burden on employers, including reforms that encourage choice for employers, workers and others to retain health care insurance coverage.
- Efforts to ensure and improve access to specialized healthcare services, including but not limited to trauma, behavioral and primary care in the Coachella Valley.
- Efforts to develop a sustainable regional healthcare infrastructure that meets the needs of all Coachella Valley residents.
- Efforts to increase the number of clinical providers available to areas, such as the Coachella Valley, which are designated as underserved -- including efforts to grow Graduate Medical Education (GME) and residency training programs.

Oppose:

- Proposals to create single-payer or government-run health care that would eliminate the choice for employers, workers and others to retain their current health care.
- Unfunded mandates that force hospitals, physicians, groups and other providers to pass along those costs to employers and others seeking health care services.

HOUSING

Support:

- Adequate housing for all sectors of the Coachella Valley's workforce.
- Appropriate fee structures that are conducive to fostering economic growth through the housing and construction industry.

Oppose:

- Policy that increases fee structure, adds to the permit process, and generally inhibits, complicates or increases the cost associated with local residential and commercial construction.

LABOR

Support:

- Comprehensive immigration reform that ensures adequate access to needed labor for our local business community.
- Adequate workers compensation coverage at a reasonable cost to businesses with the objective to rehabilitate and/or train the injured employee to return to the workforce.
- Efforts to reduce workers' compensation fraud and/or to increase system efficiencies.
- Immigration employment laws that are reasonable and not burdensome to small business.

Oppose:

- New California labor laws or regulations that are overly burdensome to employers.

TOURISM

Support:

- Policies that promote and increase tourism in the Coachella Valley.
- Organizations that promote and enhance tourism in the Coachella Valley.
- Cost efficient infrastructure development that supports Coachella Valley tourism without unduly burdening local businesses.

TRANSPORTATION

Support:

- Reliable, useful, sustainable, and cost-effective transportation options for local business.
- Sound planning transportation needs for the future growth of the Coachella Valley population.
- Alternative methods of transportation that grant additional/easier access to Coachella Valley commerce.
- The establishment of a customs facility at the Palm Springs Airport to enable international flights to land and clear customs.
- Expansion and development of airport facilities and related industries in the Coachella Valley.
- Efforts to provide enhanced year-round air service to the Coachella Valley.
- Support for additional passenger rail service to the Coachella Valley.
- Future efforts to connect the Coachella Valley to neighboring markets with commuter rail service.
- Monitoring the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF) and its impact on development.
- Maintain vital public infrastructure.

TRIBAL

Support:

- Tribal sovereignty.
- Tribal economic development.
- A Tribal owned and operated foreign trade zone.

VETERANS/MILITARY

Support:

- Transition of military to the workforce and community.
- Initiatives related to job creation and development.

Oppose:

- Base closures that affect our business community.

