

Lake County Chamber of Commerce

Government Affairs

Mission Statement and Policy Platform

April 2015

- A. The Lake County Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) is the largest and most broadly based business organization in Lake County. Chamber members include companies and organizations of all sizes and business types. The Chamber's role is to create, develop and implement cutting edge policies and practices that will provide outstanding pro-business legislative and policy representation to our membership.
- B. The Chamber's Government Affairs (Committee) Team, as directed by the Chamber Board of Directors, develops policy platform recommendations to the Board, and reviews proposed legislation, ballot measures, important Government issues and candidates for public office.
- C. The Government Affairs Policy Platform provides direction to the Lake County Chamber of Commerce in the development of positions on legislation, ballot measures, and other public policy issues; acting on those positions, assessing candidates for public office and monitoring the voting record of elected officials.
- D. The Chamber's Executive Director, the Board, and the Government Affairs Team and/or its members may take public positions consistent with this Policy Platform.
- E. The implementation of this Chamber's Government Affairs Policy Platform is intended to enhance private enterprise by directly improving the economic climate essential for all business's to prosper, and is critical to improving the outstanding quality of life in our community.
- F. The Chamber Board periodically reviews, updates, considers and adopts a Government Affairs Policy Platform Statement which broadly describes the positions and beliefs of the Chamber membership on a wide variety of topics related to local, regional, State and Federal legislation, proposed and existing regulation and other actions taken by local, state and federal governments. The policy platform is developed by the Chamber's Government Affairs Team and recommended to the Chamber Board of Directors.
- G. Particularly sensitive government affair matters or those with divided opinion are recommended to the Chamber's Executive Team for review and action. The Executive Team may choose to recommend positions the Chamber's Board of Directors for final disposition.
- H. The Chamber's Government Affairs Policy Platform is intended to bring together all sectors of the business community to create a unified and powerful voice for business. The Government Affairs Policy Platform provides direction on the issues facing business in general and allows the Board, Team and/or Executive Director to address current issues, so that each individual business is free to concentrate on the concerns related to that specific business.

Lake County Chamber of Commerce

Government Affairs Mission Statement

1. The Lake County Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs and Relations Mission Statement and Policy Platform provides a comprehensive, non-partisan Federal, State, County and Local political program that contributes to a favorable business climate in Lake County and the region.

2. The Chamber will strive to make business an equal player in Local, State, and Federal Government activities.

3. The Chamber Government Affairs program brings together all sectors of the business community to create a unified and powerful voice for business. We deal with the issues facing business in general so that each individual organization is free to concentrate on the concerns related to that specific business.

4. The Lake County Chamber can be effective in its advocacy on behalf of its members, because it has strong membership support from a wide variety of businesses, large and small. Together we have clout with elected officials. By keeping Chamber members and the community informed, mobilizing members to take action, and providing member input at all levels of government, the Chamber can maintain its political influence.

5. The Lake County Chamber maintains good relationships with elected officials by providing them with critical information on business issues, by directly advocating for business at Federal, State, County and local levels, and through business alliances that the Lake County Chamber has formed.

LAKE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS POLICIES**

Regulatory/Legislative Process

1. Encourage logical governmental regulations which are consistent with the Chamber's mission and are not detrimental to local businesses.
2. Encourage local, state and federal representatives to limit government encroachment on business enterprise.
3. Encourage and support free-market principles.
4. Support private property rights.
5. Support efforts that promote fair and open competition and the creation of level playing fields for business and commerce.
6. Support limitations on the size of government at all levels commensurate with public demand for services and the reasonable availability tax revenues.
7. Encourage local bidding on and privatization of government services where it can be shown to be more efficient and effective.
8. Encourage a "business-friendly" approach and environment at all levels of government.
9. Support public/private partnerships, where appropriate, to accomplish goals and provide services that benefit the general public and business interests.

Land Development

1. Encourage the application of predictable permitting processes at the County and City levels.
2. Support the simplification of the land use planning and building permit application process and consolidation of department sign-offs to as few locations as possible in order to speed up the development review and approval process.
3. Encourage a supply and demand market approach in determining the types of land developments needed in the community.
4. Support the implementation of a reasonable fee structure so as not to inhibit land development.
5. Encourage the use of reasonable development incentives to attract land developers and capital resources to the county and cities.
6. Support efforts to create new jobs that support land development projects.
7. Support development that is not undertaken through the use of predatory business and labor practices that negatively impact the wider business community.
8. Encourage appropriate zoning practices that help incorporate new developments while at the same time maintaining the rural culture of our community.
9. Encourage retail development that will help attract shoppers from outside the county.
10. Act as a facilitator between land developers and city and county agencies in order to encourage a balanced approach to new land development.
11. Taking an active role in reviewing any proposed changes that could impact the development so that Lake County continues to improve both the commercial and residential diversity that is vital to a healthy business climate.

12. Encourage the most efficient and compatible use of the remaining lands and development opportunities.
13. Support the development of adequate affordable housing to attract a qualified work force for new business recruitment and job retention.

Infrastructure/Transportation/Communication/Systems

1. Support and encourage efforts to expand infrastructure and services at Lampson airport, including runway lengthening and widening, the establishment of additional hangar facilities and expansion of taxiway access to the runway in order to make it more attractive and sustainable as transportation hub for Lake County.
2. Support local and regional government in its efforts to secure funding from all available sources for road construction, reconstruction and maintenance.
3. Encourage road construction that provides for a safe and useable means of bicycle and pedestrian travel in conjunction with motor vehicle use.
4. Encourage and support the development of high speed and wireless communication infrastructure that will help make the county more attractive to businesses requiring significant band width and other electronic resources.
5. Encourage and support state and local efforts to improve the four major highway routes into and through the county.
6. Encourage the construction and maintenance of walking paths, promenades and similar strolling venues in tourist areas.
7. Encourage the continued operation of quality, efficient, and low cost public transit modes and systems throughout Lake County
8. Support a uniform state policy that encourages continued investment in the telecommunications industry and improves access to broadband Internet connections.
9. Support a long-term, comprehensive water plan that includes new supply, storage. Support long-term, stable federal, state, county and local funding sources for road and highway improvements.
10. Encourage a reliable source of consistent and affordable energy supply.

Healthcare

1. Encourage equal access to high quality physicians, dentists, hospitals and other healthcare providers.
2. Encourage healthcare providers to offer affordable services.
3. Support smart growth and development of top quality healthcare facilities in Lake County and discourage duplication of services by competing providers.
4. Encourage residents to use local healthcare providers for service.
5. Encourage a market approach to determine the community need for healthcare.
6. Support and encourage the concept of “wellness” where individuals take responsibility for the health and well-being.

Law Enforcement/Public Safety

1. Support aggressive enforcement of federal and state drug laws.
2. Support local law enforcement agencies in their efforts to acquire the necessary resources to carry out their responsibilities in a professional and effective manner.
3. Encourage and support cooperation among different law enforcement agencies in order to avoid duplication of effort and inefficient use of limited public resources.
4. Encourage consolidation of local fire districts where it can be shown that efficiencies can be achieved without reducing effectiveness.

Environmental Resources

1. Support efforts of public and private entities to help maintain the highest level of water quality in Clear Lake.
2. Support efforts at all levels of government to employ common sense measures to improve and protect our county's natural resources while remaining mindful and respectful of private property rights.
3. Support efforts to provide reasonable public access to Clear Lake while at the same time protecting private property rights of rim land property owners.
4. Encourage and support public/private projects that solve community environmental problems while enhancing and extending the life of privately owned resources that benefit everyone.
5. Support practices, such as controlled burning and other vegetation management measures on public and private lands that help prevent wild fires and other damage to county watersheds.
6. Support efforts that will reduce the negative impact of flooding and high lake level events.

Redevelopment

1. Support efforts on the part of the cities and county, that are focused on eliminating blight and upgrading properties that cast a poor image on the community.
2. Support new legislation and a new approach for redevelopment agencies and redevelopment plans in California cities and counties.

Recreation and Tourism

1. Support, facilitate and encourage development of recreation/tourism projects.
2. Support efforts to develop diverse recreational experiences.
3. Encourage a market approach to development of quality recreational accommodations.
4. Encourage projects that support year-round recreational experiences.
5. Encourage regional approach to promotion of recreation and tourism that enhances growth of existing business.

6. Support new and additional hotel facilities that would bring more business to Lake County—retail, restaurants, and services, and that will produce significant additional employment and tax revenue for the County.
7. Support business and services that create a “critical mass” and that increase revenues to local businesses from tourist spending and from a reduction of retail leakage (capture more local shopping revenue).
8. Support investment by the County of Lake and other government entities in infrastructure that enhances the tourism appeal of Lake County and in programs that promote visitation to the county.
9. Support California programs that encourage tourism development and promote California tourism nationally and worldwide.
- 10.

Economic Development

1. Support legislation and government decisions that encourage economic development and job creation.
2. Encourage regional economic development, cooperation between the two Cities and the County on Economic Development projects, job creation, business loan programs and similar efforts.
3. Support the formation of a high level Chamber of Commerce business team that mobilizes quickly and effectively in response to nationally oriented business expansion and relocation opportunities.

Agriculture

- 1 Support measures to help Lake County agriculture remain competitive.
- 2 Support the ability of the agriculture industry to provide affordable housing to their labor.
- 3 Support long-term comprehensive water planning by each water district, which includes new or sufficient supply, storage and conveyance elements and pricing structures.
- 4 Support reforms that achieve a balanced approach between environmental protection and agriculture operations, and regulatory measures that are weighted using cost/benefit and economic impact analysis.

Education, Workforce and Housing

- 1 Support interaction with school districts/institutions and businesses in an effort to match educational programs with the demands of the labor force in Lake County.
- 2 The Chamber supports tax incentives for businesses providing intern program.
- 3 Support locally determined priorities and local implementation of programs for attaining statewide academic standards. Support cooperative action among educators, the business community, parents and community organizations as to education goals and priorities.
- 4 Support adult education and vocational training and retraining through incentive-based public and private sector programs
- 5 Support the offering of new technology, foreign language education, music and arts throughout the educational system.

- 6 Lake County Chamber will support and encourage funding of college-level programs that broaden the job base in the Lake County area.
- 7 Support housing choices that can accommodate a diverse workforce. Support legislation removing the barriers to housing development in existing urban areas.
- 8 Support efforts to ensure that our educational system graduates students who are adequately prepared to enter and contribute to local business success.
- 9 Support high quality academic and vocational initiatives, recognizing that not all students thrive in and benefit from a purely academic environment.
- 10 Encourage the community to support necessary public and private school growth and initiatives.
- 11 Support and encourage community college growth.
- 12 Encourage residents to use local community colleges.
- 13 Support appropriate consolidation and market approach to determine community needs for education.

Human Resources and Business Operations.

- 1 Support reform of the workers' compensation system and policies to reduce fraud and abuse. Support limits on the ability of workers to receive benefits for non-work related injuries and other conditions.
- 2 Oppose state-imposed mandates that penalize employers.
- 3 Support wage and hour rules that allow flex time and base overtime on a 40-hour workweek rather than on eight hours per day.
- 4 Discourage any legislation that might result in unnecessary tighter state-mandated regulatory controls on businesses including nonprofits.
- 5 Support a policy that all local government agencies throughout the county, with a project, that requires a bid, to give local business who are solely located or who corporate offices are based in Lake County a 10 percent preference in their bid process over business from outside the county.

Taxation and Government Finance.

- 1 Examine and monitor changes/additions to fees and assessments affecting business that are imposed by state, federal and local governments, and oppose them as appropriate.
- 2 Encourage efforts to privatize government services and the use of private contracts to fulfill government programs where appropriate. Support the maintenance of designated tax revenues to designated sources so they are not lost in the general funds of government entities.
- 3 Monitor sales tax sharing (reallocation) proposals and oppose them if they are not mutually beneficial to all local government taxing entities.
- 4 Support business-related tax credit incentives that benefit the community and business in general.