



2023
State Policy Agenda

El Dorado County
Chamber of Commerce

El Dorado Hills
Chamber of Commerce

Elk Grove
Chamber of Commerce

Folsom
Chamber of Commerce

Lincoln
Chamber of Commerce

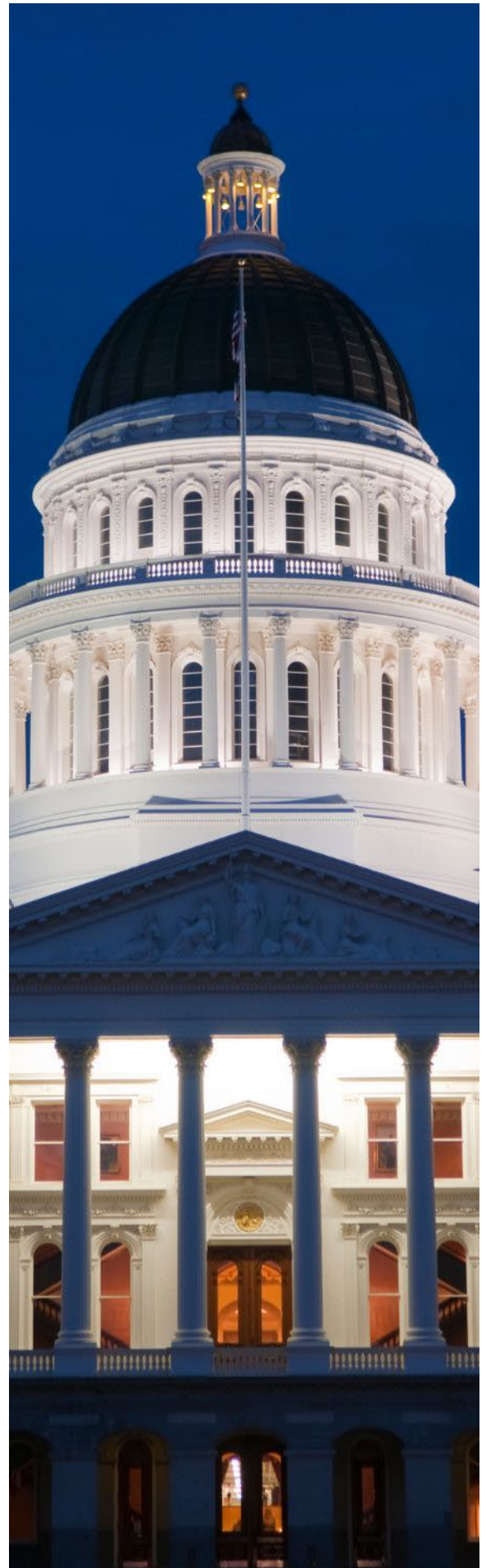
Rancho Cordova
Chamber of Commerce

Rocklin
Chamber of Commerce

Roseville Area
Chamber of Commerce

Shingle Springs/Cameron Park
Chamber of Commerce

Yuba-Sutter
Chamber of Commerce



Since 2018, local chambers of commerce in the greater Sacramento region have worked together to advocate at the state level on behalf of their members' shared concerns as part of UCAN - the United Chamber Advocacy Network. UCAN now includes ten chambers across four counties, representing over 6,000 member businesses and organizations.

At the end of each year, the UCAN chambers survey their members to identify their concerns and priorities. This feedback is reviewed and prioritized by a representative group of chamber leaders and those priorities form the foundation of this report, the UCAN State Policy Agenda.

The UCAN State Policy Agenda is then presented to the members of our state legislative delegation during the UCAN State Legislative Forum, held this year on March 24 at the Cinemark Theaters inside the Westfield Galleria at Roseville.

Working together, the UCAN Chambers have engaged in a host of issues including:

- Successfully lobbied against a bill that would have required employers to mandate COVID vaccines for their employees
- Successfully worked with the Newsom Administration to reestablish the job search requirement for individuals to qualify for COVID-related unemployment benefits
- Successfully lobbied Gov. Newsom to veto a bill that would have increased costs to forest thinning projects and would have resulted in fewer acres treated to prevent wildfires and erected barriers to local companies to qualify for contracts
- Lobbied in favor of legislation to roll back Prop 47 and address adverse impacts from criminal retail theft

Also in 2022, UCAN worked to cultivate relationships with a new set of state legislators representing our region due to term limits and redistricting. UCAN chamber members will have a chance to meet several of these new legislators at the UCAN State Legislative Forum, all of whom are featured on the back of this report.

UCAN 2023 State Legislative Priorities

The following priorities have been identified from responses to a member survey administered in from mid-December through mid-January:

- ✓ **Oppose Tax and Fee Increases**
- ✓ **Address Criminal Retail Theft**
- ✓ **Reduce Homelessness**
- ✓ **Build a Skilled, Trained Workforce**

- ✓ **Support Regulatory Reform**
Environmental and HR
- ✓ **Fund and Complete Critical Infrastructure**
Transportation, Water/Forest Health, Energy, Highspeed Internet

UCAN Member Survey Summary

Below are member survey results UCAN chamber leaders utilized to develop the 2023 UCAN State Policy Agenda.

Open-ended:

What state policy has the greatest negative impact on your business?

- **Employment costs/regs**
- **Taxes/fees**
- **AB 5 (restricts independent contractors)**
- **General regulations**

Which state policy, if implemented will have the most positive impact on your business?
(Top three responses):

- **Lower environmental regulations**
- **Forest health/water storage**
- **Reduced wage/HR regulations**

Identify the Issues of Importance to you (Top eight responses):

➤ Regulations	82%	➤ Workforce	48%
➤ Taxes	67%	➤ HR Regulations	47%
➤ Homelessness	56%	➤ Lawsuits	38%
➤ Public Infrastructure	50%	➤ Criminal Retail Theft	30%

Targeted Open-ended:

We asked members to indicate and comment if they supported or opposed specific positions:

Criminal Retail Theft: 85% support

Comments: *“CRT is having a big impact to retail, overall public safety, and is tied to homelessness/drugs”*

FAST Act: Fast Food regulations, up to \$23/hour minimum wage: 77% oppose

Concern: *“Regulations and higher wages will have an adverse effect on other restaurants and businesses”*

Infrastructure: 83% support

Top priorities: *“Water, Transportation, Energy, High speed internet”*

Comments: *“Build what we’ve funded”*

Workforce Development: 74% support

Feedback: *“Significant support for training and skills”*

Concern: *“too many disincentives to work”*

Homelessness: 82% concern

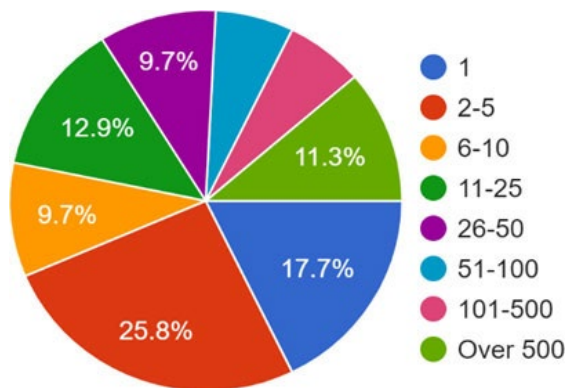
Comments: *“General support for housing with a focus on drug/mental health services”*

Oil Profits Tax: 85% oppose

Comments: *“Higher tax on petroleum will increase transportation costs, contribute to inflation”*

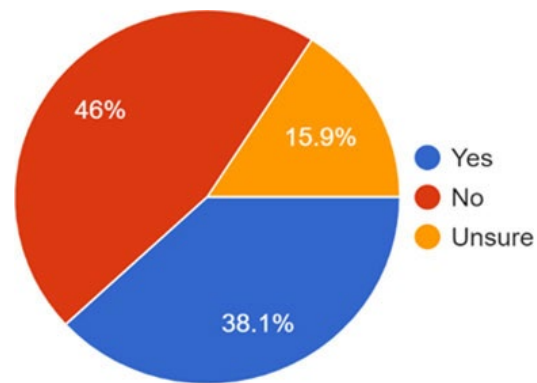
We asked members about the size and growth of their staff:

Size of Business/Organization:



75% of respondents are small businesses with 50 or fewer employees.

Do you anticipate adding staff in 2023?



Businesses are somewhat less optimistic in 2023, as less than 40% plan to hire additional staff.

The Voice of UCAN

Below are excerpts from chamber member responses that reflect overall member feedback:

Regulations

“CEQA laws have cost our organization over six figures in the last two years.”

“Employee cost-increasing mandates such as multiple minimum wage increases, COVID time off, and among the highest taxes in the nation.”

Criminal Retail Theft

“This is a sad example of misguided attempts at equality that hurts business and actually the customers that have to pay more to make up for the stolen merchandise. A terrible law.”

FAST Act – Fast Food regulations, \$23/hour wage mandate

“Fast food jobs were traditionally starter jobs or jobs for retired people seeking additional income in addition to their retirement benefits. Now fast food will increase in price to make up for the additional cost and lower income folks will suffer. Another terrible concept.”

Workforce Development

“Much can be done with vocational training in areas such as carpentry, plumbing, insulation, mechanical technicians, welding, heavy equipment operation, truck driving, computer programming and technology, and other relatively high paying jobs that do not need a 4-year degree.”

Homelessness

“Stop throwing money at the problem. Audit what money has already been spent, and where, and see where there have been successes/failures. Then have an accountable action plan going forward.”

Infrastructure

“California has the highest taxes in the land yet the worst roads. Need to spend money where it was promised, like water storage to accommodate agriculture, inevitable growth, and hedge against future droughts.”

Oil Profits Tax

“Help the oil and gas companies produce more which will increase competition in the industry and reduce cost to consumers. The best tool to address excessive cost for any commodity is greater competition and reduction of governmental interference.”

Overall Business Climate

“We in business are just trying to run a business while minimizing costs and to make a profit. Almost all of us care for our employees and our communities. I believe that Chamber members are some of the most generous people in terms of charitable contributions and giving help to others. Government is not supposed to make a profit and is necessary to handle large projects such as the interstate highway system, the national, state and county parks system, and national defense. The remaining governmental administration should be minimized as much as possible to reduce taxes necessary to keep the essential governmental agencies open.”

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!

The UCAN chambers will work with our advocates at Advocacy and Management Group in Sacramento to monitor legislative proposals and assist chamber leaders and chamber members in supporting bills that align with our shared priorities and oppose bills that are inconsistent with our unified agenda.

To learn more, contact one of the UCAN chambers directly. Visit amgroup.us/ucan or email ucan@amgroup.us

2023-24 UCAN STATE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

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STATE SENATE



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