



Los Angeles Area  
Chamber of Commerce

**For Immediate Release**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

## **LA AREA CHAMBER ASKS GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES TO RESTORE THE CALIFORNIA DREAM**

In a letter dated today, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce has challenged the Governor and major gubernatorial candidates to adopt its detailed "Agenda for the Next Governor" in order to "restore the California Dream."

"Today we feel that our quality of life and economic prosperity is at great risk as a result of action and inaction in Sacramento," said Chamber Board Chairman George Kieffer and Chamber President & CEO Rusty Hammer.

The Chamber's very detailed agenda, covering economic development, workers' compensation, education, water, health care, energy and environment, budget, transportation and political reform was formally adopted yesterday by the Chamber's Board of Directors at its regular monthly meeting. In the letter to the Governor and candidates, the Chamber asks that each respond to the agenda and states that the Chamber will be advising its members, their employees and all Californians to vote for the candidate who most closely adopts the agenda.

The LA Area Chamber has previously opposed the recall as a matter of process. That position has not changed. However, said Board Chairman Kieffer, "Now that the recall has qualified, and in the event that it is successful, we want the candidates to know where we stand on the issues and we want our members to know where the candidates stand on our agenda."

In urging adoption of its agenda, the Chamber asks the candidates to "make tough decisions that may offend some of your own supporters but which will ultimately restore California's prominence as the nation's leading state to run a business and raise a family."

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Noting that business people generally address fiscal problems head on, the Chamber earlier in the year surprised some by advising the state's political leadership to swallow a temporary, sunseting sales tax as part of the answer to the state budget crisis, along with substantial cuts in expenditures. "We were in line with nearly every financial analyst who studied the issue," said Kieffer. At the same time the Chamber has been highly critical of the state's workers' compensation system and the series of regulations and legislative mandates adopted by the legislature over the last few years.

"We can do none of the things we would like to do as a society without jobs," said Kieffer. "Whatever the fine intentions, we are creating a climate that is sending jobs elsewhere and undermining the long term prosperity and quality of life of all Californians. We need to change that. This agenda is the beginning of that change."

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***The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, with 1,300 members, represents the interests of business in LA. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region.***