



2021

Year End Report



UCAN Leadership Group

Since 2018, several local chamber of commerce organizations in the greater Sacramento region have been working together to amplify their members' voices before the California State Legislature.

By forming UCAN – the United Chamber Advocacy Network - the Elk Grove, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Roseville, Yuba Sutter Chambers of Commerce and the El Dorado County Joint Chamber Commission work to identify their members' top state-level concerns, take positions on state legislation and advance those positions before our legislators and staff, policy committees, and the administration.

2021 UCAN State Policy Agenda

Informed by input from chamber leaders and a detailed membership survey, UCAN's 2021 state policy priorities were:

- Reopen CA
- Rebuild Small Business
- Repeal AB 5
- Rollback burdensome taxes, fees and regulations

2021 UCAN Legislative Reception went Virtual

Each year, the UCAN Chambers present their shared policy agenda to the UCAN Legislative Delegation. Reopening California's economy was a stated priority of legislators attending UCAN's virtual State Legislative Reception in March. Senator Nielsen joined Assemblymembers Kiley and Gallagher to call for the end of the current COVID state of emergency; Assemblymember Bigelow referenced his bill, AB 1313 that would provide businesses with exemption from legal liability relative to COVID; and Faith Lee, legislative staff for Senator Richard Pan, discussed Sen. Pan's SB 510, which would encourage and expand COVID vaccinations in California. Senator Brian Dahle was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

UCAN in the State Legislature

The UCAN Leadership Group which represents each of the six UCAN Chamber organizations, approved positions on over 20 individual bills, some of which UCAN worked independently, while other positions were advanced in partnership with several statewide business organizations including the California Chamber of Commerce, the California Business Property Association, the California Building Industry Association, the California Retailers Association, the California Business Roundtable and others.

UCAN successfully joined several state level coalitions on the following bills:

- Opposed AB 1074 to require the re-hire of laid off employees (vetoed)
- Supported AB 61 to extend outdoor dining and alcohol service (signed)
- Opposed AB 410 expecting CalOSHA regulations from economic impact analysis (inactive)
- Supported AB 331 extending criminal retail theft laws (signed)

UCAN also supported several bills authored by local legislators that unfortunately failed passage:

- AB 25 (Kiley) to repeal AB 5
- AB 69 (Kiley) limiting a declared state of emergency to 60 days without legislative reauthorization
- AB 1313 (Bigelow) protecting business owners from COVID liability claim by a patron
- SB 430 (Borgeas) directing state agencies to assist small business in avoiding fines/penalties

UCAN got Bigger and Louder!

Led Opposition to Extended COVID Benefits

UCAN's most significant achievement in 2021 was leading a coalition calling on Governor Newsom and EDD to address the adverse impacts of extended state and federal benefits on the job market, making it difficult to fill open positions and harming the economic recovery of small business in particular.

A week after submitting a coalition letter to the Governor's Office, EDD reestablished a job search requirement for job seekers that was suspended at the beginning of COVID.

The coalition, which included the CA Business Property Association, the CA Building Industry Association, the CA Business Roundtable, the CA Retailers Assn., the Orange County Business Council and others, also met with the Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development to discourage the extension of COVID related benefits.

UCAN in the News...

Yuba Sutter Chamber CEO Marni Sanders and UCAN lobbyist Dave Butler each made separate appearances on KFBK's Kitty O'Neal Show, calling attention to the concerns of local employers, which were captured in an employer survey administered by the UCAN chambers in April.

The UCAN COVID Benefits Survey was also featured in an article published in The Appeal Democrat in which Sanders amplified the survey findings, "What we found in the survey echoes what we were hearing from our members.....in effect, the state and federal governments are competing with local businesses for people."

UCAN Chambers Meet with Legislative Offices

In August, UCAN Chamber leaders took the opportunity of the August Recess to meet with the offices of several UCAN legislators to amplify positions on key issues the legislature was considering in its final weeks of session: Extended COVID Benefits (oppose); budget allocation for the state's Unemployment Insurance Fund (support); and SB 606 (Gonzalez) re: employee retaliation (oppose).

UCAN Chamber Leader Testifies before Select Committee on Small Business

Also in August, Lisa Peters, Roseville Chamber board member and co-owner of Randy Peters Catering, attended a special hearing at the State Capitol hosted by the Select Committee on Small

Business and Entrepreneurship, chaired by Assemblymember Cottie Petri-Norris (D-Newport Beach). In her testimony, Peters told lawmakers that “none of these special programs designed to assist small business will have any impact if we can’t hire people to serve our customers.” Peters continued, “the combined federal state benefits that are intended to help individuals during the initial impacts of COVID – extra unemployment, rent relief, utility relief, etc., are encouraging our workforce to accept public benefits rather than to accept the open positions we currently have.”

2021 UCAN Scorecard

Of the 22 bills UCAN actively engaged on, UCAN had a success rate of 57% with 11 UCAN Opposed bills failing passage and three UCAN Support bills signed into law. Only three UCAN Opposed bills were signed into law and five UCAN Support bills failed passage.

Bills Introduced	UCAN Oppose - PASS	3	8	43%
	UCAN Support - FAIL	5		
	UCAN Support - PASS	3	14	57%
	UCAN Oppose - FAIL	11		
Bills Signed	UCAN Oppose	3	50%	
	UCAN Support	3		

2021 UCAN Legislator Scorecard

Of the bills UCAN actively engaged on, five UCAN legislators voted 100% with UCAN positions: Assemblymembers Frank Bigelow, James Gallagher and Kevin Kiley and Senators Brian Dahle and Jim Nielsen. When including “not voting” on bills UCAN opposed, Assemblymember Ken Cooley voted with UCAN 63% (5 out of 8), Assemblymember Jim Cooper voted with UCAN 66% (6 out of 9) and Senator Richard Pan, 45% (4 out of 11).

	Bigelow	Cooley	Cooper	Kiley	Gallagher	Dahle	Nielsen	Pan
Bills	12 of 12	5 of 8	6 of 9	9 of 9	9 of 9	11 of 11	12 of 12	5 of 11
	100%	63%	66%	100%	100%	100%	100%	45%
		2 NV on Oppose	3 NV on oppose					1 NV on oppose

Sometimes a legislator is unwilling to vote against a colleague, but is willing to support UCAN Chambers’ opposition to a bill. In such cases, a legislator may abstain from voting, which will hinder passage of a bill, just as a “no” vote does. Assemblymember Cooley did not vote on two bills UCAN opposed, Assemblymember Cooper three and Senator Pan one.

A complete list of UCAN bill positions and UCAN legislators’ associated votes can be found at www.amgroup.us/UCAN.

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

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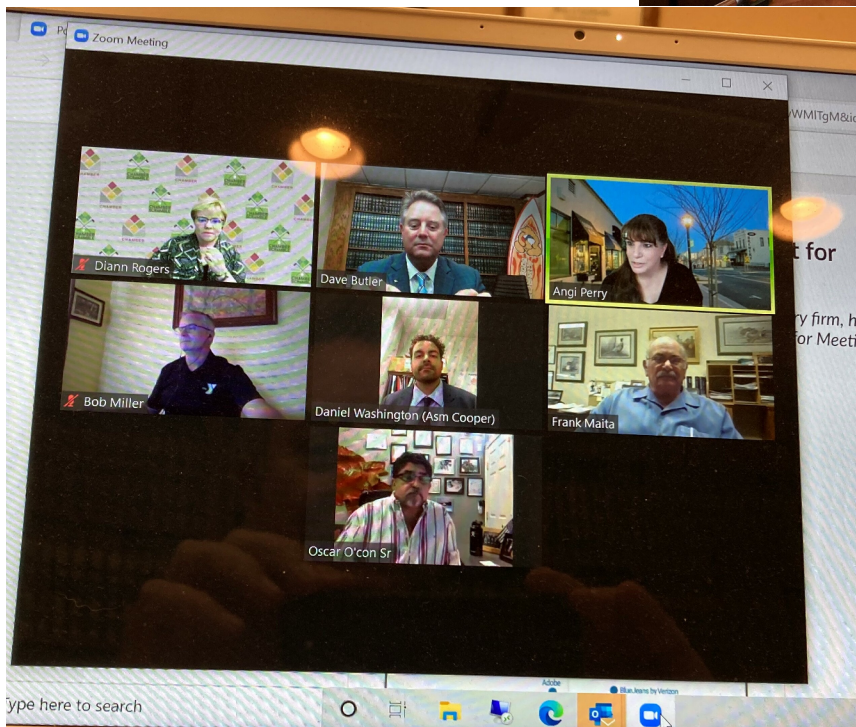
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UCAN leaders from the El Dorado Hills, El Dorado County, Folsom and Rancho Cordova Chambers of Commerce meet virtually with State Senator Brian Dahle, R-Bieber (center square) to discuss priority legislation to be considered during the final weeks of session.

Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce board member, Lisa Peters, of Randy Peters Catering, prepares to make comments to the Assembly Select Committee on Small Business during a hearing at the State Capitol on the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions on small business.



UCAN leaders from the Elk Grove and Rancho Cordova Chambers of Commerce held a virtual meeting during the August recess with Daniel Washington (center square), District Director to Assemblymember Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove).