



## United Chambers Government Affairs Meeting Recap

*April 18, 2022*

We were back to our regular scheduled meeting after last month's Mayoral Forum United Chambers hosted at Porter Valley Country Club. The event was well attended with the candidates, Karen Bass, Joe Buscaino, Mike Feuer, and Mel Wilson answering questions posed by the two moderators, Conan Nolan of NBC, and Richard Fisk of United Chambers. Kevin De Leon and Rick Caruso were invited but did not attend. Caruso's campaign must have had second thoughts about the value of a Valley organization and arranged a small one-on-one type meeting last week with a few representatives from United Chambers.

Our first guest speaker was State Senator Henry Stern of the 27<sup>th</sup> District. Due to an airline travel issue, his presentation was abbreviated, though he touched on his main areas of legislation focused which are: Climate change and renewable energy; Taxes; Voter access; Helping vulnerable populations including people with disabilities, elderly, and human trafficking. He asked that we contact his office with specific requests, proposed legislation or to hear our opinion on current bills. He was asked how he will run against Senator Hertzberg for the County Supervisor seat which he replied that they will explain how they will tackle the problems and issues leaving it up to the voters to decide which candidate best suits their personal opinion.

We value our legislative representatives as they are a direct conduit to our elected leaders. In attendance were Erin Seinfeld (West Valley Rep for the Mayor's office); Michelle Vergara (East Valley Rep for the Mayor's office); Sharon Bronson from CM Lee; Suin Lee from CM Raman; Diana Oganessian from Assemble Member Valladares; Brenda Yanez from Supervisor Kuehl; Morgan Sutton from CM Krekorian; Nick Gaines from Senator Stern and Garrett Henry from Congressman Garcia's office. They described specific bills, motions, and programs that their offices are involved with and mentioned to keep the interaction going by contacting their office and signing up to the newsletter. They are interested in hearing our opinions and would like to have suggestions for new legislation.

Our second guest speaker was Jacque McMillan of the Metropolitan Water District who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the water objects to ensure a reliable, clean water supply to the Southland. These are challenging times with the drought necessitating water allowances to be cut back though LADWP is in fairly good shape presently. She was asked what is the \$2.6 billion program they and other water agencies signed on to with the federal government. In brief, it was creating and funding policies that strike a balance with consumers and the continued well-being of the ecosystem environment.

On the agenda was a motion to oppose Assembly Bill 2932, a bill that would reduce the standard 40-hour workweek to 32 hours. Companies with 500 or more employees would be prohibited from lowering the employee's wages and would be required to pay time and a half after 32 hours worked in a week. After a brief discussion, the vote was 79% to 14% to oppose the bill with 7% abstaining,

Co- Chair Joel Fox explained the Gann initiative, what it is, how it relates to the state's budget and taxes, and the implications on every taxpayer in the State. The State legislators are proposing several ways to rebate the states surplus as required by the Gann Limit; however, some proposals could trigger a legal challenge if certain classes of residents are excluded.

Please join us at the next Government Affairs meeting which will be May 16<sup>th</sup>. via Zoom.

Contact [marian@unitedchambers.org](mailto:marian@unitedchambers.org) to register for the event.

Richard Fisk  
Government Affairs Chair