

2018 Summary of Chamber's Advocacy  
Legislation, Projects and Ballot Measures

**Proposition 1 — Chamber support**

Enacting a \$4 billion housing bond. \$3 billion would be used to infill existing housing bonds and state programs, and \$1 billion would be used to enhance housing programs for veterans.

Voters Approved —

**Proposition 2 — Chamber support**

Enacting the No Place Like Home Bill of 2018, which requires the state to appropriate \$ 2 billion to counties in order to finance permanent supportive housing for the Mental Health Services Fund.

Voters Approved -

**Proposition 6 — Chamber Opposed**

Eliminates Recently Enacted Road Repair and Transportation Funding by Repealing Revenues Dedicated for those Purposes. Requires any Measure to Enact Certain Vehicle Fuel Taxes and Vehicle Fees be Submitted to and Approved by the Electorate. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

Voters Opposed

**Proposition 10 — Chamber Opposed**

Expands Local Governments' Authority to Enact Rent Control on Residential Property. Initiative Statute

Voters Opposed

**Chamber Positions on Local Ballot Measures**

- **The Chamber supports Measure H – *Santa Cruz County Affordable Housing Bond***

Voters Said No

- **The Chamber opposes Measure M** - *Santa Cruz City Rent Control and Tenant Protection Act*

Measure M amends the City Charter and imposes "just cause" for eviction laws on nearly every residential property in Santa Cruz. It also resets rents to October 2017 and limits rent increases to no more than increases in the Consumer Price Index.

Voters Opposed -

### **Chamber Advocacy on Local and State Issues**

- **RTC Unified Corridor Study Analysis - Chamber Support Scenerio B**

The RTC completed Unfied Corridor Study is in public comment period and the final recommendation from Staff to the RTC Commission will come last this month.

### **City of Santa Cruz 1/4 cent sales tax (June 2018)**

- Chamber wrote a strong letter to City Council questioning the process in which the City moved forward to place this Measure on the ballot

The Chamber Board remained Neurtal on the Measure

Voters Approved

- City of Santa Cruz—Farmers Market relocation of Market to Front Street lot -
- Chamber CAC recommended support and Board Support

City Council Approved Staff Recommendation - review in process for next steps

### **UCSC Student Housing West Project (Draft Environmental Impact Report)**

UCSC in final public comment period with the Project going to the UC Board of Regents sometime in early 2019

- Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce supports

## **Pacific Front Street Mixed Use Development Project -Chamber Supports**

### [Pacific Front Mixed-Use Development Project](#)

Project submitted and going before the Planning commission and then to City Council later this month. The CAC recommended support and Board approved. Project goes before the City Council in December.

## **Santa Cruz County ADA Fee Waiver Program - Chamber Supports**

- Chamber submitted letter of support in September

Program Approved by BOS earlier this month

## **Downtown Library Advisory Committee recommendations for a new library space program and mixed-use Library Project**

- CAC recommended support and Chamber wrote letter of support to the Council last month. City staff is in the gathering stage of producing the next phase of the project analysis

## **City of Santa Cruz Project at 190 West Cliff Drive — Chamber Support**

- CAC recommended support and Chamber wrote letter of support in September. Project is in planning process was approved by the Planning Commission last month, set to go to the Council in late November or December

## **Governor's Proposal on Wildfire Safety Legislation & Private Utility Regulations – Chamber SUPPORT**

- CAC recommended support and Chamber wrote letter of support in August

Legislation passed and Governor signed into 2018 budget trailer legislation at the end of the legislative session. PCUC will create regulatory requirements for implementing the safety and financial obligations for utilities in addressing liability for wildfires related to the 2017 fire season.

\*\* Note: With the latest fires in Northern and Southern California, the CA State Legislature will convene in December to re-visit this issue.

## **City of Santa Cruz Sugar Tax initiatives Request to Delay Action on Item 28 so a more broadly education study can be conducted**

- Board authorized request to delay action on the City Council proposed sugar tax - Chamber wrote letter to recommend not moving forward. City Council passed ordinance to place sugar tax on November ballot. State Legislation was passed exempting local municipalities for adding local sugar tax until 2030.

**Santa Cruz County amendments to the Affordable Housing Ordinance and County Code changes to re-establish inclusionary requirement and adding bonus density incentive bonus options.**

- Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the county staff recommendations after a lengthy one year public discussion of which the Chamber was directly involved in the negotiations process. The Chamber CEO spoke in favor of the recommendations at several public hearings including the BOS public hearing on November 20. The Item will return the BOS for final adoption in December.

**State Senate Bill (SB 538 Monning) Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce to voice our concerns about Senate Bill 538 (Monning, D-Carmel). The bill would prohibit certain contract provisions between hospitals and payers, including prohibiting hospitals from requiring multiple facilities in their system to be included in a contract.**

- The California Association of Physician Groups (CAPG) writes this bill will provide no benefit to consumers and enables an unregulated segment of the California healthcare coverage market to continue practices that negatively impact fully-insured Knox Keene health plan enrollees.
- At the request of several Chamber members in the health care industry, the Chamber was asked to weigh in. The legislation passed the State Senate in 2017 and was referred to the State Assembly Health Committee. In June 2018, the Chamber wrote a letter to the State Assembly Committee chair raising our concerns, opposing the bill's language and intent. The bill died in Committee.

**State Assembly Bill (AB 3087, Karla, D- San Jose). AB 3087 (Karla). This bill would create a new, autonomous bureaucratic agency called the California Health Care Cost, Quality, and Equity Commission.**

- AB 3087, as written, may result in facility closures, loss of accessibility to necessary services, and drastically high monetary losses. We acknowledge that

there is a need for solutions that address the rising costs of health care and shortage of available physicians and services in California, but the Santa Cruz Area Chamber does not believe that this legislation, AB 3087, will address these issues in an effective or sustainable way.

- AB 3087 is estimated to lose \$18 billion in revenues annually by the California Hospital Association, resulting in a loss of over 170,000 healthcare jobs. AB 3087 fails to take onto account the major causes of rising medical care costs. Simply capping the rates will not make the costs in the healthcare system disappear, but instead will limit choices, access, and in the long-term, increase costs for employers and their employees. In April, the Chamber wrote a letter in opposition to AB 3087. In May 2018, the bill died in committee.