



PALM DESERT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mission Statement

To promote, support and enhance business prosperity, civic vitality and quality of life

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 16-17

The Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to be able to share with you our legislative platform. This platform enables our Chamber to respond quickly to business issues as they develop. Our staff is in constant contact with Palm Desert's elected representatives keeping them informed of the Chamber's positions and monitoring their voting records on behalf of all businesses in our community.

The platform statements are organized by category and are reviewed and revised as appropriate.

Agriculture:

- Biotechnical / Research & Development to improve the productivity and competitiveness of Coachella Valley's agricultural and allied industries
- Education and public awareness programs regarding genetically altered crops and food products
 - ③ Environmental regulations that do not inequitably exceed federal standards

Communications:

- Free flow of information in business commerce
- Increased high speed communications in the Coachella Valley
- "Net Neutrality", i.e. all users are treated the same by all internet service providers (cable, phone, satellite)
- Oppose the random collection of information by any governmental agency without specific authorization and oversight
- Agriculture and Tourism marketing of Palm Desert Area businesses

Education:

- Public and private educational institutions, and programs, designed to prepare and maintain an educated and trained workforce
- Continuing education and training opportunities for members and their employees

Energy and Utilities:

- Industrial and consumer use of alternative fuels, and the development of alternative fuel sources, and new technologies for power generation
- Reliable and affordable energy for the Coachella Valley
- Expanded in-state generation, infrastructure, renewable generation
- Conservation of energy and natural resources
- Recharge processes for the Coachella Valley aquifers
- Water conservation and reclamation

Environment:

- Effective air quality regulations that do not inequitably exceed federal standards
- Industrial and consumer use of alternative fuels
- Aggressive code enforcement, including measures to combat graffiti
- Atmosphere of cooperation among agencies discussing environmental issues

- Enforcement of regulations based on sound scientific criteria regarding endangered species
- Restrained approach to the development of the surrounding mountains
- Responsible use of surrounding mountains for recreational purposes and conservation of the natural state
 - ③ Reasonable efforts to make the Salton Sea a viable resource
- Economically feasible water quality solutions and regulations based upon sound scientific criteria
- Recycling compliance, and market development for recycled products
- Recycling and diversion programs

Government and Business Regulations:

- Legislation that would create a competitive and business friendly environment in the Coachella Valley and the State of California
- Policies that promote efficiency in government and the consolidation of services
- Land use decisions at the local level
- Voluntary green building materials and processes
- Oppose unfunded mandates
- Oppose excessive reporting to state agency
- Reasonable governmental standards and regulations, applied uniformly across the nation
- Government incentives to enhance the economic base of private enterprise and Palm Desert Area businesses
- Privatization of government services when economically viable
- Regulatory Reform of costly duplicative and redundant reporting and application processes
- Responsible government spending at every level based upon actual inflation rates and realistic projections of revenue
- Reduce business taxes
- Establishment of an internet sales tax, to be distributed the same as taxes on mail order sales (based upon point of delivery)
- Local distribution of sales tax revenue, based upon point of purchase; oppose distribution based upon population
- Sales tax increases with defined sunset clauses for fiscal emergencies. Sunset clause must require 2/3 vote to reinstate
- Legislation or OSHA health and safety regulations based upon sound scientific and empirical data

Health Care and Social Services:

- Current federal and California health care laws that provide access to basic health care insurance
- Voluntary employer provided health coverage as a means of ensuring a healthy and productive workforce
 - ③ Broad based financing of necessary social programs
- Legislatively mandated benefits or administrative mandates require cost-benefit analysis before enactment

Housing:

- Adequate housing for all sectors of the Coachella Valley population
- Fair, equitable and reasonable local fee structures that are conducive to fostering economic growth through the housing and construction industry
- Incentives for “low-low” income, “low” income and “moderate” income housing

Labor:

- Labor codes and regulations consistent with federal labor laws and regulations
- English is the language of commerce, encourage and/or foster an English speaking labor force
- Federal minimum wage and competitive rate wages, not State mandated or automatic periodic increases
- Adequate workers compensation coverage at a reasonable cost to business to rehabilitate the injured employee, train and put the person back to work
- Guest worker laws

Transportation:

- Policies to promote advanced transportation technology
- Expansion and development of airport and mass transit facilities and related industries in the Coachella Valley
- Ways to reduce single occupant vehicle use
- No fault auto insurance
- Transit projects connecting Los Angeles and adjacent counties with the Coachella Valley
- Improvement of intra-city transportation system and efficient traffic flow through the Coachella Valley
- Public Transportation in Coachella Valley