

March 5, 2025



UCAN 2025 Proposed Policy Platform

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

UCAN supports policies that incentivize business and relieve burdens on employers, enabling them to hire local employees and grow local economies.

UCAN Supports:

- Legislation that reduces business income taxes
- Simplification of the tax code
- Legislation for rational regulatory and tax policies
- Incentives for business expansion
- Efforts to reduce business costs caused by litigation and by promoting mediation and/or arbitration
- Efforts to simplify and expedite regulatory review and permitting processes for new and existing businesses and construction projects

UCAN Opposes:

- Taxation of a specific industry or group, unless such measure is shown to be directly related to impacts caused by the industry or group
- Tax law changes that harm California's high-tech innovation
- Unnecessary or burdensome taxes and fees on businesses

HEALTHCARE

Healthcare policy is crucial for UCAN as it supports employees' well-being and directly impacts productivity, talent management, and the community's overall economic health. Healthcare is directly connected to employee well-being, recruiting and retention, community health, and legal compliance. UCAN focuses on employer mandates and the ability to keep healthcare costs down, especially as it applies to small businesses in the region.

UCAN Supports:

- Policies to reduce healthcare costs and help employers be able to offer their employees affordable, quality, and efficient healthcare benefits
- Access to mental health programs
- Policies that encourage competitive marketplaces to reduce pharmaceutical and healthcare plan costs
- Policies to assist healthcare providers in increasing their capacity to meet the growing need for access to care

UCAN Opposes:

- Policy attempts to establish a government-mandated healthcare system

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- Mandates upon employer-provided or forced employee healthcare coverage

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Education and workforce development policies are essential for businesses as they contribute to a skilled, adaptable, and innovative workforce, foster economic growth, and enhance the overall business environment.

UCAN Supports:

- Funding and expansion of technology-focused education
- A well-rounded educational experience
- Adult retraining through incentive-based public and private sector programs
- Career and technical education programs
- The expansion of highly skilled programs, such as nursing and ancillary programs at the community college and university levels to ensure adequate healthcare staffing
- STEM Education
- Construction trade and automotive mechanical trades education
- Expanded access to higher education
- Programs at the high school level to introduce students to trade and apprenticeship programs
- Community college systems efforts to promote trade certificate programs in key areas, including carpentry, plumbing, and electrical trades

HOUSING/BUILDING

UCAN promotes policies that facilitate building full-range housing and development to accommodate a growing region.

UCAN Supports:

- Policies that enhance the region's ability to maintain local control over housing development needed to comply with state mandates
- Policies to streamline and simplify the application and approval process for housing developments
- Construction of low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income housing through incentives
- Policies to address homelessness and early intervention
- Programs to address mental health and drug use among the homeless population
- Streamlining development

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UCAN Opposes:

- Legislation that narrows the region's local decision-making ability, including, but not limited to, rent-control policies
- Ballot-box land use planning

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure policy is crucial for UCAN as it directly impacts our region's efficiency, competitiveness, and overall business environment. Chambers play a vital role in advocating for infrastructure investments that benefit businesses and contribute to the economic well-being of our communities. UCAN engages in infrastructure policy impacting business efficiency, supply chain reliability, job creation, innovation, disaster resilience, and long-term economic growth.

UCAN Supports:

- Expanding regional transportation facilities, projects, and funding
- Legislation, tax credits, and incentives that promote more efficient goods movement on highways and rail lines
- Proposals that improve and mitigate adverse impacts on water quality
- Initiatives to increase water supply through increased storage
- Efforts to educate and encourage businesses on reducing water usage and increasing efficiency of water conservation efforts
- Policies that allow local municipalities to implement programs that best suit the community
- Development of new technology that facilitates the advancement of energy efficiency, sustainability, and alternative fuels programs
- Legislation that encourages innovative utility and telecommunications infrastructure

PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety is paramount to creating a comfortable living environment for our residents. UCAN promotes policies to keep our local businesses and communities safe and well-informed.

UCAN Supports:

- A strong public safety response system
- Policies to create a well-funded and efficient environment for emergency responders
- Programs to provide education about business, home, and personal safety preparedness
- Policies to develop continued trust between law enforcement and residents
- Policies that address crime against business to reduce it and assist affected business owners

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EMPLOYMENT & LABOR

Employment and labor policies are vital for local businesses as they provide a legal and ethical framework for employment relationships, contribute to a stable and productive workforce, and enhance their overall reputation and competitiveness.

UCAN Supports:

- Reforms to workers' compensation law that fairly balances employer liabilities and employee benefits
- Increased flexibility for employers including, but not limited to, work schedule and meal and rest periods
- Legislation to promote arbitration/mediation that benefits both employer and employee
- Educational efforts and programs intended to improve the skills of workers
- Simplification of government regulations to ensure compliance
- Efforts to repeal AB 5 and the definition of employees and independent contractors or amend AB 5 by adding industry exemptions

UCAN Opposes:

- Policies that unfairly penalize employers
- Legislation forcing businesses to release pay data to governmental agencies
- Policies that target specific industries to control how they compensate their employees

PRIVACY & CYBERSECURITY

Privacy and cybersecurity policies are of growing importance for our local businesses as they must protect customer data, comply with ever-changing regulations, maintain trust, and ensure their operations' overall security and resilience in an increasingly digital and interconnected business environment.

UCAN Supports:

- Legislation that is privacy-protective and realistic in setting compliance expectations that consumers and businesses can rely on, including compliance and enforcement deadlines
- Policies that help businesses protect intellectual property and improve cybersecurity that helps prevent business disruption
- Policies that help businesses protect customer and employee data

UCAN Opposes:

- Policies that conflict with or expand the scope of CPPA's statutory authority
- Policies that create compliance issues or undermine consumer privacy

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- Privacy legislation that creates carve-outs or special/disparate rules that would layer on top of the CPRA for only certain types of personal information, industries, or technologies used to collect personal data.

GOVERNANCE

The business community and government must work together to ensure our local economies can compete and grow within the state economy. UCAN supports a balanced government that focuses on partnerships with local constituents.

UCAN Supports:

- Government reform that streamlines processes and provides cost-effective services
- Reform to bring government back to local control, allowing for more direct access to decision-making
- Efforts to reform the California budgeting process and structure to encourage long-term fiscal stability with limits on unnecessary spending
- An equitable method of distribution of funding to local governments

JOB KILLERS

UCAN will oppose any bills the California Chamber of Commerce labels as a Job Killer