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Each year at the close of the legislative session, the Chamber publishes a voting record to provide our members a sense of their legislators' voting patterns. Our 2023 California state representatives were Senator Henry Stern and Assembly-member Jacqui Irwin.

Below is a snapshot of Major Bills for 2023 and how the legislators, CalChamber and the Simi Valley Chamber voted.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LEGISLATION</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Senator Henry Stern</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Assembly-Member Jacqui Irwin</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CalChamber</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Result</b></p>
<b>LABOR &amp; EMPLOYMENT</b>					
<p><b>AB 524 (Wicks; D-Oakland)</b> Expansion of Litigation Under FEHA. Exposes employers to costly litigation under the Fair Employment and Housing Act by asserting that any adverse employment action was in relation to the employee's family caregiver status, which is broadly defined to include any employee who provides direct care of any person of their choosing and creates a de facto accommodation requirement that will burden small businesses.</p>	<b>Y</b>	<b>NVR</b>	Oppose  <b>Job Killer</b>	Oppose	<b>Vetoed</b>
<p><b>AB 647 (Holden; D-Pasadena)</b> Grocery Workers. Significantly expands statute related to successor grocery employers, including disrupting the ability for independent small stores to join together and creating a significant new private right of action.</p>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	Oppose  <b>Job Killer</b>	No Position	<b>Signed</b>
<p><b>SB 399 (Wahab; D-Hayward)</b> Bans Employer Speech. Chills employer speech regarding religious and political matters, including unionization. Is likely unconstitutional under the First Amendment and preempted by the National Labor Relations Act.</p>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Assembly Did Not Hold Floor Vote</b>	Oppose  <b>Job Killer</b>	Oppose	<b>Failed</b>
<p><b>SB 525 (Durazo; D-Los Angeles)</b> Costly Minimum Wage Increase. Imposes significant cost on health care facilities and any employer who works with health care facilities by mandating increase in minimum wage to \$25. Job killer tag and opposition removed due to September 11, 2023, amendments, which phased in certain minimum wage increases based on hospital size and operations.</p>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	No Position	Oppose	<b>Signed</b>
<p><b>SB 592 (Newman; D-Fullerton)</b> Improved Labor Law Compliance. Requires labor law guidance to be translated into commonly spoken languages in California and protects business owners from being penalized if they relied in good faith on guidance issued by the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement.</p>	<b>Senate Did Not Hold Floor Vote</b>	<b>Did Not Pass Senate</b>	Support	No Position	<b>Failed</b>
<p><b>SB 616 (Gonzalez; D-Long Beach)</b> Costly Sick Leave Expansion on All Employers. Imposes new costs and leave requirements on employers of all sizes, by nearly doubling existing sick leave mandate, which is in addition to all other enacted leave mandates that small employers throughout the state are already struggling with to implement and comply.</p>	<b>Y</b>	<b>NVR</b>	Oppose  <b>Job Killer</b>	Oppose	<b>Signed</b>
<p><b>SB 627 (Smallwood-Cuevas; D-Los Angeles)</b> Onerous Return to Work Mandate. Imposes an onerous and stringent process to hire employees based on seniority alone for nearly every industry, including hospitals, retail, restaurants, and movie theaters, which will delay hiring and eliminates contracts for at-will employment.</p>	<b>Y</b>	<b>NVR</b>	Oppose  <b>Job Killer</b>	Oppose	<b>Vetoed</b>
<p><b>SB 881 (Alvarado-Gil; D-Jackson)</b> Sick Leave Reform. Significantly improves employers' ability to implement California mandatory paid sick leave and curb attempts to take leave for impermissible purposes.</p>	<b>Senate Did Not Hold Floor Vote</b>	<b>Did Not Pass Senate</b>	Support	No Position	<b>Failed</b>
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>					
<p><b>SB 253 (Wiener; D-San Francisco)</b> Corporate Climate Accountability Act. Imposes a mandatory climate tracking, and auditing on climate emissions that will fall heavily on all California businesses, impacting competitiveness and increasing costs.</p>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	Oppose	Oppose	<b>Signed</b>
<b>WORKPLACE SAFETY</b>					
<p><b>SB 553 (Cortese; D-San Jose)</b> Workplace Violence Standard. Creates workplace violence regulation including training and logging of workplace violence incidents. Opposition removed after considerable amendments to bring bill into accordance with Cal/OSHA's proposal, including removal of various infeasible requirements.</p>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	No Position	No Position	Signed

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<b>LEGAL REFORM</b>					
<p><b>SB 365 (Wiener; D-San Francisco)</b> Undermines Arbitration. Discriminates against use of arbitration agreements by allowing trial courts to continue trial proceedings during any appeal regarding the denial of a motion to compel.</p>	Y	NVR	<p style="text-align: center;">Oppose</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Job Killer</p>	Oppose	Signed
<b>TAXATION</b>					
<p><b>ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry; D-Winters)</b> Lowers Voter Threshold to Increase Property Taxes. Overbroad constitutional amendment lowers voter approval threshold from two-thirds to 55% to increase taxes for affordable housing and public infrastructure, thereby providing increased tax authority for every government agency in California—not just cities and counties, but thousands of potentially overlapping special districts.</p>	Y	Y	Oppose	Oppose	Chap- tered
<b>UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE</b>					
<p><b>SB 799 (Portantino; D-Burbank)</b> Increased Unemployment Insurance Taxes to Subsidize Striking Workers. SB 799 will allow striking workers to claim UI benefits when they choose to strike. Because the UI Fund is paid for entirely by employers, SB 799 will effectively add more debt onto California employers. Moreover, SB 799 will effectively force employers to subsidize strikes at completely unrelated businesses because the UI Fund's debt adds taxes for all employers, regardless of whether they've had a strike.</p>	Y	NVR	<p style="text-align: center;">Oppose</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Job Killer</p>	Oppose	Vetoed
<b>WATER</b>					
<p><b>AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan; D-Orinda)</b> Water Rights. Gives State Water Board broad authority to issue interim relief orders for a wide variety of alleged water use violations, with little or no opportunity to be heard. Prevents judicial review of an interim relief order.</p>	Senate Did Not Hold Floor Vote	Y	Oppose	Oppose	Failed
<p><b>AB 1337 (Wicks; D-Oakland)</b> Water Rights. Gives broad authority to State Water Board to curtail water rights of any seniority or claim of right. Allows curtailments to issue without a hearing, depriving water rights holders of due process.</p>	Senate Did Not Hold Floor Vote	Y	Oppose	No Position	Failed
<b>ENERGY</b>					
<p><b>SBX1 2 (Skinner; D-Berkeley)</b> Windfall Profits Tax. Sets an arbitrary cap on the amount of profits that a refiner operating in the state of California can earn over a quarterly basis. This measure would further diminish supply, discourages operational efficiencies, and would limit the amount of capital a refiner could reinvest into their infrastructure to support California's long-term climate goals.</p>	NVR	Y	<p style="text-align: center;">Oppose</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Job Killer</p>	Oppose	Signed
<b>ELECTIONS</b>					
<p><b>AB 421 (Bryan; D-Los Angeles)</b> Dismantles Referendum Process. Dramatically changes state's direct democracy process to essentially eliminate the ability for anyone to qualify a referendum.</p>	Y	Y	Oppose	Oppose	Signed
<b>CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)</b>					
<p><b>AB 1000 (Reyes; D-San Bernardino)</b> De Facto Ban of Warehouses. Mandates a statewide setback of 1,000 feet from sensitive receptors for all new or expanded logistics use facilities, regardless of environmental impacts, establishing a de facto ban. Also creates a new private right of action in California.</p>	Senate Did Not Hold Floor Vote	Assembly Did Not Hold Floor Vote	Oppose	No Position	Failed