

IMPACT

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IMPACT Newsletter

January 2024



A note from the Government Affairs Director

For most, the holiday season has come to an end. But for the political enthusiasts in the crowd, the holiday season is just beginning. It's election season, baby! Gear up for another exciting year at the Chamber, and make sure you stay tuned for exciting announcements regarding candidate forums, Sacramento advocacy trips, and important updates on legislation affecting local businesses.

As always, our Chamber's legislative advocacy efforts rely on your input. We want to hear from you! We would like to hear about laws and regulations IMPACTing your business. Please email me at Anthony@simichamber.org or attend the [Legislative Advocacy Forum](#) via Zoom on the 4th Wednesday

of each month, January through October.

And, please, allow me to be the first to wish you and your family a very merry Election Year.

Sincerely,



Anthony Angelini
Director of Tourism and Government Affairs
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce

Ballots Drop February 5th

In less than 30 days, Simi Valley residents will be receiving their ballots in the mail for the March 4th, 2024 Presidential Primary Election. There may be some names you recognize at the top of the ticket. Don't forget, however, that voters will be asked to choose a lot more than the President; Propositions and candidates for the United States Senate, United States Congress, California State Senate, California State Assembly, Superior Court Judge, and political party Central Committees will all be featured on our local ballots. To view who's on your ballot, click the link below.

[View My Sample Ballot](#)

What to Look For in 2024



Minimum Wage Increases and New Labor Laws

Starting January 1, 2024, California will see a series of labor law changes, including a minimum wage hike to \$16, a special \$20 minimum wage for fast food workers, and a \$23 minimum wage for certain healthcare workers. Additionally, the state mandates a minimum of five paid sick days annually for all workers. [Read more here.](#)

California's New Housing Laws Attempt to Accelerate Building Process

Significant 2024 legislative changes, like Senate Bills 423 and 4, aim to fast-track housing development, focusing on affordability and efficiency. [Read more here.](#)



California's Budget Deficit Reaches \$68 Billion

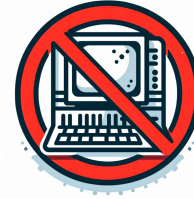
Facing a \$68 billion deficit, California looks to spending cuts and reserve

funds, with challenges including decreased tax revenues and structural deficits. [Read more here.](#)



AI Regulation

California legislators are preparing to introduce bills to regulate the rapidly evolving AI industry, focusing on job impacts, privacy, and public safety. [Read more here.](#)



Biden Administration Rule to Reclassify Gig Workers as Employees

A new rule from the Biden administration may reclassify thousands of gig workers, like Uber and Lyft drivers, as employees, granting them minimum wage and overtime rights. This move reflects California's AB5 law and is expected to significantly impact the gig economy. [Read more here.](#)

2024 EMPLOYMENT LAW POSTERS



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Your Voice Matters:

Prop 1 Straw Poll



Proposition 1, which was originally introduced by [Simi Valley's Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin](#), changes the allocation of mental health funds, shifting some county-level resources to state-level initiatives. This measure is focused on enhancing mental health and substance use disorder prevention programs throughout California.

To provide our members with a comprehensive understanding of this proposition, the Simi Valley Chamber reached out to [Dr. Loretta Denering, Acting Director of the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department \(VCBH\)](#), who allowed us to share the following comment with our members:

"Under [Prop 1], there will be a redirection of local funds to the state level, taking the state's allocation from 5% to 10%, of which, 3% will be for the administration of the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) and up to 4% will be directed to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for population-based mental health and substance use disorder prevention and stigma reduction. The final 3% is proposed to support an ongoing Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative.

It is unclear at this time if the state will have staffing/contractors or staff/contractors with the subject matter expertise needed to develop population-based prevention interventions for mental health and substance use. It is also unclear how much input counties will be able to give related to these initiatives, and we do not know how much local needs will be factored into this work. This shift could have an impact on the county's ability to continue delivering population-based prevention services at existing levels since the funding in this area will be redirected to the state, and other categorical funding areas may or may not be eligible or available for use."

To better understand our members' views on Proposition 1, we've set up a straw poll.

Prop 1 Survey

We encourage you to take a moment to share your views through this quick and anonymous poll. As we move forward in this election season, the Chamber remains dedicated to facilitating informed discussions and ensuring that the voices and concerns of our business community are represented.

Spotted in Simi



**Where were your representatives in
December?**



Ventura County Supervisor Janice Parvin attends the unveiling of the LA Kings Iceoplex Ice Arena. (December 3, 2023 via Facebook)



Simi Valley City Council Members Mike Judge, Dee Dee Cavanaugh, and Elaine Litster light the menorah on the first night of Hanukkah at the Reagan Library. (December 7, 2023 via Facebook)



Supervisor Parvin, Assemblymember Irwin, Simi Valley Mayor Fred Thomas, and Ventura County Sheriff James Fryhoff celebrate the newest Eagle Scouts from Simi Valley Troop 622. (December 2, 2023 via X)



Assemblymember Irwin presents a \$2m check to the Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District Board of Directors for the renovation of the Rancho Simi Community Pool. (December 12, 2023 via X)



Did an elected official support your business this month?

We'd love to hear from you! Share your story and pictures with the Chamber for a chance to be featured! We love seeing our representatives out and about in Simi Valley. Email: Anthony@SimiChamber.org

Attend this Month's LAF Meeting



The Simi Valley Chamber Legislative Advocacy Forum (LAF) meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month to discuss current legislation and its impact on businesses. Staff from the U.S. Congress, CA State Legislature, County of Ventura, City of Simi Valley, Education and Utilities attend these meetings. Join us for the next meeting on Wednesday, January 24, at 8:00 AM.

January 24, 2024 - 8:00 AM Via Zoom

[View the Legislative Advocacy Forum Website Here](#)

[Zoom Link Here](#)

[Chamber calendar of events here.](#)

**You Are Invited to
the January 24th
Meeting with
Special Guest,
Ventura County
Supervisor Janice
Parvin**



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