



California Association for Local Economic Development

Legislative Action Policy

Adopted September 20, 2018

The California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED) is the leading professional economic development association in the State and is concerned about establishing an environment that encourages economic development and sustainable growth that will create jobs and wealth within California through:

- Business retention and expansion;
- Business recruitment;
- Business start-up and innovation;
- Providing the best in business friendly support and technical assistance by the local, state and private agencies;
- Advising on statewide regulations that may impact job retention and creation;
- Supporting and enhancing statewide initiatives, programs, tools, and incentives that positively impact California's economic development activity;
- Finding creative and innovative ways to leverage both private and public financing opportunities.

CALED is a private-public partnership composed of economic development practitioners, local municipalities, local economic agencies, private economic development agencies, banks, utilities, and individuals who have the common goal of a healthy economic climate within our state.

Because CALED is the premier statewide professional association of economic development professionals and can play an important role in enhancing the legislative process, it has established the Legislative Action Committee (Committee) to:

- Provide input on legislation that will encourage economic development and sustainable growth or could hinder the economic development efforts of our membership;
- Provide to our membership information on pending legislation that may impact their economic development efforts;
- Serve as the voice of economic development at the state level
- Provide an educational voice to elected officials on what economic development is and how it works in cities, private companies and how it assists the State of California.

ACTION PLAN

Each year, the CALED's CEO, in consult with members and the Committee, will propose to the Board of Directors a list of legislative priorities identifying key issues and areas which CALED may wish to focus upon during the Legislative year. This list would be composed of areas which the CEO, in discussions with the Committee and key stakeholders, feels that Legislators will address in the coming year as well as other economic development areas in which the Committee feel that the state needs to focus.

The areas will be broad such as: Job Training; Enterprise Zone Funding; Workforce Development; Tax Increment Finance improvement processes and programs; as well as regulations that have to do with CEQA; Planning, Air, Wastewater, and Water quality.

The CEO and Committee will review pieces of legislation and recommend to the Board and/or the Executive Committee one of the four positions: Monitor, Support, Support if Revised, and Oppose. The Committee will always provide a written explanation for the reason of the position taken.

Once a position on a piece of legislation is taken by either the Board or the Executive Committee, the Committee and Staff have the authority to send a letter to the appropriate legislator(s) as well as notification to the entire membership. In addition, CALED Staff, Board Members, CALED Members, or a professional advocate may contact legislators and or testify at any public hearing in support of our position.

If a bill changes significantly or a new bill is introduced that impacts CALED or our members between meetings of the CALED Executive Committee, the Committee or Staff will send an email with the update along with a recommended action to the Executive Committee. If Executive Committee Members do not comment or object to the recommended action within 24 hours, the Committee will take the action recommend in the email. If within that 24 hours an Executive Committee Member opposes the recommended action or believes it needs further discussion, the CALED Chair may call a meeting of the Executive Committee to get consensus on the issue.

In certain situations – 1) the absence of an active Legislative Action Committee, 2) the lack of a recommendation from the Legislative Action Committee, or 3) when there is a need to act quickly (within 48 hours) – the CEO in consultation with the then current CALED Chair can take positions and actions on bills, propositions, and legislative issues so long as they are congruent with the legislative priorities approved by the CALED Board for that year. If the Chair is unavailable, the CEO will consult with the then current Incoming Chair.

If the CEO takes a position or action, or if the Committee changes positions on legislation or takes a new position on legislation under the guidelines outlined above, the legislation will be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee at the next meeting.

CALED's membership is much diversified with private, public, financial institutions, education, job development and training. CALED's membership is composed of small cities to the largest in the State, from economic development corporations serving a county to an agency serving multi-jurisdictions, and organizations that serve one part of the State to the whole State of California. Therefore, the Committee recognizes that there may be legislation that pertains to only one aspect of our membership. We will attempt to be supportive of each but the purpose of this group is the big picture of the Economic Development placing the State of California in a position of being proactive and supportive of business.

Therefore, CALED will need to work in partnership with other groups that may address other legislative needs so that we can focus on State-Wide Economic Development legislation. Additionally, in order to remain objective, CALED is prohibited from endorsing candidates or making contributions to political campaigns.

CRITERIA TO EVALUATE LEGISLATION

The Committee will use the following points as criteria in the evaluation of legislation:

- Does the legislation have the potential to save or the create of jobs?
- Does the legislation have the potential to hinder the private sector in the retention or creation of jobs?
- Does the legislation present hurdles or potential hurdles that will hurt economic development and job retention and creation?
- Does the legislation have the potential to help California be competitive with other states or hinder California's competitively with other states?
- Does the legislation add regulations which will hurt or have the potential to hurt local jurisdictions in encouraging and assisting the development of businesses?
- Does the legislation add regulations and or costs that will hurt/hinder the private sector in the development of new or expanded businesses?