



# 2022

## State Policy Agenda

**El Dorado County**  
Joint Chamber Commission

**El Dorado Hills**  
Chamber of Commerce

**Elk Grove**  
Chamber of Commerce

**Folsom**  
Chamber of Commerce

**Rancho Cordova**  
Chamber of Commerce

**Roseville Area**  
Chamber of Commerce

**Yuba-Sutter**  
Chamber of Commerce



UCAN – the United Chamber Advocacy Network, is a coalition of local chambers of commerce in the greater Sacramento region working together since 2018 to amplify their members' voices before the California State Legislature. Impacts from the state government are a top concern of local chamber members. UCAN chambers have found that we can have a more significant impact by working together and working with Democrat and Republican legislators in both the Senate and the Assembly.

### **UCAN in 2021 – Getting Bigger, Getting Louder**

In April survey of UCAN chambers found members are having difficulty filling open positions – primarily due to disincentives provided by state and federal benefits. More recently, the UCAN coalition has worked with other state and regional business organizations to advance our priorities – with even more impact.

UCAN subsequently sent a coalition letter to Governor Gavin Newsom, signed by the California Business Property Owners, the California Building Industry Association, the California Business Roundtable, the Orange County Business Council, and others, urging him to reestablish the work requirement for individuals to receive unemployment benefits from the EDD. A week later, EDD announced it would restore the work requirement.

UCAN's efforts were covered in the media, including interviews with Yuba Sutter Chamber CEO Marni Sanders and Dave Butler, UCAN Advocate. The dedicated effort to build coalitions and engage with the media reaffirmed UCAN's objectives to be bigger and be louder in 2021.

### **UCAN Priorities for 2022 – Taxes/Regulations, COVID Restrictions, Public Safety, Housing**

Each year, the UCAN chambers release a survey allowing members to identify their top state-level concerns and priorities. The annual UCAN State Policy Agenda is built around the results of this survey. Once approved by the boards of the UCAN members, the policy agenda is presented to our state legislators. This plan forms the basis of UCAN positions in response to state legislation. In addition, a group of staff and volunteer leaders from each chamber monitor and assess the agenda's progress.

When reviewing recent survey responses to preset choices as well as open-ended questions, the top priorities for UCAN chamber members for 2022 are:

- Reduce Taxes and Regulations
- End COVID Restrictions
- Enhance Public Safety
- Expand Housing Supply

### **2022 UCAN Member Survey Results**

Open from December 12, 2021, through January 23, 2022, the 2022 UCAN Member survey received 112 replies, slightly down from the 2021 survey. Most respondents were small businesses, with 82% of respondents employed 25 or fewer employees.

Below are summaries of segments of the survey, with quotes from chamber members included. One quote, in particular, summarized the sentiment expressed by the vast majority of respondents:

***"The role of public health should be managed at a county level, at the largest. Public health measures should be enacted with extreme caution based upon real data. Using bureaucracy to control people and business will always lead to inefficiencies in government and stagnation in business."***

### Ranking top concerns

Respondents were presented with a list of 11 priorities and asked to choose the most important to them. Note: The impact from COVID was referred to as "COVID Relief" and was not selected as one of the high-priority concerns. The top choices were:

- Taxes and Regulations
- Public Safety
- Homelessness
- Housing

### What's on YOUR mind?

Members also responded to open-ended questions, asking their topic concerns for their business and the state's economy. The issues most often sighted in each question were:

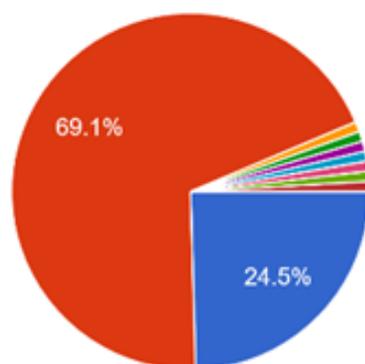
- Taxes
- COVID restrictions
- Regulations
- AB 5

### State response to COVID – Remove/Reduce restrictions

Concerning COVID regulations and restrictions, we asked members what the state should do. 69% said the state should "remove/reduce COVID restrictions," and 25% urged the state to offer relief to affected businesses.

If the state legislature wanted to help businesses impacted by COVID restrictions, which would you prefer they do....

110 responses



- Provide grant relief to effected business
- Remove/reduce COVID restrictions/regulations on business operations
- The word, "if" makes this a leading qu...
- Masks Get rid of them NO LOCKDOW...
- Increase state spending from those bu...
- Consistency
- Stop deciding who gets to survive and...
- mandate proof of vaccination to allow...
- remove all covid restrictions

### Chamber member quotes:

*If they keep restricting small business giving more money will not help. We are strong let us rebuild without hindrances.*

*There are many options to resolve the current crisis that don't include "give businesses more money" or "give businesses full autonomy."It's that kind of "all or nothing" and "us versus them" thinking and action that have caused so much division...*

### **COVID impacts to the workforce – hard to fill open positions**

54% of respondents have had difficulty filling positions, and of those, 82% believe state and federal benefits discourage people from accepting open positions.

### Chamber member quotes:

*We've been trying for three months to fill an automotive technician position.*

*For a while, we were unable to find candidates willing to work for less than a 30% premium. Now that seems to have settled in at a 15% increase in salaries for existing and new employees.*

*No rent, get free money, free healthcare . . .why work? Does anyone really have to ask?*

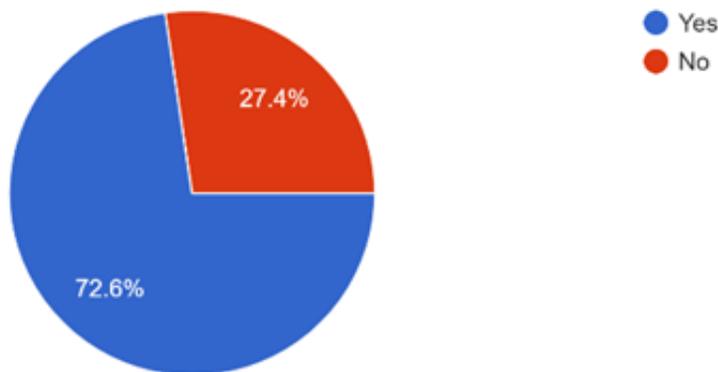
### **Vast majority adversely impacted by COVID restrictions**

72% of respondents said COVID restrictions adversely impacted their business. The percentages below indicate the specific impact:

- Additional Regulations 55%
- Supply shortages 48%
- Increased prices 47%
- Reduced sales 43%
- Reduced workforce 41%

Has your business been adversely impacted by COVID regulations/restrictions?

106 responses



## Chamber member quotes:

*The costs for compliance have had implications for the organization.*

*Limited capacity - not being able to operate to not having enough people who can work fully.*

*Online dog training doesn't allow for socialization, which if the dog can't be social, all the other training is moot.*

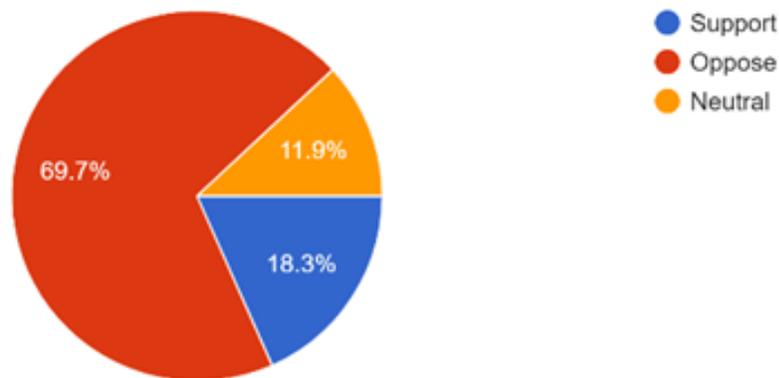
## **Little support for vaccine mandate**

We asked chamber members if they support an employer vaccine requirement for employees?

No	70%
Yes	18%
No opinion	12%

Do you support or oppose state and federal regulations requiring employers to ensure their employees are vaccinated or test frequently for COVID?

109 responses



## Chamber member quotes:

*I am pro-vaccine but anti mandate.*

*I am not the covid police.*

*It's the hardest public issue of most of our lifetimes, but I think everyone has a right to determine what happens to their bodies . . . I think people should be able to choose to vaccinate or choose to stay home if there is a vaccine mandate anywhere or anytime.*

## **UCAN in the news**

UCAN leaders interviews with Kitty O'Neal from KFBKNews Radio:

- **Business Leaders to Gov: Fed and State Benefits Stalling Economic Recovery**
- **Local Chambers of Commerce Say COVID Benefits are Hurting the Workforce**

For more information contact David Butler at [DButler@amgroup.us](mailto:DButler@amgroup.us)

## WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!

The UCAN chambers will work with our advocates at Advocacy and Management Group in Sacramento to monitor legislative proposals and assist chamber leaders and chamber members in supporting bills that align with our shared priorities and oppose bills that are inconsistent with our unified agenda.

To learn more, contact one of the UCAN chambers directly.  
Visit [amgroup.us/ucan](http://amgroup.us/ucan) or email [ucan@amgroup.us](mailto:ucan@amgroup.us)

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