

# 2020 POLICY GUIDE



Tweet us **@OC\_Biz\_Council** and **@OCBC\_GA**  
Use and follow **#ACTOC2020** for updates

OCBC's Policy Guide highlights the key issues facing business and government, and features new COVID-19 information this year. Policies and positions are discussed in-depth in the 2019-20 OCBC Legislative Action Guide and are approved by OCBC's Board of Directors.

## CONTACT OCBC'S ADVOCACY TEAM

- **Lucy Dunn, President and CEO** - [ldunn@ocbc.org](mailto:ldunn@ocbc.org)
- **Jennifer Ward, Senior Vice President, Advocacy and Government Affairs** - [jward@ocbc.org](mailto:jward@ocbc.org)
- **Jesse Ben-Ron, Vice President, Economic and Workforce Development** - [jbenron@ocbc.org](mailto:jbenron@ocbc.org)
- **Connor Medina, Government Affairs Specialist** - [cmedina@ocbc.org](mailto:cmedina@ocbc.org)

## WORKFORCE HOUSING

#CEQAModernization #HousingAffordability

### PROBLEM

Southern California needs to build at least 250,000 additional housing units to house our current workforce. SoCal's housing shortage has priced out many in the workforce. Additionally, home builders face overregulation, redundancies in the permitting and approval process, and unnecessary lawsuits and delays. As a result, higher building costs are passed down to the homebuyer. Increasing supply, choices, and affordability of housing available to workers in job-rich areas of the state, such as Orange County, is imperative for companies to retain a talented workforce.

### SOLUTION

- **Support incentives to encourage cities to meet their General Plan housing goals;**
- **Pass legislation that reduces burdensome fees and barriers discouraging developers from building;**
- **Modernize the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to streamline the environmental review process, reduce delays and the cost of development.**

## SPLIT ROLL

#NoOnSplitRoll

### PROBLEM

Split roll will hinder economic growth and greatly increase the cost of doing business in California. Higher property taxes will result in increased prices for goods, reduction of salaries, and will prevent businesses from growing while limiting the hiring of new employees. Split roll threatens to displace small businesses' leasing office space from larger businesses and discourages new residential construction. Split roll stands to make California less competitive in domestic and global markets.

### SOLUTION

- **Oppose the ballot initiative that enacts split roll;**
- **Support tax policies that create economic opportunity and growth in California.**

## Local and State Funding

### PROBLEM

Despite the passage of SB 1 which provides long-term transportation funding certainty, and AB 398 which ensures the long-term stability of the cap-and-trade system, 2020 still poses many challenges. The implementation of local and State transportation funding could be affected by legislative and regulatory efforts.

### SOLUTION

- **Advance the delivery of projects utilizing SB 1 funding expeditiously;**
- **Support local discretion in programming expenditures of transportation funds for regional priorities;**
- **Oppose efforts to reprioritize transportation funds to programs not primarily intended to help meet the State's transportation needs;**
- **Support the allocation of funding to the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) and maintain the current State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) formula and process;**
- **Reestablish the authority of Caltrans and regional transportation agencies to enter into public-private partnership (P3) agreements on the State highway system to leverage public funds and deliver cost and time savings;**
- **Advance legislation clarifying aspects of current law regarding interoperability, so toll operators can share necessary information and issue toll violations;**
- **Establish consistently-enforced distracted driving laws based on sound research to improve safety.**



# WATER

## Long-Term Reliability

### PROBLEM

There is growing public attention and concern regarding potential pollutants in drinking water supplies, particularly in historically disenfranchised and disadvantaged communities. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a family of chemicals that have been detected in local water supplies throughout the county. Orange County water agencies, in partnership with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, continue to ensure the region has a safe, reliable drinking water supply.

### SOLUTION

- **Support legislation to establish a CEC Drinking Water Program at the State Water Resources Control Board using a science-based approach;**
- **Support local efforts to assess whether PFAS are present and to what extent, support actions to prevent PFAS contamination, and support additional funding to defray the costs of monitoring, testing treatment technologies and remediation of PFAS for local agencies;**
- **Support administrative/legislative actions to ensure "polluter pay" provisions that allow for full cost-recovery by drinking water and wastewater providers.**

#HireOC

## PROBLEM

While Orange County has emerged as a leader in educational attainment and college eligibility, there are many well-paying jobs left unfilled due to inadequate workforce skills. Over 180,000 20- to 40-year-olds left Orange County for another state from 2010 to 2018. This outmigration compels companies to recruit out-of-state talent to fill their positions. Career pathways must be enhanced and made nimble so employers can hire talent in Orange County.

## SOLUTION

- **Modernize public higher education funding formulas to ensure that Orange County institutions are receiving equal funding on a per student basis when compared to their peers;**
- **Expand career pathways to upskill workers and programs that increase English language proficiency;**
- **Support cradle to career pathway funding to provide hands-on learning and on-the-job experiences.**



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Keep Growing Jobs

## PROBLEM

Orange County is truly an economic engine for Southern California and the state. Orange County has the lowest unemployment in SoCal (2.4 percent pre COVID-19), and is home to some of the largest industry clusters in the country, including Medical Devices, Information Technology, and Hospitality and Tourism. However, this economic growth has not been distributed equally. Further economic growth and job creation could be created if the right tools, resources and partnerships were in place.

## SOLUTION

- **Make improvements to the Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD) code more efficient and less costly for cities and counties to advance their infrastructure and economic development priorities;**
- **Amend state tax code to conform with federal law on opportunity zones, which will allow for increased investments in distressed communities;**
- **Encourage public-private partnerships for increased investment in tourism projects;**
- **Oppose regulatory policies that intentionally or unintentionally inhibit economic opportunities and job growth in California.**

## Energy

### PROBLEM

While the Legislature acted recently to better protect the public, our communities, and the State economy, wildfires still pose a serious threat to millions of Californians. Wildfires are growing more destructive due to climate change impacts. In addition to hardening the grid with insulated wires and installing new technologies, Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) is another preventative measure utilities use to protect Californians from catastrophic wildfires.

### SOLUTION

- **Allow wildfire policy reforms, such as those included in AB 1054, time to be implemented, as the California Public Utilities Commission offers utilities guidance on wildfire mitigation efforts through an open public process, and that regulatory dialog continues to this day.**
- **Encourage lawmakers to continue their important oversight over power providers to ensure compliance with their wildfire mitigation plans and reduce impacts on customers and communities.**



## Telecommunications

### PROBLEM

Telecommunication services networks are dependent on commercial power, as well as wireless service phone providers and their infrastructure. During PSPS events, telecommunications providers discovered that Californians relying on wireless phone and broadband service were unable to power their devices or connect with family and friends.

### SOLUTION

- **Adhere to a uniform definition of critical facility to ensure reinstallation of service is expedited;**
- **Harden infrastructure around cell towers to ensure communication;**
- **Foster continued dialogue between telecommunications providers and utilities to ensure continuity of service during power disruptions;**
- **Encourage Californians to have an emergency preparedness plan to know what to do in a situation with no power.**

## Reinvigorate the Economy

### PROBLEM

The COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged California's formerly thriving economy and increased the unemployment rate tremendously. Orange County must do everything possible to reinvigorate the economy while avoiding another shutdown. The state must continue to rise up to meet this ongoing crisis.

### SOLUTION

- Ensure that businesses operating in good faith to protect customers and employees are shielded from litigation and receive liability protections;
- Delay the implementation of new regulations unrelated to COVID-19;
- Enforce the statewide mask orders to the extent possible to help prevent further devastating shutdowns;
- Collaborate with leaders in industries hit hardest by the pandemic, such as tourism and hospitality, transportation, construction, retail and restaurants, to identify ways to support them and retain as many businesses and jobs as possible;
- Invest in a robust communications infrastructure network statewide to meet growing connectivity needs as Californians work and learn at home;
- Oppose legislation that imposes higher costs on employers at the worst possible time, such as AB 398, in turn threatening jobs and limiting California's economic recovery.

## THANK YOU SPONSORS!

### Title Sponsor



An EDISON INTERNATIONAL® Company

### Legislative Sponsors



We're always with you.®



### Issue Sponsors



### Supporter Sponsors

