



## Legislative Update

Greetings HCC members:

As the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session approaches, the chamber is focused on serving as the voice of its more than 1,700-members. Many of our members are small businesses, with chamber leaders coming from modest means who are proud to employ working families throughout our community. Members are optimistic about the future, yet cautious for what the coming session may hold for them.

This year is already shaping up to become a landmark in Nevada's historical timeline. For the first time in decades a democratic governor, and former HCC board member, Steve Sisolak will take on the formidable task of leading our state with two democratically led legislative houses. For the first time in history, women legislators closed and surpassed the representative gap in the Assembly. We now have the most diverse state and federal representation we've ever had. And, for the first time ever, Nevada's federal elected leadership is headed by women. 2019 will be a transformative year for us all.

"The only thing that is constant is change." - Heraclitus

Every one of our members knows well that the business environment constantly evolves. To remain competitive, we look for opportunities to grow our teams, enhance our service delivery systems and ultimately grow product and revenue so we continue to thrive.

HCC's mission is aid to our members along these areas of change, whether through networking events, marketing opportunities as well as through advocacy. We are committed to strengthening and expanding pro-growth opportunities for today's entrepreneurs and those in the years to come. Moreover, we are in relentless pursuit of developing avenues in which we help our community achieve the American dream.

With a Democratically led state this session, or any session for that matter, finding common ground through communication is essential. While there is much speculation about whether any group is emboldened enough to make drastic changes this year, it has always been the role of the chamber to serve as a bipartisan voice who can educate lawmakers about the potential impact, good or bad, policies may have on our businesses. What we do know is that top priorities for Democrats this legislative session includes increases in minimum wage, re-examination of the vetoed legislation from the 2017 session on paid sick leave, an effort to fix our property tax system, and an expansion of Medicaid for all. Many of these issues could be challenging for some of our members.

To that, the heart of the chamber these next several months is our work in the area of legislative affairs. Our advocacy work on behalf of our members is purposeful and pragmatic, just as its always been for the 75 years since our inception.

Our legislative committee and contract lobbying group on state matters, Carrara Nevada, work diligently and strategically to ensure we work with policy makers to find productive ways to address predictability, unintended consequences, as well as pathways to minimize adverse impact to small businesses.

I'd like to recognize and thank the HCC's Legislative Committee. Led by Chair Aviva Gordon of Gordon Law and Vice Chair Natalie Buckel of I Want My Two Dollars, other committee members include: Chuck Mohler, Eagle Corporate Advisors; Katie Ryan, Dignity Health-St. Rose Dominican; George Garcia, GC Garcia; Chris Caluya, Turner Martin-Harris Construction; and Patty Charlton, College of Southern Nevada.

This committee researches and prepares the chamber's legislative agenda for the upcoming session. It develops policy directives that address current and future concerns that have direct or potential impact on our community with specific implications on business and our economy. Those primary areas include: taxes and regulations; workforce readiness (education); healthcare; infrastructure and accessible lands.

While our advocacy work for you doesn't begin and end in Carson City, the work we do there matters, and we want to ensure you are in-the-know. In fact, you can expect to receive a bi-weekly HCC Legislative E-Newsletter once the session starts in February and then every other week until it ends in June. On Tuesday, February 26, we invite all HCC members to join us in Carson City for the 2019 Henderson Legislative Reception. [\[See details\]](#) Finally, following the session, the HCC will host a Post-Legislative Session Luncheon - a venue for all members to learn about policies that occurred during the session that will impact your organization the most. I hope you plan to take advantage of these HCC resources and support that in which we work on quietly every day that impact your bottom line.

While the chamber is committed to its agenda that creates and sustains a pro-growth business environment, at the end of the day our business is about people. Your perspective matters to me and I invite to reach out to share your thoughts. Afterall, the very definition of a "chamber" is to host a hall of voices that can become one strong, unified voice.

Yours in service,

**Amber**

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