

As Summit Nears, Leaders Sign On, Momentum Builds

Today, Joint Venture Silicon Valley – co-chaired by San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed and Chris DiGiorgio, California Managing Director, Accenture, plus led by Russ Hancock – formally joined the coalition of leaders marching towards a Constitutional Convention. They did so after Dan Walters of the Sacramento Bee and Jim Wunderman presented to their Board. Dan Walters loudly complained that California also has a crisis of civic leadership scared or unwilling to address big problems like the constitutional convention. Perhaps rising to the challenge, Joint Venture’s Board of elected, business and labor leaders voted – without dissent – to join the Bay Area Council in the cause.



The Constitutional Convention stage is attracting a band of leaders. Our upcoming [Summit](#) on February 24 is co-sponsored by the Center for Governmental Studies, Common Cause, the Courage Campaign, the League of Women Voters, New America Foundation and the William C. Velásquez Institute (part of the Southwest Voter Project, one of the country’s largest and most powerful Latino groups). Jim Wunderman made his third presentation to the League of California Cities, the California Association of Counties and the California School Boards Association seeking their formal support, and we await that decision. The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has cancelled its February 24 meeting to attend the Summit. Individuals from across the political spectrum, from the Lincoln Club of Orange County, to environmental leaders, to die-hard tax group leaders, to labor leaders are helping the Bay Area Council carry this heavy load.

In statewide polling that we will reveal at the Summit, we have found that the voters of California are with us as well.

What started more than six months ago as an interesting idea has now become a full-fledged movement. The Governor spoke about the Constitutional Convention in his [State of the State](#) speech. The *Los Angeles Times*, the *Sacramento Bee*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *San Jose Mercury News*, the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat* and many other papers have [offered editorial support](#). It is the talk of Sacramento and concerned citizens and political watchers around the state.

The reason why is obvious. California is broken. That point is not longer debatable. In this system, nothing can get done. In almost every case, the failure to act costs inordinately more than the proposed solutions, exacting a heavy tax toll on business and residents. Inaction also results in inefficient and ineffective spending, and, in many cases, real human suffering.

We believe the current crisis has created an opportunity for reform that hasn’t been seen in many generations. We must strike quickly. As business leaders who profoundly love our state, we can’t fiddle around the edges anymore. A successful revamp of our government could profoundly improve the lives of millions of Californians, improve the business climate for thousands of companies, and allow the California “dream” to again be a beacon of human aspiration around the globe.

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