



CAWA Industry Panel

Panel Discussion Questions

6.25.2026

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- To state the obvious, it's a really busy time of the year – the election was just a few weeks ago, there are ongoing budget discussions, policy committees are in high gear. Are there any interesting takeaways from the June 2nd primary that perhaps you weren't expecting, or that stood out as significant?
- Looking ahead to the post-Newsom era – which is likely going to translate into the Becerra era – and now that the dust has cleared from the June 2nd primary, what policy or political changes do you anticipate from the next generation of statewide leadership as it relates to business in California? Any reason to be optimistic?
- What advice would you give companies trying to engage more effectively in advocacy and coalition-building?
- We all have challenges with labor and environmental groups. In the spirit of collaboration, what is one area – if any – where all four of your organizations actually agree with organized labor or environmental groups?
- What keeps each of you optimistic about California's economy despite all the challenges we face?

ORGANIZATION-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

California Chamber of Commerce

- Let's talk about the ballot process. By last count, there were roughly 18 ballot initiatives potentially qualifying for this November's election. Can you walk us through the qualification process, what deals have been struck so far to remove propositions from the ballot, and which ones businesses should be paying attention to?
- How should automotive businesses – or businesses in general – prepare for the continued expansion of climate disclosure and ESG-related requirements? And what should policymakers keep in mind to ensure these frameworks remain practical and scalable for companies of all sizes?

- CalChamber engages on a wide range of issues from labor and environmental policy to taxation and regulation. Where are you seeing the most urgency from members this year, and what policy areas are having the greatest impact on business planning and investment decisions?

California New Car Dealers Association (CNCDA)

- There has been a lot of discussion around EV adoption in California. Following the loss of California's Clean Air Act waiver and the uncertainty surrounding the state's ability to enforce its zero-emission vehicle sales mandates, how are dealers viewing the EV market today? Are consumer demand and market conditions supporting the pace of the state's transition, or are dealers seeing a disconnect between policy goals and market reality?
- Whether we're talking about dealers, manufacturers, parts suppliers, or repair shops, we're all part of the same automotive ecosystem. What are the biggest opportunities for the industry to work together over the next five years to ensure transportation remains affordable, reliable, and accessible for California consumers?
- It's clearly a busy year. What is the most important priority issue for your members right now?

California Retailers Association (CRA)

- With the implementation of SB 54 and other extended producer responsibility (EPR) requirements, are retailers and consumer brands facing operational or cost challenges that policymakers may not have anticipated? How should the industry respond and engage to ensure environmental goals are achieved without creating unintended impacts for businesses and consumers?
- Retailers continue to face rising labor costs and workforce challenges. What are the biggest workforce issues facing the retail sector today, and what policy solutions would help employers attract and retain workers?
- What is the most important priority issue for your members this year?

Automotive Service Councils of California (ASSCC)

- As California moves deeper into vehicle electrification, what are independent repair shops most concerned about? Is the industry prepared for the training, tooling, safety requirements, and repair demands associated with EVs and increasingly advanced vehicle technologies?
- How difficult has it become for independent repair shops to recruit and retain qualified technicians, and what are the biggest factors driving the workforce shortage today?
- California continues to adopt aggressive environmental and vehicle regulations. Are policymakers giving enough consideration to vehicle reparability, maintenance costs, and the practical realities facing repair shops?
- What is the most important priority issue for your members this year?