

VICA in the News

Media Highlights: Winter 2011



Brown wins business support for budget proposal

Feb 25- VICA put its support behind Gov. Jerry Brown's proposal to allow voters to weigh in on his plan to extend taxes. However, VICA stopped short of endorsing the tax extensions themselves.



Local Update: City losing millions in fixed assets

Feb 28- The Audit of Citywide Fixed Assets and Equipment found that departments in the City of Los Angeles are not keeping track of equipment and other assets. Audit follow-up is a continuous problem that contributes to the city losing millions of dollars. The creation of a new audit scoreboard will allow VICA to hold city officials accountable for implementation of audit recommendations.



City considers signage regulations

Mar 28-City Hall has dropped plans to tighten restrictions on business signs, but is still considering a proposal to collect a fee from all business owners with sign permits. One element worries business leaders and owners: the right of citizens to sue sign owners if they disapprove of a sign. "While the current draft ordinance is a major improvement...we still have concerns about this private right of action...[which] could place a brutal burden on local businesses and kill local jobs," said VICA President Stuart Waldman.



Valley enterprise zones in jeopardy

Jan 28- An unnamed source in *The Sacramento Bee* speculates that Gov. Jerry Brown has proposed that California's development agencies and enterprise zones would be cut under the state budget. In the eyes of many, this is detrimental to California's economy. VICA President Stuart Waldman says that eliminating community redevelopment agencies is "irresponsible" because "they develop projects that otherwise wouldn't be developed." Waldman added, "Enterprise zones, likewise, create jobs (by enticing business to) pump money into the economy that wouldn't otherwise exist in those areas."



VICA endorses Measure L

Feb 3- The VICA board of directors voted in favor of Measure L, which will increase the budget of L.A. public libraries. "The measure ensures that libraries will continue to provide important afterschool and literacy programs, without raising taxes or fees," said VICA President Stuart Waldman. VICA also notes that L.A. libraries operate the city's "largest network" of afterschool programs.



Republican plan for California's budget mess

Mar 1- VICA Chair Daymond Rice joined California Republican Assemblymember Don Wagner for a conversation on KCRW's *Which Way, L.A.?* to discuss California's budget mess and possible solutions. VICA supported putting tax extensions on ballot, but did not support the extensions themselves.



Valley performing art center opens

Jan 30- CSU, Northridge opened a new Valley Performing Arts Center to strengthen the university's art programs and bring world-class performances to the Valley. The performing arts center could become a signature landmark and draw noted orchestras, productions and entertainers. "The transformation is amazing," said VICA President Stuart Waldman.



E-fairness tax levels the playing field for California businesses

Jan 19- VICA supports Nancy Skinner's "e-fairness" legislation, AB 153. The bill would require online retailers, such as Amazon.com, to collect and remit California sales tax. A current tax loophole gives out-of-state companies an advantage over brick-and-mortar California businesses.