

May 7, 2025

 **NEWS** Your source for family business news
summary
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FBAC News

FBAC's Capitol Conference is just one week away

The 13th annual Family Business Day and Capitol Conference will be held next Wednesday, May 14, at the Sutter Club in downtown Sacramento, and once again FBAC has prepared an outstanding lineup of speakers.

The latest addition to the speaker list is Assembly Member **Michelle Rodriguez**, D-Chino, (right) who is the author of AB 743, which addresses commercial lawsuit financing, a hidden, unregulated \$15 billion industry that is the engine behind many large class actions and mass torts brought against companies across every industry.



These firms provide funding directly to plaintiffs' law firms as an investment in litigation to which they are not a party. Because they are not required to disclose their presence, they can pull the strings of the litigation without the parties knowing. The bill would require such lawsuit financiers to be licensed by the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation.

Rodriguez joins an impressive list of speakers previously announced:

Lokesh Sikaria and his colleague **Vaibhav Nadguada** will share how artificial intelligence will shape business operations in the years to come. **Mark Baldassare** with PPIC will provide a pollster's view of California today. **Chris Onstott**, a shareholder at FBAC Regional Sponsor Kronick Moskowitz, will give an important update on PAGA lawsuits. **Rob Gutierrez**, president and CEO of the California Taxpayers Association, will discuss how policymakers want even more tax revenue. And our lobbyists, **Dennis Albiani** and **Annalee Augustine**, will talk about legislation that could impact your businesses.

Registration for the conference will begin at 1:30 p.m. with the program running from 2-5 p.m., followed by a reception with legislators. There is no charge for FBAC members.

[Register here](#)

FBAC's Rivinius a featured guest on Sacramento talk show

Political Director Robert Rivinius was a featured guest on former Sacramento Sheriff John McGinnis' afternoon talk show on KFBK radio last week, informing listeners about the excessive overregulation of California businesses and the impact of FBAC's efforts, along with Statewide Sponsor AMAROK, to pass legislation streamlining permitting for electrified security fences. You can [listen to the segment here](#). (The FBAC segment begins at 17:11 of the recording.)

Family businesses caught up in move to 'tax the rich'

Pat Soldano | Family Enterprise USA | May 3



Editor's note: Family Enterprise USA is an organization based in Washington, DC, to advocate for family businesses at the federal level that produced this "Saying It Out Loud" special report. It is also an FBAC Regional Sponsor.

There's a belief that "the rich" don't pay their fair share of taxes. This belief ensnares successful families and the family businesses they own. The results of this bias are movements to tax the rich, tax the billionaires, and generally find ways to tax the country's top earners. [Read more](#)

Legislative bill grid now available on FBAC website

To date, state lawmakers have introduced 2,350 bills since the session began in December. BBAC's lobbyists have reviewed the measures and have identified 31 so far that need to be followed closely. FBA to date opposes nine and is currently supporting just three.

To view the grid, [click here](#).

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Taxes and Government

GOP may be closer than ever to passing rule-busting bill

Politico\$ | May 5

Conservative Republicans have spent more than a decade working toward a wholesale rollback of federal regulations — and now they think they have the legislative battle plan to make it happen.

Advocates of the rule-shredding proposal are seeking



to give their legislation a coveted spot in the GOP's party-line energy, tax and border security megabill, a maneuver that would defuse the filibuster threat that has repeatedly thwarted their dreams. They say they have spent the better part of the past year crafting ways to ensure their latest iteration can pass muster in the Senate.

The proposal would turn Congress into a gatekeeper for certain major rules and allow lawmakers to roll back countless regulations for the remainder of President Donald Trump's term, drastically transforming the way the federal government oversees everything from businesses and banks to health care and energy development. The House Judiciary Committee advanced it last week as part of the Republicans' broader budget reconciliation package — a potentially major step toward finally catapulting the deregulatory proposal to Trump's desk. [Read more](#)

'Business is tough,' state fast-food franchise owners say

KTLA Los Angeles | May 2

It's been over a year since California raised the minimum wage for fast-food employees from \$16 to \$20 per hour, the highest of any state in the nation.

By all measurements, the large franchises, including McDonald's, Subway, Chipotle and Burger King, have raised menu prices to protect their bottom line. At the same time, competing data points have obscured the impact on employment.

Trade groups say the law, Assembly Bill 1228, has led to widespread job losses. California Gov. Gavin Newsom's office insists it has not. [Read more](#)

Gas price pain: Taxes, regulations, futile climate gestures

Flash Report | April 23

California drivers know the sting of filling up at the pump, where prices often hover \$1.50 to \$2 above the national average—\$4.65 per gallon versus \$3.15 nationally as of April 2025. While crude oil and refining costs play a role, the real culprit behind these sky-high prices is a web of state taxes, fees, and regulations that inflate costs far beyond what's necessary. Add to that the elevated operational costs for gas stations in California's pricey real estate and regulatory environment, and it's clear why motorists are squeezed. Worse, the state's aggressive climate policies, like cap-and-trade and low carbon fuel standards, promise global environmental gains but deliver negligible impact, raising questions about their prudence. [Read more](#)

When politicians ignore policy risks, failure often results

Dan Walters | CalMatters | May 2

California's governors and legislators have a very bad habit of enacting major programs and projects without fully exploring their downside risks.

That brings us to Senate Bill 769, which appears superficially to be a positive effort to expand infrastructure financing but could be another example of unanticipated consequences. The measure, introduced by Sen. Anna Caballero, a Merced Democrat, would create the Golden State Infrastructure Corporation, a state-owned nonprofit company that could borrow money or issue bonds and provide financing for public or private infrastructure projects.



There are aspects to the proposal that should be triggering alarm bells. [Read more](#)

Family businesses keep generations working together

Atlanta Journal-Constitution\$ | May 1

Jan Shields' daughter, Jill Ottaway, joined the family business, Polystone Creations in Cleveland, Georgia, as office manager to be closer to her mother when her father passed away a few years ago. For Shields, getting to work in such close proximity daily has been a delight.

"I just told her the other day that one of the joys of my life is working with her," Shields told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "I work in the same office with her. She sits right across the desk from me."

Polystone Creations is one of a large number of Georgia businesses powered by multiple generations working behind the counter, in the office and on the floor. The following vignettes are snapshots of how they get things done, the challenges they face and the triumphs they've experienced as family members in business together. [Read more](#)

Preparing for the future: Succession

MaineBiz\$ | May 5

The biggest challenge for families transitioning a business from one generation to the next is "starting the process early enough and having the fortitude to see it through," according to Catherine Wygant Fossett, who runs the Portland-based Institute for Family-Owned Business.

A 2023 Price Waterhouse study found that 72% of owners want the business to stay in the family, yet only 34% have a robust succession plan in place.

Two families we recently spoke with, who run very different multi-generational retail businesses, have been working to structure their transitions, and a written plan is evolving for each of them, but it's not a quick process. Sorting out all of the details requires a lot of conversations, and a lot of time, while also staying focused on running their businesses.

[Read more](#)

Economy

State's consumer confidence falls to December 2020 level

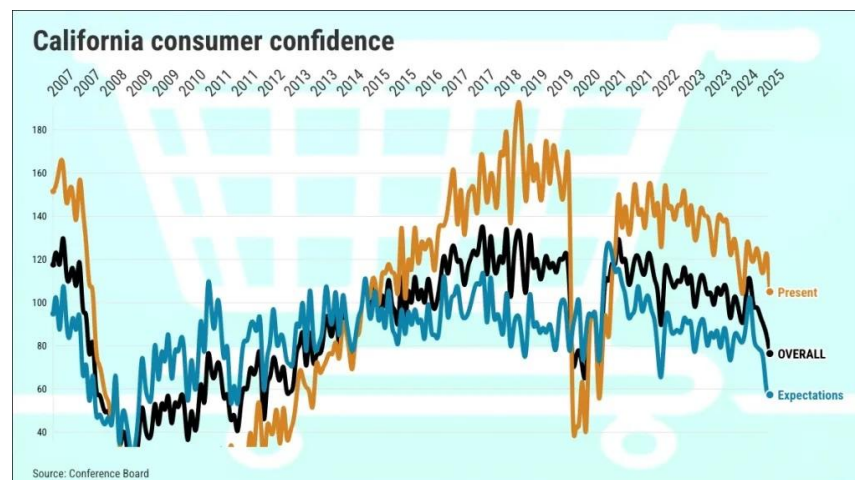
SoCal News Group\$ | April 30

California consumers haven't been this skittish since the pandemic era's business restrictions over four years ago.

My trusty spreadsheet, when looking at April's results for the Conference Board's consumer confidence indexes, found statewide optimism down 31%

since October, just before Election Day. This is the largest decline among the eight states tracked by these monthly measurements that are derived from a polling of shoppers.

Clearly, Californians worry about economic policies from the Trump administration, including trade battles with other nations and promises of large-scale deportations. Fears



of a recession are now swirling as California's hiring rate plummets to a 14-year low. [Read more](#)

Job market flops, landing near bottom among US states

Bay Area News Group\$ | May 5

While California officials boast about the state's ranking as the world's fourth-largest economy, the statewide job market continues to be one of the nation's weakest.

Not thriving, however, is California's job market, whose grim conditions were sketched out by the most recent seasonally adjusted job numbers released by the state Employment Development Department.

"California's labor market performance can only be described as lackluster," said Scott Anderson, chief economist for BMO Capital Markets. "Expect California's job losses to accelerate and the unemployment rate to rise in the months ahead." [Read more](#)

US economy shrinks in Q1, but data may be misleading

Reuters\$ | April 30

The U.S. economy contracted for the first time in three years in the first quarter, swamped by a flood of imports as businesses raced to avoid higher costs from tariffs and underscoring the disruptive nature of President Donald Trump's often chaotic trade policy.

The Commerce Department's advance gross domestic product (GDP) report on Wednesday, however, grossly exaggerated the economy's fading prospects. Though consumer spending slowed considerably from the fourth quarter, the pace of growth remained healthy. Businesses also boosted investment in equipment, mostly information processing and transportation. [Read more](#)

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