

2019 BizFed Leadership Roundtable Series Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis

LOS ANGELES – February 1, 2019



Los Angeles County District #1 Supervisor Hilda Solis met with BizFed members to discuss a wide range of “Hot Items” on their mind and to seek collaborations in some upcoming initiatives by the Supervisors. The very popular Roundtable with Supervisor Solis drew more than double the number of the twenty final participants.

First elected as Supervisor in 2014 and re-elected in 2018, Solis stated that her public service career has always been about “empowering the community and all about my constituents.”

Mark Wilbur presented the results of the 2018 PulsePoll for the First Supervisorial District. Highlights include the continued #1 ranking of taxes as a critical issue with government and regulation compliance ranking #2. Housing related issues (affordability and homelessness) and land use jumped to within the top 8 in ranking. Hina Sheikh, Economic and Workforce Development



Deputy and Senior Advisor Judith Vasquez are interested in collaborating with BizFed “to help us turn the tide on poverty”, said the Supervisor. “We want to engage the business community in helping us with job creation, transitional housing, and other opportunities that will help us meet the challenges facing our residents.”

Tracy Hernandez shared the objectives of BizFed’s Anti-Poverty Initiative and Economic Mobility Policy Committee and reiterating the ongoing support and opposition for some of the housing measures that have been on recent ballots. BizFed opposed the City of Los Angeles “Measure S” (2017) and supported Los Angeles County’s “Measure H (2018). Statewide, BizFed supported Propositions 1 and 2 in in 2018. These propositions were for homeless supportive housing and funding affordable housing.

Supervisor Solis expressed interest in getting more information from our members on available standards for a growing new industry, cannabis. Currently the Board is in the process of drafting an ordinance for cannabis businesses and cities throughout the County are waiting before proceeding with their own ordinances.



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There was much discussion of the Arts Fee, as proposed by the Board of Supervisors. Janet Gagnon expressed that a different approach could be to reward property owners that pursue public art on their development by “moving up” in the permitting process rather than being punitive in action. Solis said it was interesting and directed staff to follow up on the proposal.



Solis also sought BizFed's assistance to share their knowledge in business management with the small businesses within her district. They may not all have the skills and know how to make their small business successful and there are many within the First Supervisorial District.

The conversation moved on to procurement practices for LA County and to be supportive of the many non-profits and small businesses ensuring the continued access to participate in the process. Solis mentioned that Metro is a model for procurement practices and she hopes that LA County adopts some of the practices.



Roundtable participants: Hal Dash, Purvi Doshi, Robert Duarte, Mark Edwards, Sharon Evans, David Ford, Christine Frey, Janet Gagnon, Tracy Hernandez, Matt Klink, Lara Larramendi, Jaime Rojas, Schenae Rourke, Steve Samuelian, Sandy Sanchez, Lupita Sanchez Cornejo, Stephen Sawyer, Aaron Taxy and Mark Wilbur.