

Top BizFed Issues: 2009–2019

Ten-Year Trend

	2009	2011*	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Taxes and Fees	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Public Infrastructure (Roads, Rail, Bridges, Waterways, etc.)	5	15	7	12	3	9	5	2	4	2
Homelessness	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	9	3
Government Regulation/ Compliance	-	2	2	2	5	2	3	3	2	4
Education	-	7	5	4	9	8	4	9	5	5
Transportation: Reduce Commute Time	5	13	8	10	8	4	2	5	8	6
Housing/ Land Use	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	3	7
Energy/ Fuel Costs	-	-	-	7	2	10	13	14	15	8
Local Permit Process	2	9	10	13	13	3	9	6	7	9
Legislative Gridlock (State and Federal)	-	6	4	5	7	12	10	4	6	10
Public Employee Pension	-	11	16	11	18	17	17	15	14	11
Curb Urban Crime and Gang Activity	-	14	9	9	13	6	7	12	10	12
State and Local Budgets	-	4	3	6	6	14	15	7	11	13
Workforce Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Water (Access & Reliability)	3	4	19	16	10	7	6	13	17	15

* Poll conducted in early 2011 due to 2010 BizFed Election-year Poll

Highlights from 2019 #BizFedPulsePoll



Taxes and Fees remain the **#1 concern** for LA County Businesses for the 9th year in a row



Concern with Public Infrastructure needs increased: It moved from #4 in 2018 to the #2 spot in 2019



Concerns regarding Homelessness jump significantly from #9 in 2018 to #3 in 2019



Coming in at #2 in 2018, concerns in Government Regulations/Compliance have decreased, moving down to #4



55% of poll takers noted Education as a top concern; keeping it at the #5 spot for the second year in a row

Congratulations to Santa Clarita for being identified as the “Most Business Friendly” city in Los Angeles County!



SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Economic Impacts are Significant & Consumer Confidence Wains

- Nearly 90% of businesses state that the "Stay-at-Home" order has severely impacted their revenue, with 46% of those businesses losing 50% or more of their projected revenue for the year.
- Over 50% of businesses have had to lay off or furlough employees, and only 52% of those can affirmatively state they plan to bring back those employees.
- Being able to reconnect with customers, the impact of consumer changed or altered spending behaviors, and having the ability to reassure consumer confidence is the second most significant concern of reopening, following COVID-19 compliance requirements.

Regulatory Disconnect & Unrealistic Regulatory Expectations

- Nearly 60% of businesses do NOT feel officials are listening to business concerns regarding requirements and compliance.
- 50% of employers state the new Paid Sick Leave, Family Leave, Unemployment Benefits, and Workers' Compensation Order further complicates the outlook and ability to reopen the business.
- Nearly 70% of businesses believe the state needs to look at alternatives to make AB5 (Independent contractor restrictions) more flexible and provide additional exceptions that will better support the reopening of businesses.

Businesses are Ready to Reopen & Confidence is High if Reopening is Now

- 80% of businesses feel they're prepared to open if given the green light from State and Local Governments.
- 51 % of companies believe they have a clear understanding of the requirements to sufficiently monitor their employees' health, including regular screening and testing, social distancing, and providing personal protective equipment (PPE).
- 47% of business owners believe their employees are eager to return to their work locations after the "Stay at Home" order is lifted. Less than 3% indicated that their employees are not willing to return to work.

Government Needs to Provide Guidance and Invest in Workforce Training & Childcare

- 55% stated State and Local Officials had NOT provided sufficient requirements or criteria to protect businesses (interest) in opening safely.
- 49% of respondents believe there should be required COVID-19 safety training certification similar to harassment prevention training requirements.
- 55% of businesses feel, despite budget issues, the state should increase the amount of funding for training programs to support the massive increase in displaced workers. Another 34% stated that employees had cited childcare challenges as a reason for potentially not being able to return to the workplace.

About the Survey: The survey, conducted between May 7 and 14, 2020, garnered an astounding amount of responses, with 722 businesses throughout central and southern California calling attention to the detrimental economic effect of current policy decisions being made. Industries represented in the survey include restaurants and bars, manufacturing, retail, non-profits, and professional services. Fifty-one percent of respondents were small business owners with 10 employees or fewer, while seventeen percent of businesses responding had 11-100 employees. Thirteen percent of businesses have over 100 employees, with the largest employer employing more than 13,000 workers. Nineteen percent did not disclose their number of employees. The survey was conducted by The Employers Group for BizFed.