

J. J. McClatchy, President and CEO
McClatchy Management
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Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this very important discussion. We all know that reform of state government is long overdue. It is often talked about but we manage to return to business as usual. The recent recall election is a clear indication that the voters in California do not want business as usual. People want real change in the way government operates.

This Roadmap is a real step toward making government responsive.

It is a given that the reform process should encompass a wide number of measures. All of those measures should contribute to a business friendly environment. At this time I should like to direct my attention to an area that could 1) encourage business to locate in California, thereby increasing business revenue to the state, and 2) through business friendly regulation, bring jobs to the state.

The following can be achieved in several ways by initiative or referendum, for example:

1. Reduce the cost of Workers Comp
2. Eliminate burdensome fees
3. Leave quality of life issues to the bargaining process. (Family leave, living wage ordinances and domestic partners issues)
4. Health insurance issues

The Legislature should know or be made to know that the electorate wants change in the business climate. "Take it to the people" should make it clear that if the Legislature fails to act, the people will.

Discussing these issues with real intent towards reform will go a long way to show our Roadmap is for real.

The how is to make the Legislature understand the imposition of any of the regulations mentioned above artificially inflates the value of labor, and causes prices to rise. Industry will only pay labor what that labor is worth.

The State needs to assess those areas in the state with high numbers of non service related jobs and put together a bi-partisan group of industry and legislative people to determine how to address quality of life employment issues without inflating labor costs. The more the labor costs rise the higher the prices will climb causing reliance on off shore goods.