



# CALIFORNIA BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **California Business Roundtable Announces Selection of Robert Lapsley as its new President**

The California Business Roundtable, an organization providing executive level leadership in California for more than 30 years, today announced Robert Lapsley has been named President.

Rob brings more than 20 years of senior executive level business, legislative, governmental, and political leadership experience to the Roundtable.

"We screened a wide range of excellent candidates and are pleased to have someone of Rob's caliber and experience to lead the Roundtable," said Jerry Carnahan, President and CEO of Farmers New World Life and Roundtable board chairman. "He quickly emerged as the candidate who could not only bring a powerful new perspective to the Roundtable but really capitalize on what we've built."

After an exhaustive search, the Roundtable Board of Directors selected Rob based on his track record of leadership, relationship building, and executing strategies in a complex public policy environment.

"The Roundtable is a powerful advocate for a healthy business environment in California," said Dr. Benjamin Chu, president of the southern California region at Kaiser Permanente and Roundtable board member. "Rob will lead the organization to support public policies that foster vigorous economic growth, a vibrant economy and a well educated and productive workforce that is essential for the state's future competitiveness."

"I am privileged to take on this new role. The Roundtable is a critical voice for our state's major employers in California," Rob Lapsley said. "I look forward to the opportunity to affect policy and political issues that impact the long-term viability of major businesses to grow and create jobs in today's challenging economic climate."

Prior to joining the Roundtable, Rob served as the vice president of public affairs for CalChamber. During this time, he also served as executive director of JobsPAC, a broad, employer-based, bipartisan independent expenditure committee for CalChamber.

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Previously, Rob served as president of RCL Consultants, a firm specializing in business, government, political and public affairs consulting. He also served as vice president, where he was responsible for new business projects. As a presidential appointee, Rob served as special assistant to the U.S. Ambassador to Spain during the Iraq war coordinating strategies with private sector firms and the U.S. Department of Commerce in the Spanish-American and European Union business arenas.

Rob also was a long-time policy and political aide to former Secretary of State Bill Jones, serving as Undersecretary of State from 1995 to 1998 and again from 1999–2001 and managed both of Jones’s successful campaigns for that constitutional office.

Rob is a graduate fellow of the Coro Foundation and is an eight year veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He holds a B.S. in biology and political science from Illinois State University.

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*Established in 1976, the California Business Roundtable is a nonpartisan organization composed of chief executive officers of California’s major employers providing a distinctive and influential voice on high-priority public policy issues and is a compelling advocate for a strong economy and a healthy business climate in California.*