

California State Club Association Executive Summary

Strength in Unity: CSCA's Impact on Private Clubs



Purpose:

The California State Club Association (CSCA) protects private clubs in state and local legislative and regulatory matters. Our organization supports the constitutional rights of private clubs to manage their own membership and club operations.

The Value of CSCA Membership:

Representing over 120 private clubs and their 78000+ individual club members, CSCA is the only professional organization in California that actively engages the government solely on industry issues.

CSCA also supports club leadership board members, directors, and managers to enhance their operational expertise and hone their outreach to their own club members, employees, and community residents, all with the goal of assisting private clubs prosper now and in the future.

CSCA actively supports the constitutional rights of private clubs to select their own members and to manage their operations.

How CSCA Supports Private Clubs:

We retain one of Sacramento's top lobbying firms to monitor proposed legislation and regulations. This enables us to provide real-time reports to our member clubs on industry issues as they develop.

When these proposals may adversely affect our members' interests, CSCA's lobbyist coordinates with our Board of Directors to develop specific strategies, coordinated actions, and industry partnerships to address the threat. When legislative and regulatory opportunities may benefit our industry, we also provide support and outreach to help aid their passage.

CSCA is also a clearinghouse for educational resources on various specific club management issues such as privacy rights, labor and employment laws, water rights and usage, state and local taxes, continuing education for club leadership, and other important industry issues.

Like many of our member clubs, CSCA is led by a Board of Directors who do not receive remuneration from the Association. The board comprises general managers, attorneys, and industry experts across the state. They contribute their time, insights, experiences, and service to furthering the interests of private clubs. Our Executive Director, Lindsay Pizarro, provides professional management and guides the day-to-day operations of CSCA.

Acting together, CSCA has made a difference throughout its 50+ year history by combining our members' influence with the Association's expertise to create a powerful voice for California private clubs.

CSCA Focus on Key Industry Issues:

CSCA's advocacy and educational efforts have focused on a number of industry issues of primary concern to our members:

- Labor and employment law, including new and proposed regulations and legislation changes
- Water rights and water usage issues, with members receiving regular briefings on developing issues and helping to develop our policy positions through regular symposiums and discussions
- Taxation and insurance issues, including proposed sales taxes on club membership dues and golf activities, and threats of property increases through "split roll" initiatives, reassessments due to turnover of club memberships and removal of property tax relief for course property



- Civil Rights Act regulations, including Public Accommodation standards and enforcement

Member Benefits:

- Continuing professional education suitable for club directors and managers, including essential discussions on privacy issues surrounding club membership
- Quarterly CSCA newsletters and periodic special bulletins alerting member clubs to urgent emerging issues
- Annual meeting and legislative update, a crucial virtual gathering of our group of clubs with common interests

Legacy and Unity:

With a history of over 50 years, CSCA has remained steadfast in its commitment to serving member clubs. We believe in unity and collaboration, recognizing that we are stronger together.

A Legacy of Leadership on Major Industry Issues:

Club Rights to Membership Autonomy

For almost a half century, CSCA has played a pivotal role in defining and defending the rights of private clubs.

Significant contributions include:

- 1988: CSCA Director Bill Edlund's amicus brief in *New York State Club Association v. City of New York* established constitutional protection for private clubs
- 1991: As counsel for the Pacific-Union Club, Edlund secured a ruling in *Pacific-Union Club v. Franchise Tax Board* affirming that the First Amendment protects membership lists of private clubs
- 2000: Edlund's brief in *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale* contributed to a ruling that the Boy Scouts are not a "public accommodation", strengthening the position of private clubs to maintain and manage their memberships

Preserving Club Tax Benefits; Protecting Clubs from Tax Increases

CSCA has a long history of defending clubs against legislative initiatives to increase taxes specific to club activities

- 1985: Secured a court ruling that Proposition 13 protects private golf clubs from excessive assessments
- 2009-2011: Obtained a ruling from state tax agency that ended county assessor attempts to reassess club property for property tax purposes based on turnover of club memberships
- 2008-2013: Helped defeat the "golf tax" and "country club tax" (sales tax on services) proposals
- 2020: Supported the coalition that defeated Proposition 15, which threatened Proposition 13's protections by reassessing nonresidential property to market value

Coping with Water Restrictions

Water use has been a significant issue for private clubs, with CSCA actively involved in addressing legislative and regulatory challenges:

- 2006: Responded to amendments treating golf course use of potable water as waste
- 2008: Supported amendments allowing clubs autonomy over watering methods during droughts
- 2014: Endorsed a Water Bond that allocated funds for connecting to recycled water sources



Understanding the Different Roles of Club Associations:

1. California State Club Association (CSCA):

- leverages insights from other states to anticipate potential impacts on California clubs
- protects the privacy and interests of member clubs by taking specific actions
- retains a lobbyist in Sacramento monitoring all regulations and legislation that may affect private clubs

2. National Club Association (NCA):

- monitors policies and regulations that threaten or benefit clubs on a federal level
- keeps members informed about trends and developments in the club industry

3. The Golden State Chapter of CMAA (TGSC):

- provides a robust platform for education, career advancement, and networking within the club industry
- Supports managers in leading and managing club operations effectively

Testimonials:

"The Los Angeles Country Club is one of the founding member clubs of the CSCA. We stay involved with the organization so our Club's leadership can have access to vital information related to legislative priorities in Sacramento that may have an impact on our Club. CSCA is the only organization focused solely on California private club issues - this kind of advocacy is imperative for a Club like ours to celebrate another 125 years!"

Michael Beam
General Manager/COO
Los Angeles Country Club

"CSCA serves the Pacific-Union Club and all truly private clubs by monitoring political and legal threats, advocating for our interests and keeping us informed. We have supported CSCA for 54 years and highly value its efforts."

Tom Gaston
General Manager
The Pacific Union Club

Charter Clubs of the California State Club Association Members:

Club	City	Club	City
Bohemian Club	San Francisco	Los Angeles Country Club	Los Angeles
The California Club	Los Angeles	San Diego Yacht Club	San Diego
El Niguel Country Club	Laguna Niguel	The Pacific-Union Club	San Francisco