

Member Profile

Keeping Current on Legislative Issues Encourages This Member

ASK MANUEL COSME what his biggest concerns are as a small business owner, and the answer comes quickly: “Health insurance is no longer affordable, payroll taxes are a financial burden to small businesses and increased employer mandates are discouraging businesses to start or expand.”

Cosme is one of the owners of Professional Small Business Services Inc., which was founded in 1990 under Alarcon, Cosme & Michaels, and provides bookkeeping and income tax services. In 1994, they introduced payroll services and changed the name to PayRoll Partners. The company recently changed its name to Professional Small Business

Services Inc., to reflect the different services they offer.

Cosme has been an NFIB member since 1990. He joined when an NFIB sales representative introduced him to the organization and got him involved in attending town hall meetings and other NFIB

events. Cosme says, “At the time, I was the treasurer for the Solano County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. I saw a connection between both organizations and saw the benefit in joining NFIB.”



Manuel Cosme is also a member of the Northern California Leadership Council and encourages other small business owners to get involved with NFIB.

One of the things Cosme appreciates about his membership is that NFIB keeps him informed about what is happening with current legislative issues. In turn, he shares that information with his clients, which enables him to go above and beyond the standard ser-

vices that his business provides. He has introduced many small businesses to NFIB and is often called upon to speak with the media on behalf of NFIB about issues that affect small business.

“Manuel is one of those members who makes himself available to us whenever we need him,” says John Kabateck, NFIB/California executive director. “He is engaged in the issues that affect small businesses in California and has been a great member spokesperson for us.”

As a small business owner, Cosme is proud of “knowing that I can make a great impact on the community with the services I provide, knowing that I am in control of my fate—whether I’m successful or not.”

We are proud to have members like Cosme working alongside us to ensure that small business has a loud, resounding voice in California.

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Study Shows Property Rights Reforms Don't Limit Economic Development

The debate over true eminent domain reform continues in California. A report released earlier this year, “Doomsday? No Way,” by the Institute for Justice (IJ), the organization that litigated the *Kelo vs. New London* case, is the second report to be released by IJ demonstrating that the use of eminent domain is a draconian and outdated tool employed by local government for the purposes of redevelopment.

Specifically, the report studied data from three states that have passed eminent domain reforms and concludes that, despite predictions of doomsday by eminent domain abusers, large-scale economic development can and does occur without eminent domain. The study undermines the case of redevelopment interests—such as the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties and the California Redevelopment Association—that private property protections somehow negatively affect economic development and our quality of life.

All of this adds up to great news for proponents of true eminent domain reform like that contained within Proposition 98, The California Property Owners and Farmland Protection Act. This measure, along with a competing measure—Proposition 99, the Homeowners Protection Act—will both appear on the June 2008 ballot. “California small business owners should not be fooled by Proposition 99 because it does not provide any protection for business property,” says John Kabateck, NFIB/California executive director. “The only measure on the ballot that prevents government from unfairly taking property from small business owners is Proposition 98, the measure that NFIB/California has endorsed.”

In addition to NFIB’s endorsement, Proposition 98 is endorsed by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Black Chamber of Commerce and a diverse coalition of taxpayer, faith-based and good-government organizations. Sponsored by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, the California Farm Bureau Federation and the California Alliance to Protect Private Property Rights, the measure prohibits private-to-private takings while allowing traditional uses of eminent domain for roads, schools and water projects.

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