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### A word from our CEO



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### Your City, Your Voice

The role of a community Chamber of Commerce is multi-faceted, encompassing activities that range from networking events to business/student collaborations such as Career Technical Education (CTE) to public policy advocacy on important local topics. When these topics come up, the Chamber works to collect input from businesses that informs our policy discussions. When done well, these discussions conclude with a clear policy statement that informs public officials and the community about the business community's position on these issues.

For more than 75 years, the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce has worked to give our businesses a voice on topics such as transportation, housing, infrastructure, and economic development. Over the last few years, water has become a local focal point as the drought forced us to recognize the limitations of our water storage resources. The depletion of our groundwater and discovery of PFAS contamination in our water wells has further amplified the need to identify solutions that ensure we have a safe and plentiful water supply.

A recent special City Council meeting included a discussion on water rate increases the city is planning to implement. Phase 1 will focus on residential rates, with the current plan to raise rates starting in November 2023, while phase 2 (commercial rates) is yet to come. The city's goal is to improve and stabilize the water enterprise fund and replenish the fund's reserves as they begin planning for future projects like tackling PFAS. That project will be an expensive effort that will require outside financing, so the city needs to ensure its water fund is fiscally solvent. It also means you will be paying more for water.

As a Pleasanton business, you have a voice in what happens here. On water, and on any other issue, the Chamber is your public policy advocate that is ready to ensure your voice is heard by public officials. We are here to listen to your concerns and help find answers to your questions.

To share your voice and thoughts with us, I welcome you to connect with us by:

- attending our [Pleasanton 2025 Forum meetings](#), which are open to all - next one is [Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 12:00 p.m.](#)
- attending a networking mixer - next one is [Thursday, Aug. 9 at 5:00 p.m.](#)
- sending me an email at [james@pleasanton.org](mailto:james@pleasanton.org)
- calling me directly at 925-846-5858 ext. 204
- stopping by our office downtown at 777 Peters Avenue in Pleasanton

We hope to hear from you soon!