



John Kabateck

California State Director

For 80 years, the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) has been educating and constantly reminding elected officials in state houses and in Congress that small businesses are not smaller versions of bigger businesses. They often have different difficulties in remaining solvent and policies that lump all business together often do more harm than good.

As NFIB's California state director, John Kabateck has been delivering that message for nearly 20 years in the State Capitol and all throughout the Golden State. Among his many successful efforts are:

- Protecting small businesses from higher taxes and more regulations
- Fighting split roll/Proposition 13 reform harmful for small business
- Reducing onerous regulations that strangle job creators
- Stopping "shakedown" lawsuits that typically target "mom and pops."

He has also been credited for leading national efforts for NFIB in member gain and media positioning. Mr. Kabateck also works with NFIB field sales representatives in the state.

After graduating from the University of Southern California with a degree in English, Mr. Kabateck went to work for Gov. Pete Wilson as his appointments secretary responsible for finding the best qualified people for more than eight state agencies. His reputation for spotting talent caught the attention of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger who selected him to serve as his director of external affairs. He also served as chief of staff to a legislative leader in the State Capitol.

In addition to his service to two governors, Mr. Kabateck later became vice president and senior legislative director for the California Restaurant Association. Soon after, he was recruited by America's voice of small business, the National Federation of Independent Business, as its California state director.

Today, his Kabateck Strategies clients include not only NFIB, which brought him back to lead its efforts, but also a half dozen other groups dealing with everything from technology and public safety to veterans and health care.

A native Californian who grew up in Glendale, Mr. Kabateck attributes part of his success in working with people to having grown up in a Hollywood family. His mother was musical director for the Ernie Kovacs Show and his father produced the Criswell Predicts TV Show. He and his family reside in Sacramento, where Mr. Kabateck volunteers with St. John's Program for Real Change and Shriners Hospital for Children.