



EMILY COHEN

Emily Cohen brings over 15 years of bold, strategic leadership to United Contractors (UCON), where she has served as Executive Vice President and previously as Director of Government Relations. A driving force behind UCON's evolution into one of California's most influential construction associations, Emily has led major campaigns that have reshaped the business and political landscape for union-signatory contractors across the state.

She has played a central role in expanding UCON's membership, growing its Political Action Committee tenfold, and significantly increasing its legislative influence across California. Emily was a key architect of the industry's largest infrastructure campaign to date—passing the historic SB1 Road Repair & Accountability Act, which now generates over \$5 billion annually—and led the fight to defeat Prop 6 in 2019 through unprecedented fundraising and contractor mobilization efforts.

Emily has driven landmark legislative wins for California's union-signatory construction industry, including change-order reform, prompt payment laws, PAGA protections, retention caps, and critical safety improvements. Known for her ability to align competing interests around common goals, she has fundamentally changed how labor, management, and stakeholders work together—building first-of-their-kind partnerships that have delivered powerful results for the industry and the state.

A former graduate of the prestigious Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program, Emily previously worked as a Legislative Aide for the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee before joining United Contractors. She holds a degree in Political Science and International Relations from CSU Chico and completed executive leadership training at The Wharton School.

Beyond her work at UCON, Emily serves as a Board Member on the California High-Speed Rail Authority, the California Alliance for Jobs, the GLIDE Foundation, and advisory boards for Rebuild SoCal and SPUR (San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association).

A respected next-generation leader, Emily is widely known for her deep industry relationships, bold vision, and relentless commitment to California's union contractors, their teams, and the communities they serve.

Born and raised in Petaluma, Emily lives in San Francisco with her husband Spencer, their daughter Ellie, and their rescue dog Rowdy. They are excited to welcome their second child in September.

Emily can be reached at ECohen@UnitedContractors.org. Connect with [Emily on LinkedIn](#).