



WASHINGTON, DC UPDATE: MARCH 31, 2023

1. BIG WIN! KENTUCKY TAX POLICY CHANGE BECOMES LAW

In great news for the industry, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear has signed [HB 360](#) into law.

- **The bottom line:** Conference and trade show organizers are no longer required to charge sales tax to their exhibitors and sponsors!
- **Why it matters:** This brings Kentucky's tax policy in line with that of other leading states for hosting business events, which will ensure its competitiveness as a destination going forward.

ECA's view: "This important policy change, alongside Kentucky's legendary hospitality, will ensure that the commonwealth is well positioned to benefit from attracting and hosting exhibitions, conferences, and trade shows for many years to come." said Tommy Goodwin.

- **Special thanks to ECA's partners** at the [Kentucky Travel Industry Association](#) and [Louisville Tourism](#) for leading the charge in Frankfort on this important issue!

Go deeper: [Exhibitions & Conferences Alliance Applauds Kentucky Space Rental Tax Revision](#).

- Read more from [Skift Meetings](#), [TSNN](#), [ASAE Inroads](#), [Exhibition World](#), and [Exhibit City News](#).

2. CALIFORNIA PROPOSES ZERO-EMISSION FORKLIFT TRANSITION DELAY

In another advocacy win for the industry, [updated draft regulatory language](#) from California delays the state's transition to battery-powered forklifts by 2 years.

- **Where it stands:** The phase-out of spark-engine ignited forklifts would now begin in 2028 rather than 2026. All emission-emitting forklifts would still be phased out of service by 2035.
- **What's next:** Rulemaking will begin next month, with final consideration slated for September.

In the coming months, ECA will continue to work on ensuring that the final California zero-emission forklift rule strikes the right balance between environmental aims and industry feasibility.

3. CONGRESS TURNS UP THE HEAT ON LONG VISA WAIT TIMES

Last week, Secretary of State Antony Blinken faced questions in the U.S. [Senate](#) and [House of Representatives](#) about the ongoing visitor visa appointment wait time crisis.

- **The big picture:** While average wait times significantly decreased in India this month, they continue to increase in Mexico and Brazil.

Country	March 1	March 31
Mexico	509 days	537 days (+28)
Brazil	421 days	447 days (+26)
India	632 days	305 days (-327)

In China, wait times remain reasonable in Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenyang, but have increased to more than 200 days in Guangzhou.

4. ECA LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY REGISTRATION IS LIVE!

- ECA Legislative Action Day [will return](#) to Capitol Hill in Washington, DC in-person on June 1
- Visit [ECALegislativeActionDay.com](#) today for more information and to register