



## 2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Chamber's purpose is to facilitate community leadership to create economic prosperity. Our State government legislative agenda helps fulfill this purpose by focusing on the following priorities:

### An environment where business can prosper

1. **Priority Issue: Support efforts to develop state-specific solutions to increasing access to healthcare for more citizens.**
2. Oppose the implementation of a state minimum wage for private businesses, leaving the federal government to set the minimum wage level.
3. Support the ability of municipalities to annex parcels within their urban growth boundary in order to grow and attract industry.
4. Support efforts to preserve Tennessee's reputation as a welcoming state for all by opposing discriminatory legislation that negatively impacts the economy and jobs.
5. Support the sanctity and certainty of Tennessee contract law.

### Talent development of the region's workforce

6. Oppose school voucher legislation that does not provide real accountability by requiring participating private schools to administer the same state mandated assessments required of public schools.
7. Support the expansion and funding of industry-recognized certification programs for high school students.
8. Support strategies to reach the state's college completion goal of 55 percent of Tennesseans with postsecondary credentials that meet the region's workforce needs.
9. Support in-state college tuition rates for Tennessee high school graduates who are legally present in the United States but may not be naturalized citizens.
10. Support justice reform measures aimed at increasing the employability of non-violent offenders following their release from incarceration.

### Quality of life that attracts and retains residents and workers

11. **Priority Issue: Preserve and expand the ability of local governments to dedicate local surcharges to mass transit projects if approved by the voters via referendum.**
12. Support the full implementation of the IMPROVE Act and oppose any efforts to repeal it.
13. Support the creation of a state Public-Private Partnership (P3) Office to assist the state, local governments, and private organizations with the development and utilization of public-private partnerships for mass transit.
14. Support the ability of cities and counties to develop multi-modal solutions to traffic and congestion through the revenues raised through gas taxes.
15. Support incentive-based programs and policies that promote housing affordability in the region.