



2019 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:

<p>An environment where business can prosper</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Priority Issue: Support efforts to develop state-specific solutions to increasing access to healthcare for more citizens. 2. Support the ability of local governments to offer economic development incentives and/or grants for jobs as part of their strategies to retain and attract companies. 3. Support efforts to preserve Tennessee’s reputation as a welcoming state for all by opposing discriminatory legislation that negatively impacts the economy and jobs.
<p>Talent development of the region’s workforce</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Oppose school choice legislation that does not provide real accountability by requiring participating schools to administer the same state mandated assessments required of traditional public schools. 5. Support the expansion and funding of early postsecondary opportunities such as industry certifications, dual enrollment, and apprenticeships. 6. Support strategies to reach the state’s college completion goal of 55 percent of Tennesseans with postsecondary credentials such as Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect. 7. Support in-state college tuition rates for undocumented residents who were brought into this country at an early age and who graduate from a Tennessee high school. 8. Support justice reform measures aimed at increasing the employability of non-violent offenders following their release from incarceration. 9. Support reforms to the bail system to ensure that non-violent individuals are not incarcerated long term simply for an inability to post bail.
<p>Quality of life that attracts and retains residents and workers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. 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. 11. Support regional transit solutions by authorizing regional governance and funding mechanisms. 12. 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 mobility. 13. Support near-term solutions to address the challenges of mobility and congestion. 14. Support incentive-based programs and policies that promote housing affordability in the region.