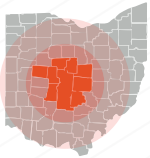




PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA



A VOICE FOR THE REGION'S BUSINESSES



The **Columbus Chamber of Commerce** aims to be a catalyst for all businesses to grow and flourish by serving as the collective voice and primary business advocate for the **11-county** Columbus Region.



The Chamber has nearly **1,400** members representing approximately **500,000** employees. Our members are second stage, growth-minded companies across **92** different industry segments.



We focus on many issues relevant to **small and mid-size businesses**, job creators with fewer than 100 employees that represent **78% of our membership** and more than 96% of all employers in the region.

This Public Policy Agenda has been crafted with substantive input and feedback from the region's businesses. It has also been approved by the Chamber's Government Affairs Steering Committee and adopted by the Board of Directors. The Agenda guides our advocacy efforts with local, state, and federal policymakers.

2017-2020:

OUR VISION FOR CENTRAL OHIO

Government relations, long a focus of the Columbus Chamber, has been elevated as part of our **2020 Strategic Plan** and is integral to our mission.

The Chamber works to build meaningful partnerships between elected officials and the region's businesses. In addition, four strategic goals have been identified to define our path to 2020:



MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Through the ambitious expansion of our member community, the Chamber will continue to leverage its scale and diversity to further elevate the collective voice of business in the Columbus Region.



COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENT

We are determined to cultivate an increasingly engaged, collaborative membership - companies that are dedicated to reinvesting in the business community and helping the entire region thrive.



SATISFACTION

We continually enhance our value to members by strengthening relationships with public officials and advocating for a pro-business regulatory environment.



JOB GROWTH

Our efforts will ultimately foster job growth in the region. The Chamber's services and resources are designed to fuel economic activity across all industries and sectors.



EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

With more than 62 institutions of higher education, the Columbus Region boasts a remarkable pool of talent. The Columbus Chamber holds a strong commitment to policies that will allow us to attract and retain the best and brightest, and supports a targeted strategy that aligns business and education to create a pipeline of skilled workers to satisfy our workforce needs.

- Advance policies that will prepare all students to be ready to succeed upon graduation from high school, including early exposure to career opportunities, apprenticeship and workforce pipeline programs, non-traditional educational programs and increased post-secondary degree attainment.
- Shift our focus to support policies that will prepare workers and incentivize employers to capitalize on high-paying skilled opportunities in advanced technological industries and jobs of the future.
- Encourage economic independence and stability so that individuals are empowered and equipped to fulfill the workforce needs of the region's employers.
- Strengthen the region's competitive advantage by promoting policies to attract and retain a diverse and inclusive workforce.
- Support programs, partnerships and policies that train, educate, and prepare qualified former members of the criminal justice and rehabilitation community to become productive members of the region's workforce, while protecting employers' flexibility to conduct background checks.



TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Columbus Chamber advocates for a fully integrated, innovative, and advanced multi-modal transportation network, including air, rail, trucking, and other freight options to ensure the growth and sustainability of the region's logistics, manufacturing, and related industries. We support a sophisticated public transit system that will increase connectivity throughout the region, in addition to an efficient and effective infrastructure system that supports business, advances economic development, and maintains the region's high standard of livability.

- Encourage innovative smart technology that will leverage opportunities for businesses within Smart Columbus to fully connect the region's transportation and infrastructure network.
- Advance the responsible and efficient deployment of 5G technology.
- Advocate for increased and improved transportation options that connect to education and jobs, healthcare, services, and the movement of goods.
- Leverage funding opportunities to feed the region's accelerated economic growth.
- Promote advancements in aviation such as NextGen.
- Examine a long-term strategy for generating revenue to maintain the region's highway system into the future that recognizes and supports Ohio's advancements in innovative and smart technology and mobility, and the emerging industries and power sources that fuel them.
- Support the continued development of energy resources and services to benefit energy consumers, business users, and economic development.



COMPETITIVE BUSINESS CLIMATE

The Columbus Chamber takes pride in our relationships with elected officials, which should be enhanced by collaboration between private and public sectors working together to strengthen our region. We support actions that ensure a transparent and predictable regulatory climate that will allow businesses to operate efficiently and succeed in a competitive business environment.

- Advocate for fiscal stability and a tax structure that encourages business growth and job creation, and allows businesses to thrive.
- Develop solutions to address the unique challenges faced by micro and small businesses, such as access to capital.
- Promote and increase opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses.
- Strengthen the region's entrepreneurial community and develop means to elevate their success.
- Support economic development tools and programs with a proven track record for success, including Third Frontier and JobsOhio.
- Oppose unnecessary regulations or legal requirements which increase cost, reduce consumer choice, hamper innovation and limit technological advancement and availability.
- Protect employers' ability to regulate their workplace and maintain sound human resource policies.
- Manage the costs and compliance issues associated with workers' and unemployment compensation.
- Support fair and equitable redistricting reform that creates competitive electoral districts.

INNOVATION IN CENTRAL OHIO

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE



2,366

Science and Technology
Establishments

36,300

Establishment Employees

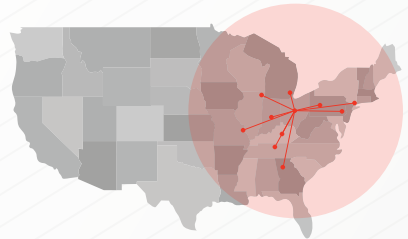
62,416

Workers in Science and
Technology Sector Overall*

A HUB FOR LOGISTICS, RETAIL AND MORE

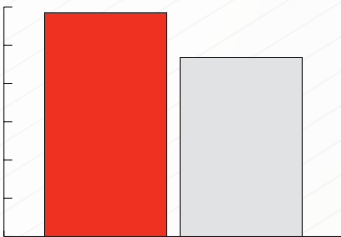
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Columbus Region is within a 10-hour truck drive of **45%** of the US population and **46%** of the US manufacturing capacity.*



REGULATION AND SMALL BUSINESS

COMPETITIVE BUSINESS CLIMATE



On average, small businesses pay **\$11,700** per year, per employee, in regulatory costs - nearly **20%** higher than the amount spent by the average-sized business.

**columbusregion.com, 2017*

COLUMBUS
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

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