



STATE, LOCAL, AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

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2025 - 2026 Columbus Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Agenda

In keeping with the Columbus Chamber of Commerce's mission of driving prosperity and growth in the Columbus Region Business Community through connections, resources and advocacy, we will continue to drive the business culture, help members navigate complex business problems, opportunities, and solutions, and champion policies that help the business community grow and thrive. We will achieve this through a thoughtful and engaged public policy agenda for 2025 and 2026. The key mechanisms for the 2025-2026 public policy for the agenda are as follows:

Workforce & Education

Attracting and retaining a quality workforce requires a strong and well-supported education and workforce system. As the Central Ohio region's workforce and workforce needs continue to evolve, it is increasingly important to improve opportunities to move students from the classroom to the workforce. The chamber seeks to support research, funding and idea development along with understanding the evolution and the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) happening within the education system and the benefit to Ohio businesses. The Columbus Chamber of Commerce will ensure that our members are connected to a variety of talent pipelines, funding sources for hiring and training, and points of contact who can help create workforce solutions.

POLICY VALUES

Education (Pre-K & K-12, STEM Curriculum, apprenticeship - trades, funding)

Support funding policies that promote classroom science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) & curricula, STEM-focused professional development for all, and upscaling existing workforce and career tech and building trades.

Higher Education

Advance higher standards and support enhanced learning opportunities from pre-K through higher education to ensure that students have the critical technical and business background and skills needed for global competitiveness.

Immigration

Seek to support efforts and policies for businesses to responsibly grow their workforce in a time of increased uncertainty. With many industries - including manufacturing, logistics, healthcare, hospitality, and small business - facing persistent labor shortages, the need for clarity on hiring foreign-born talent has never been more critical.

State, Local & Federal Economic Development

Support economic development programs, policies, and activities aimed at improving the economic well-being and quality of life within a community and the business community. Support a more stable and robust economy by fostering growth, enhancing competitiveness, and ensuring a higher standard of living for residents, and opportunities for all. This includes supporting sustainable practices to ensure foundation for long-term stability and growth.

POLICY VALUES

Infrastructure (Mobility, Transportation, Public Safety and Technology Modernization)

Support policies that ensure adequate funding for infrastructure and advances in personal mobility and transportation by making new mobility options safe and accessible. Support financing, designing, and construction of local transportation infrastructure including the utilization of public-private partnerships.

Housing/Building/Zoning Updates and Improvements

Millions of new residents are expected to move to Columbus by 2050; supporting responsible zoning code updates, and addressing challenges such as housing, mobility, and affordability zoning updates are essential for the region's growth and modernization.

Access to Capital

Support policies and funding opportunities that prioritize increased access to capital and technical assistance for businesses and entrepreneurs

Business Climate

The Columbus Chamber continues to support encouraging innovation, fostering entrepreneurship, enhancing business growth, and ensuring a strong quality of life for our region's residents, visitors and businesses.

POLICY VALUES

Competitive Tax Environment

Support a competitive tax environment that maintains the state's economic and fiscal attractiveness and encourages business recruitment, retention, and expansion that includes Tax Analysis, New Markets, Tax Credits, Energy, and ensuring fairness to the business community. Monitoring and engaging in the Funding Review Advisory Committee with the City of Columbus.

Business Connections

Seek to support Chamber members with the resources they need to help their businesses thrive and make our community a better place.

Public Health and Medicaid

The Chamber and businesses understand the need to promote the health and well-being of their employees and the communities they serve. The chamber will continue to ensure small businesses, large corporations, and general enterprises are well-positioned to develop and maintain the public health areas affecting their employees' health, well-being, mindfulness and the community at large.

Funding Resources for Business

Support the improvement of access to business resources, funding, information, and facilities for businesses. Advancing technology by supporting incentives for businesses to collaborate as well as infrastructure and mechanisms to facilitate partnerships. New opportunities for funding and capital for businesses and entrepreneurs.



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