

Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Priorities 2023-2024

Introduction

The Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce continues to serve as the advocate for the business community. In a focused effort to fulfill our commitment we have made to our members, we have been able to establish the Chamber's reputation as the primary advocacy resource available to businesses and organizations in this community. Looking forward, the Chamber's staff and Board of Directors will work to ensure that the Delaware area and Central Ohio Region is top-of-mind awareness for future business investment.

Advocating for business-friendly initiatives is important to our legislative efforts. Our members' policy needs deserve top priority, and we will work towards meeting their diversified requirements.

The Chamber will continue to serve the business community and promote business-friendly government policy. Creating new relationships and fostering established ones are essential elements to the success of our chamber members. The Chamber prides itself on achieving these relationships and positive legislative results through education, advocacy and collaboration. Despite limited resources, the Delaware chamber effectively uses volunteers who dedicate their time and strengths to benefit Delaware area businesses and their needs.

The Chamber's Public Policy agenda issues as detailed below will serve as a benchmark for the legislative and regulatory priorities that it maintains and helps direct the Chamber's public policy efforts.

The Chamber reaffirms our commitment to members that we will always work on behalf of the Delaware area business community.

Legislative and Regulatory Agenda Issues

Business Climate

Taxes and Regulatory Reform

Advocate for a competitive, pro-growth tax climate that ensures quality of life, fairness, predictability and compliance while balancing multiple forms of taxation.

Business Environment

Advocate for regulatory processes and business fee structures that are clear, predictable, efficient and cost effective. Encourage government to avoid unnecessary permitting, and duplicative professional licensing requirements.

Workers' Compensation, Labor and Safety

Support a Workers' Compensation system that runs efficiently and effectively and keeps premium costs competitive with other states' systems. Advocate for employer protections from unfair and harmful workplace rules and mandates. Promote fair and understandable regulations and standards to improve and encourage workplace safety.

Economic Development

Economic Sustainability

Support tax policies and economic development programs that help Delaware County attract, retrain and expand businesses and industries that create high quality jobs and support economic diversification. Advocate for federal, state and regional partnerships that compliment Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce Public Policy priorities.

Infrastructure

Encourage necessary investments to ensure adequate capacity, development and maintenance of our transportation network, power grid, water supply, wastewater treatment and telecommunications infrastructure.

Energy

Support comprehensive reforms to Ohio's energy policy that both balances a diverse portfolio of energy sources and provides for reliable and affordable sources of energy.

Hospitality and Retail

Support consistent, sufficient investment in product development and tourism marketing to ensure the continued vitality of the County's hospitality and retail industries.

Workforce and Talent

Talent and Workforce Development

Advocate for the changes necessary in early childhood, K-12, career tech, and higher education to prepare all students for the careers of the future and to provide a skilled workforce pipeline to support the County's employers. Explore incentives targeted to support recruitment and retention of high-impact corporate, manufacturing and technology jobs. Support opportunities to introduce students to trade and apprenticeship programs. Advocate to expand education and job training, with support for reskilling and upskilling the workforce.

Education

Encourage efficient expenditures of taxpayer resources, including fair funding of local public school districts. Work with educational leaders from local public school districts, universities and community and technical colleges to support and advance programs that encourage promising career paths to support local workforce. Promote expansion of successful programs like Tech Cred and Ohio's College Credit Plus.

Access to Childcare and Early Learning

Support policies that expand access to quality and affordable childcare that allows more parents and caregivers to return to and stay in the workforce.

Housing

Support initiatives and market-driven solutions to ensure an adequate supply of housing options for the communities in Delaware County. Advocate for policies and zoning that promote a diversity of housing types and price points. Support policies to streamline and simplify the application and approval process for housing development.

Quality of Life

Healthcare

Promote community wellness by supporting policies that ensure access to quality medical care and mental health opportunities, mindful of healthcare costs for business. Support a state Medicaid plan that appropriately compensates health care providers and allows patients to receive care from providers they know and trust.

Land Use Planning

Support coordinated decisions among jurisdictions that promote the efficient use of land essential to economic prosperity. Advocate for land use decisions that balance responsibilities to protect historic, ecological and economic assets and property-owner rights.

Public Safety

Support policies and programs to ensure a strong public safety response system, creating a well-funded and efficient environment for emergency responders and law enforcement, promoting policies aimed at keeping local businesses safe and well-informed.