



The Greater Bloomington  
Chamber of Commerce

# 2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA





# LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY

## REGULATION

**Advocate for government regulations that are efficient, simple to understand and implement, and provide certainty and predictability for local businesses**

- Advocate for policies and projects that foster continued growth and creation of new business and social enterprises
- Support efforts to modernize and streamline permitting, reporting, and application of business regulations
- Support zoning and policies that increase residentially zoned land and advance the development of housing
- Encourage the creation of a taskforce to address the consolidation of key government advisory boards and panels

## PUBLIC SAFETY

**Support initiatives and projects that enhance capacity or enforcement and improve the perception of safety across our community**

- Advocate for a holistic approach to our local criminal justice system, including support for increased resources for mental health and addiction services as both an alternative to incarceration and as a resource for those currently incarcerated
- Advocate for hospitalization and jail diversion strategies involving the STRIDE Center to support residents experiencing substance use disorder and mental health crises
- Support funding and policies to ensure retention and recruitment of well-trained, responsive law enforcement to bring Bloomington Police Department to targeted staffing levels outlined in City budget
- Support the creation of a jail facility that will include needed wrap-around services to address substance use and mental health disorders
- Advocate for increased presence and visibility of police officers and patrols throughout Bloomington and implementation of strategic community policing initiatives within the downtown boundaries



# LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY

## WORKFORCE TALENT & RECRUITMENT

**Advocate for policies that are designed to sustain workforce planning and development**

- Promote and improve the overall well-being of workplace environments by addressing the changing and growing needs of employees
- Advocate for the construction of housing at all price points to recruit and retain a growing workforce
- Reinforce businesses and entrepreneurs that build a strong, visible, and engaged Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community
- Advocate for policies and public investments designed to attract and retain young workers (24- 40 years of age)
- Encourage partnerships between local government, education institutions, and businesses to create apprenticeship and workforce training programs specific to the needs of the community



# LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY

The Chamber also supports high-impact initiatives and projects that increase government transparency/accessibility and quality of life in our community

## CITY-COUNTY RELATIONS

Advocate for increased cooperation among our local elected officials to improve the quality of life and economic vitality of our region

## CONSTITUENT-CENTRIC CITY SERVICES

Advocate for more responsive, helpful, and efficient city services

## DOWNTOWN AESTHETICS & BEAUTIFICATION

Support initiatives that foster a thriving, clean, and bustling downtown

- Advocate for a Downtown stewardship team dedicated to the maintenance of planters, sidewalk sweeping, and general right-of-way upkeep in downtown
- Support policies that incentivize the reuse of vacant buildings in Bloomington's downtown core





# STATE & FEDERAL

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION

### Develop and strengthen a framework that supports the needs of business

- Advocate for policies and initiatives that address talent retention and recruitment, including support for programs that train people with disabilities and people who were formerly incarcerated
- Promote initiatives to recruit, retain, and develop innovative leadership opportunities with an intersectional lens to promote advancement for the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community
- Promote and protect Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane as a primary regional job provider, including continued support for Certified Tech Park funding and continued investments in the Trades District
- Advocate for policies and legislation that address our community's affordable/workforce housing shortage including recommendations taken by the Indiana Legislative Services Agency Housing Commission
- Advocate for local, state, and federal investments to upgrade facilities and improve infrastructure to the Monroe County Airport
- Advocate for collaborative local intergovernmental solutions that provide wider access to critical infrastructure including water and sewer connectivity
- Advocate for long-term strategies and vision for the I69 corridor that will leverage the proximity and assets of Crane, Indiana University, and Indianapolis to bring economic benefits to Monroe County

## HEALTHCARE

### Promote policies to further fund mental health and addiction services and opportunities for local businesses to manage their healthcare costs

- Advocate for an increase to the state tax on cigarettes and for taxing electronic cigarettes and vaporizers
- Explore and advocate for ways to reduce healthcare costs for businesses while ensuring employees have access to affordable and high-quality healthcare options



# STATE & FEDERAL

## INFLATION

**Advocate for policies that continue to right-size the balance between economic growth and cost of goods**

- Support and promote policies designed to ease continual supply chain issues
- Advocate for policies that lessen cost burdens on small and local businesses

## EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Create educational opportunities to ensure a diversified and highly-skilled workforce**

### **Preschool and K-12 Education**

- Expand state-supported Pre-K and childcare programs and eliminate current barriers that prevent families from accessing affordable, high-quality childcare
- Promote statewide strategies to address the statewide teacher shortage, including programs to encourage students to pursue a career in education and a commitment to equitable teacher pay
- Encourage development of entrepreneurship programs & vocational training for technical fields to develop a qualified workforce
- Urge accountability for charter schools in line with public K-12 local education agencies

### **Higher Education**

- Support increased investment in higher education and its associated initiatives, particularly at Indiana University's and Ivy Tech's Bloomington campuses
- Support institutional innovation and flexibility to best meet the needs of students and their future employers
- Encourage federal lawmakers to help close the innovation deficit by decreasing the gap between needed and actual federal investment in research, through advocacy with the Business for Federal Research Funding Coalition
- Promote mechanisms that facilitate the transfer of academic research to the business sector, including support for spin-offs and startups using university intellectual property
- Encourage the expansion of learning opportunities for both degree-seeking and non-traditional degree programs through increased financial assistance and elimination of barriers for such programs



# CHAMBER PROGRAMMING

We asked members for feedback as to how the Chamber's advocacy arm can be of best use. Based on the aggregated results, we have identified some programmatic efforts to help keep our members informed

- Nonpartisan policy memos and white papers intended to help inform members of the impacts of proposed legislation
- Providing space (and convening meetings) for dialogue between stakeholders on issues that affect our members and our community
- Technical workshops to give our members a greater understanding of the regulations and policies that may impact their (ex. zoning/permitting & tax code)

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## YOUR CHAMBER ADVOCACY DIVISION



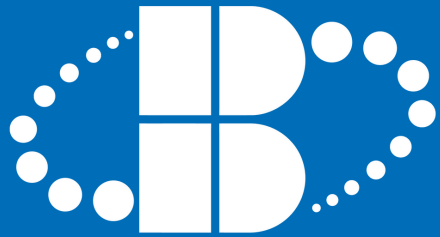
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*Better business. Better community.*

