



For over 95 years, The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce has helped businesses thrive. Our Agenda is driven by our mission to support, inspire and advocate for business to better our community.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LABOR & EMPLOYMENT



STATE & COUNTY

- Support policies to attract new and retain existing businesses and non-profits, such as speed-to-market initiatives and zoning changes.
- Support efforts to sustain and attract life sciences, hospitality and quantum computing employers.
- Support a responsible budget that balances the needs of residents with tax policies that don't place undue burdens on residents and business.
- Support wholesale & retail alcoholic beverage system and liquor licensing process privatization. Oppose band-aid efforts to enhance the ABS or increase unfair competition with local businesses.
- Oppose policies putting County business at a competitive disadvantage with non-County business.
- Advocate for sensible and fair regulations related to Building Energy Standards.
- Advocate for sustainable funding for arts and cultural organizations.

STATE

- Put County employers on a level playing field with other State employers by adding pre-emption to a variety of enacted and future laws.
- Support implementation of laws that incentivize expansion of affordable, quality child care.

COUNTY

- Actively oppose tipped wage legislation.
- Actively oppose commission on wages and working conditions legislation.
- Ensure that laws and regulations are not more burdensome on County employers than comparable Maryland statewide requirements.
- Support the Pike District Partnership with sustained, continued funding.
- Support reinvestment of fees and taxes generated in the Bethesda Urban and Parking Lot Districts.

LAND USE & HOUSING



STATE & COUNTY

- Support policies to energize our economic base and attract young workers.
- Advocate for policies to add and preserve existing housing affordable to a range of incomes, including expedited approvals, fee reductions, property tax credits/abatement, use of public land for mixed income housing and greater commitment of County funds for those who need rental assistance.
- Monitor the effects of rent control and support affordable housing initiatives that balance the needs of property owners and residents.

TRANSPORTATION



STATE & COUNTY

- Support re-design of the American Legion Bridge and the widening of I-495 up to I-270 and I-70.
- Seek funds to step up construction of Maryland's portion of the Josiah Henson Pkwy from Rockville Pike to Viers Mill Rd.
- Promote initiatives such as bikeshare and transit ridership incentives.
- Promote improvements to Bethesda Metro stations, including a new northern entrance at the North Bethesda station.

STATE

- Monitor Montrose Rd. "road diet" plans.
- Make SHA more responsive to County needs such as funding for the White Flint Sector Plan vision.
- Ensure integrity of the Transportation Trust Fund and ensure fair share funding for the County.

COUNTY

- Enhance and expand Ride-On routes to transit nodes, connections and employment centers.
- Support efforts to construct and activate the entire FLASH network.

ENVIRONMENT



STATE & COUNTY

- Support actions to effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions and preserve natural resources, while avoiding overburdening residents and businesses with increased costs and policies that have minimal to no real impact.
- Oppose legislation limiting natural gas use.

PUBLIC SAFETY



COUNTY

- Restore and maintain budgetary resources for our police force and first responders, and preserve the significant contribution of volunteers in providing first-class fire, rescue and EMS services.
- Work with District Commanders and partners to enhance crime prevention.
- Support new technology as a tool to provide shorter response times and first-class care.

EDUCATION



STATE & COUNTY

- Support an increased level of detailed fiscal accountability and educational outcomes in MCPS reports to the Executive and Legislative branches.
- Promote fair share construction funding for County schools.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION



STATE & COUNTY

- Support policies that promote and respect diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility and protect people from hostility or discrimination.
- Oppose inflammatory, non-fact-based rhetoric and legislation that attack specific groups.