



Since 1926, 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.

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LABOR & EMPLOYMENT



### STATE & COUNTY

- Support efforts responding to the adverse impacts of federal government fiscal policies and any government shutdown while ensuring the private sector, already negatively impacted, doesn't unduly bear the burden.
- Support policies to expand the tax base by attracting new and retaining existing businesses and non-profits - with focus on sustaining and attracting life sciences, hospitality and quantum computing employers - such as speed-to-market initiatives and zoning changes.
- 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 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 childcare.
- Actively oppose tipped wage legislation.

### COUNTY

- Ensure that laws and regulations are not more burdensome on County employers than comparable Maryland statewide requirements, and do not place inconsistent or ambiguous compliance obligations on County employers.
- Support the Pike District Partnership with sustained, continued funding.
- Support reinvestment of fees and taxes generated in the Bethesda Urban and Parking Lot Districts.
- Monitor Executive Branch economic development priorities and activities and support reinvestment in the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation.

## LAND USE & HOUSING



### STATE & COUNTY

- Support legislative actions to lessen the proven negative impacts of the rent control law and oppose efforts to impose more harmful restrictions.
- 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.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **STATE & COUNTY**

- Support efforts enabling local jurisdictions to establish reasonable, innovative transportation funding mechanisms. Oppose efforts to establish a differential property tax rate for commercial and residential properties as a transportation funding mechanism.
- Support re-design of the American Legion Bridge and the widening of I-495 up to I-270 and I-70.
- Promote initiatives such as bikeshare and transit ridership incentives, while monitoring safety and traffic impacts.
- Promote improvements to Bethesda Metro stations, including a new northern entrance at the North Bethesda station.

### **STATE**

- 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 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.
- Support efforts and programs that increase energy diversity without imposing bans on traditional energy sources such as natural gas.
- Encourage government officials to consider incentives – rather than mandates – when pursuing environmental initiatives (“carrot vs. stick”).

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **STATE & COUNTY**

- Restore and maintain budgetary resources for the health and safety of 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.
- Support updates to juvenile justice laws to act as further deterrents to juvenile crime and support counseling/treatment.

## **EDUCATION**

### **STATE & COUNTY**

- Support an increased level of detailed fiscal accountability and educational outcomes in MCPS.
- Promote fair share construction funding for County schools.
- Encourage MCPS to create more effective hate crime prevention and response measures.

## **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.