The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce is the advocate for the regional business community. In a concerted effort to fulfill our mission and the commitment we have made to the area business community, the Chamber is an advocacy resource and the public policy voice of the businesses and organizations in the greater Dayton region. As we look toward the future, the Chamber’s public policy staff will work to ensure that the Dayton region is one in which businesses can grow, prosper and thrive.

**NATIONAL DEFENSE & FEDERAL PRIORITIES**

The Dayton Chamber will protect the federal assets, workforce and investments in the region. Partnering closely with Wright Patterson Air Force Base, the Dayton VA Medical Center and other federal installations, the chamber will work to eliminate future sequestration budgets, support the acquisition of new WPAFB missions and the expansion of key WPAFB missions, including AFRL, NASIC, AFMC, AFIT and AFLCMC. Federal advocacy efforts will also include supporting the expansion of free and fair international trade agreements that impact the growth and development of Ohio’s businesses, and support for federal immigration reform measures.

**KEY LEGISLATION:**
- Eliminate 1-year in-state tuition residency rule for service members and dependents and DOD civilians.
- Professional license reciprocity for military spouses transferred to Ohio.
- Expansion of H1-B Visa and EB-5 investor immigration programs.

**TALENT ATTRACTION**

A strong and diverse workforce drives strong and diverse business investment. The Dayton Chamber will be a leader in identifying legislative opportunities to support employer workforce development initiatives, champion workplace diversity, equity and inclusion as key components of talent attraction and retention, and we will work to ensure our businesses have a broad and deep pool from which to draw their workforce talent. We will support the expansion of workforce development programs designed to attract students and skilled workers in-demand jobs, with a particular focus on increasing the number of internships and apprenticeships available in our region. We will work with all of our education partners to better connect our career and college pathways.

**KEY LEGISLATION:**

**“THE OHIO FAIRNESS ACT”**: This bill would change Ohio’s anti-discrimination laws to include sexual orientation, gender identity and gender protection as protected classes; positioning Ohio has an attractive location for economic investment.
REGULATORY REFORM

The chamber will continue to support the expansion of resources for the Women Business Enterprise and Minority Business Enterprise certification programs, and reduce regulatory barriers to success and operations for employers and entrepreneurs from all backgrounds. The chamber will continue to advocate for resources and support for occupational safety and healthy workplaces.

KEY LEGISLATION:

Reciprocal agreements with neighboring states for Ohio’s MBE and EDGE certification programs, allowing Ohio businesses to compete for contracts and projects in other states without increased regulatory burdens.

LOGISTICS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Advocacy efforts will ensure that the Dayton region’s logistics and infrastructure investments help to grow this critical part of our economy. The Chamber will ensure that the Dayton region maximizes highway and roadway investments, supports investments in workforce transit, increases direct access to federal installations and supports SmartCities technology infrastructure investments. New funding opportunities that do not disproportionately impact the business community will be identified for highway and transit advancement. A business friendly & efficient utility infrastructure system, including gas, electric, water, sewer, telecommunications, cable and fiber will be supported to enhance business operations and spur economic growth.

KEY LEGISLATION:

Logistics sales tax exemption which will eliminate state sales tax on the purchases of forklifts and conveyors will be pursued.

A highway funding solution which identifies an equitable revenue funding stream for Ohio’s highways and infrastructure will be advanced.

STATE BUDGET AND TAX REFORM

The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce will be a regional leader in advocating for business friendly state legislative priorities, state budget issues, healthcare issues and tax measures impacting the Dayton area business community. The Dayton Chamber will lead local efforts to ensure a Dayton business friendly state operating budget and state capital budget is passed. Healthcare initiatives will be supported which reduce the burden on the business community and incentivize business growth. Additionally, the Chamber will work to ensure a business friendly tax climate and tax policies are enacted that support future business investments. A new path forward for entrepreneur and tech businesses will be pursued and strategic investments in economic development for the Dayton International Airport will be supported.

KEY LEGISLATION:

Establish an airport economic development fund that can support strategic investments which grow private sector investments.

State operating budget: 2019
State transportation budget: 2019
State capital budget: 2020

BALLOT ISSUE PROTECTION

The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce will be a statewide and local leader championing and leading ballot issues impacting the Dayton area business community. The Dayton Chamber will continue to be recognized as an integral leader and “guardian” of ballot issues that directly impact the economic health of our business community. Additionally, the chamber will be proactive in identifying and advancing a statewide solution to lessen frivolous out-of-state ballot issues that negatively impact and burden Ohio businesses.

KEY LEGISLATION:

Ballot issue reform which will restructure the statewide ballot issue process to protect the state Constitution and deter out-of-state interests from putting future frivolous issues which are burdensome on the Ohio business community on the Ohio ballot.
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