



2021-2022

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY AGENDA





DAYTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

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.



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 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 & POLICIES WE SUPPORT:

The Chamber will lead and support statewide ballot issue reform which protects the state Constitution and reduces out-of-state interests from putting future frivolous issues on the Ohio ballot.



Equity

The Dayton Area Chamber will champion diversity, equity and inclusion and work to dismantle systematic racism across the community. We will work with our employer community to provide increased dialogue and awareness of racism as a public health crisis and further education for employers and employees to improve diverse and inclusive workplace practices. The chamber will provide continued advocacy and leadership in the growth of minority-owned businesses, enhanced engagement with minority business leaders, and strengthened partnerships with the African American community to work against racism.

Federal advocacy efforts will also include working as a founding member of the Ohio Business for Immigration Solutions Coalition to advance pro-business immigration reforms that respond to the workforce and economic development needs of our employer community.



Additionally, the chamber will use our advocacy leadership to reduce barriers for women business leaders and expand opportunities for women owned businesses and entrepreneurs to grow and thrive.

The chamber will work to ensure that our employers are able to attract and retain the diverse and qualified workforce they need and that Ohio is attractive to companies seeking to locate here.

KEY LEGISLATION & POLICIES WE SUPPORT:

- **“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.
- **Establishing reciprocal agreements for Ohio’s MBE & EDGE certification programs, allowing Ohio’s businesses to compete for contracts and projects in other states.**
- **Flexible and funded childcare support at the local, state and federal levels that allow more women to return and stay in the workforce in the post-Covid recovery.**
- **Federal immigration policy that improves our immigration system, keeps our communities safe, protects our borders and facilitates trade. Pro-business immigration reform that provides a**

sensible path forward for immigrants wishing to come to our country and a permanent resolution for those that are already here and lack legal status.



Logistics & Transportation

The Dayton Area Chamber will ensure the Dayton region maximizes highway and roadway investments, supports investments in workforce transit and SmartCities technology infrastructure investments. New funding opportunities that do not disproportionately impact the business community will be identified for highway and transit advancement. The chamber will continue to lead efforts to support expanded air service in Dayton through the Corporate Air Advisory Group and will champion Dayton International Airport for business and leisure travel across the tri-state area.

KEY LEGISLATION & POLICIES WE SUPPORT:

- **Expanded federal supports for our airline industry during the post-Covid recovery period & state support to keep Ohio’s airports strong. Eliminate state sales tax on the purchases of forklifts and conveyors.**
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- **An equitable revenue funding stream for highways and infrastructure will be identified and enacted.**
- **State transportation budget-2021.**
- **I-675 Grange Hall Road Interchange.**
 - **Ingress at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) can get congested, especially at peak hours. As WPAFB continues to grow on-site base employment, currently at 35,000 employees, ensuring efficient access to the base is essential to economic and workforce growth. Construction of a full functioning interchange at I-675 and Grange Hall Rd. would provide alternative access to WPAFB and elevate congestion at adjacent interchanges like Colonel Glenn Highway.**
- **I-675 Wilmington Pike Interchange.**



National Defense & Military/Veteran Quality of Life

The Dayton Area Chamber will advocate for the continued growth and expansion of federal assets in the region and policies that make Dayton more attractive for our service members, veterans and their families. Partnering closely with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB),

the Dayton VA Medical Center and other federal installations, the chamber will work to eliminate future sequestration budgets, prioritize the acquisition of new missions and champion the expansion of key WPAFB missions.

We are committed to ensuring that the Dayton region and the State of Ohio are friendly to military and veteran families, and advancing quality of life initiatives that are critical in determining where new military missions will be located and enhancing the economic competitiveness of our state.

KEY LEGISLATION & POLICIES WE SUPPORT:

- **Increased flexibility for military families to determine K-12 school options, including scholarship opportunities and district enrollment.**
- **The establishment of the National Space Intelligence Center at WPAFB, and other mission expansion opportunities.**
- **Providing reciprocity in Ohio for military occupational licenses and certifications.**
- **The establishment of The Ohio Hidden Heroes Scholarship, which would provide scholarships for our Ohio Caregivers who take care of Veterans who have a 100% disability rating. This scholarship would enable the caregivers to continue to improve their skills without going into debt, while taking care of their loved ones.**



Regulatory & Tax Reform & State Budget Advocacy

The Dayton Area Chamber will be a leader in advocating for business friendly tax policies at the local, state and federal levels that ensure our economy is able to grow and thrive and that Ohio is able to attract and retain a vibrant business community.

The chamber will continue to promote a cost effective and efficient infrastructure utility system, including gas, electric, water, sewer and telecommunications that allows our community to operate efficiently and spurs economic development for our entire region. The chamber will also advocate for resources to support safe and healthy working environments and help employers navigate the Covid-19 recovery.

The chamber will lead local efforts to ensure Ohio's state operating budget is friendly to the business community and reflects key priorities of Dayton's business community.

KEY LEGISLATION & POLICIES WE SUPPORT:

- **Municipal income tax reform that reduces compliance burden for businesses and ensures our urban cities are able to maintain their levels of service and provide continued support for downtown revitalization that benefits the whole region.**
- **Re-instatement of the safety council incentive program to assist employers in their post-Covid recovery.**
- **Local, state and federal energy & utility solutions that prioritize accessibility and affordability, promote infrastructure deployment and ensure that Ohio's economic development is not negatively impacted.**
- **Business priorities outlined in the state operating budget -2021.**
- **Dayton regional economic & community priorities outlined in state capital budget-2022.**



Workforce Development & Small Business

The Dayton Area Chamber will work to ensure our businesses have a broad and deep pool from which to recruit talent as well as opportunities to reskill and upskill their current employees. We will help our employers support their workforce with resources for high quality childcare. We will continue to champion opportunities to close the digital divide, expand access and affordability and improve infrastructure so our workforce will have the broadband resources that are critical to Ohio's economy.

The chamber will support the development of programs designed to attract students to in-demand jobs, with a particular focus on increasing the number of internships and apprenticeships available in our region. We will work with our education partners to better connect and define our career and post-secondary pathways and ensure that our region's students are ready to enter the workforce. We will chair the Ohio Business Leaders United (BLU) Coalition to develop a statewide workforce advocacy agenda.

The chamber is committed to ensuring a robust recovery for our businesses as we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic. Advocating for critical support at the local, state and federal levels to aid our businesses and coordinating continued

relief efforts will be necessary to ensure that our community is able to grow and thrive.

KEY LEGISLATION & POLICIES WE SUPPORT:

- **Continued funding of TechCred and other workforce training incentives offered by the State of Ohio.**
- **Digital equity & broadband expansion programs.**
- **Increased local, state and federal funding to support quality childcare in the Dayton community.**
- **Occupational licensure reform to provide greater opportunities to expand our skilled workforce in Ohio.**
- **State & local support for digital skills expansion for our K-12 systems.**
- **Removing barriers to apprenticeships for high-school students and providing employer supports/incentives for internship & apprenticeship opportunities.**
- **Federal efforts to aid small businesses in their post-Covid economic recovery, including grant programs, loan forgiveness, low interest rates, & other relief opportunities.**

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