

DAYTON

Area Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY AGENDA

2025-2026

DaytonChamber.org

Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
8 N. Main Street, Suite 100, Dayton, Ohio 45402

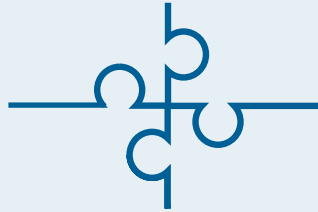


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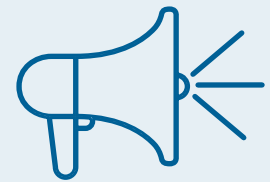
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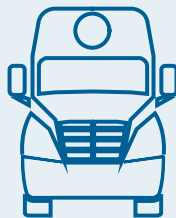
WORKFORCE & TALENT DEVELOPMENT



BUSINESS INCLUSION



BUSINESS ATTRACTIVENESS



INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION



MILITARY & VETERAN ATTRACTIVENESS

*The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce is **the voice** of our region's business community. Our team of three registered lobbyists is dedicated to supporting business-friendly initiatives, regulations and legislation while ensuring the integrity of the legislative process. We prioritize our members' policy needs, striving to achieve these goals through advocacy, education, networking and collaborative partnerships.*

As we look to the 2025-2026 legislative sessions, we'll be focusing our efforts on the priorities outlined in this document. This work is empowered by the ongoing input and support of the chamber's many committees, volunteer leaders and key community partners. Ultimately, we believe these policy priorities will ensure the Dayton region is one in which businesses can grow, prosper and thrive.



WORKFORCE AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT

The Dayton Area Chamber will work to reduce barriers to employment, ensuring our businesses have a broad and deep pool from which to recruit talent. We'll advocate to expand education and job training, with supports for reskilling and upskilling the current workforce as well as specific opportunities to connect our students to in-demand careers in Ohio. The Dayton Area Chamber will support efforts to grow Ohio's population and make the state and the Dayton region more attractive for talent.

KEY POLICIES:

- Advocate for flexible and adequately funded childcare solutions at local, state and federal levels to help more parents and caregivers re-enter and remain in the workforce.
- Increase business engagement for internships, apprenticeships and work-based learning experiences in our region and expand both employer incentives and education partner support.
- Collaborate with state policymakers to encourage accelerated licensure for international talent, contextualized ESL training to support employers and greater employer awareness of work-visa readiness of international students and newcomers.
- Advocate for federal agencies to increase the quota of skilled worker visas, higher education and other international visas allocated to Ohio.
- Identify opportunities to better connect employers with potential talent pools, including veterans, recent retirees and people with disabilities.
- Continue funding TechCred and other workforce training incentives focused on closing the skills gap.
- Advocate for innovative workforce transportation and housing solutions that leverage public, private and worker investments.
- Support strategic incentives and community branding efforts to retain Ohio's college graduates and attract out-of-state talent to relocate to Ohio.

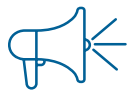


BUSINESS INCLUSION

The Dayton Area Chamber will champion equity and opportunity for all Ohioans and support our employer community in building and expanding inclusive workplaces. The Dayton Area Chamber will provide continued advocacy and leadership in the growth of minority, women and veteran-owned businesses. We will ensure that the chamber represents the interests of the business community across our entire region.

KEY POLICIES:

- Remove barriers to growth and increase access to funding for our minority, women and veteran owned businesses through our Minority Business Assistance Center.
- Increase the opportunities for minority, women, veteran and early career professionals to connect with local employers and stay in Ohio.
- Advocate for policies that allow employers to attract and retain diverse talent.
- Advocate for the disaggregation and dissemination of key workforce data at the local and state levels in order to make better policy recommendations.
- Strengthen relationships across the Dayton region with state and local government leaders.



BUSINESS ATTRACTIVENESS

The Dayton Area Chamber will take a proactive role in championing business-friendly policies and common-sense regulations at the local, state and federal levels to foster a thriving economy and ensure Ohio attracts and retains a dynamic business community. We will also prioritize reducing red tape and removing barriers for businesses and workers seeking to start, relocate or grow in Ohio.

The chamber will serve as the voice of our regional business community, spearheading lobbying and advocacy initiatives across the 14-county area to promote economic and business growth. We will collaborate with our local, metro, state and national chamber partners to advance business priorities that will have a positive impact on Dayton-area businesses.

KEY STATE POLICIES:

- Lessen the municipal, state and federal income tax complexity and burden for businesses and continue to champion comprehensive tax reform.
- Advocate for business priorities outlined in the FY 2026-2027 state operating budget and in the state capital budget.
- Champion the efficiency and transparency of licensure and permitting across governmental departments to remove red tape for businesses.
- Promote occupational licensure reform to provide greater opportunities to expand our skilled workforce in Ohio.
- Leverage the influence of the business community to improve the civic and political climate in the Dayton region and the State of Ohio by identifying opportunities for bi-partisan collaboration and civil discourse.
- Support reforms to the Ohio redistricting process that ensures Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is not negatively impacted and communities remain aligned.
- Support downtown renewal through mixed-use development. Advocate for tax incentives or grants for developers to convert office buildings into mixed-use properties. Emphasize benefits of revitalizing downtown areas and increasing affordable housing options.
- Champion workplace health and safety policies that protect employer autonomy.

KEY FEDERAL POLICIES:

- Reverse the ban on non-compete agreements.
- Restore the R&D tax credit to a one year, rather than a five year, cycle.
- Eliminate government price controls on private industry.
- Maintain reasonable tariff policies to avoid increasing costs for business and consumers.
- Prevent the increase in the minimum salary threshold for non-exempt salaried employees.



INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION

The Dayton Area Chamber will continue to advocate for a cost-effective and efficient infrastructure utility system, encompassing gas, electric, water, sewer, telecommunications and broadband. This system is vital for ensuring our community operates smoothly and drives economic development throughout the region.

The chamber will ensure the Dayton region maximizes highway and roadway investments, supports investments in workforce transit and SmartCities technology and continues to champion expanded air service in Dayton. Through the Dayton Area Logistics Association, the chamber will continue to support the growth of the logistics and distribution industry in Southwest Ohio.

KEY POLICIES:

- Advocate for expanded local, state and federal supports to improve and grow air service at the Dayton International Airport.
- Champion local, state and federal energy and utility solutions that prioritize accessibility and affordability, promote infrastructure deployment and ensure that Ohio's economic development is supported.
- Support for increased local transit funding to improve workforce transportation access.
- Remove federal barriers for qualified pilots and crews to support air service operations.
- Support infrastructure funding in the FY 2026-2027 state transportation budget.

KEY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS:

- Grange Hall Interchange at I-675. This project will provide a full functioning interchange and efficient ingress and egress at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.
- Wilmington Pike I-675 Interchange. This project will improve the interchange and provide congestion relief to this rapidly growing area.
- Millikin Rd. Interchange at I-75. Construct a full functioning interchange in Butler County and adjacent economic development.
- Construct a new bridge adjacent to the Brent Spence Bridge for I-75/I-71 interstate logistics.
- Local roadway improvements to support business and logistics growth around the Dayton International Airport.





MILITARY AND VETERAN ATTRACTIVENESS

The Dayton Area Chamber will advocate for the continued growth and expansion of federal assets in the region and policies that make the Dayton region more attractive for our service members, veterans and their families. 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, prioritize the acquisition of new missions and champion the expansion of key Wright-Patterson Air Force Base 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 POLICIES:

- Support veteran entrepreneurs and business owners with increased access to funding, contracts and technical assistance.
- Expand DOD SkillBridge locations across the Dayton region.
- Increase the visibility and accessibility of mental health and wellness resources for our veteran community.
- Champion supports for our active duty and veteran families and dependents, identifying ways to improve access to schooling, jobs and community integration.
- Support Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) growth opportunities.
- Increase Wright-Patterson Air Force Base mission attractiveness through strategic infrastructure investments and workforce and defense contractor supports.

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Appointment pending at time of printing.

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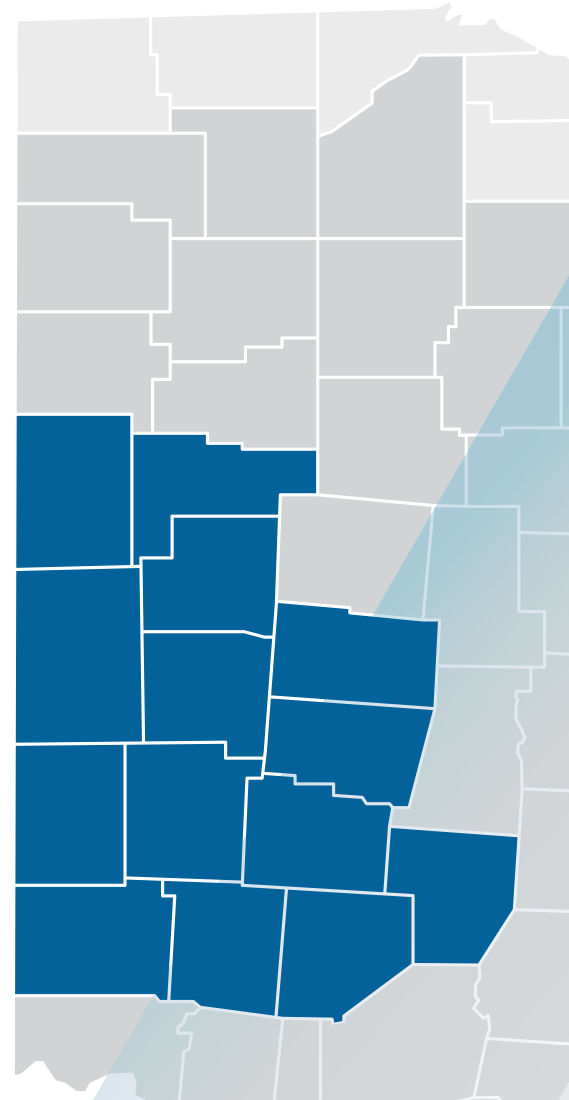
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region in Southwest Ohio



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