



GREATER MEMPHIS CHAMBER

2020 State Legislative Agenda

The Greater Memphis Chamber has been the voice of Memphis business for 181 years. Since 1838, we've always advocated to strengthen state business assistance tools, support entrepreneurs, improve the quality of early childhood education, support workforce development initiatives and enhance transportation infrastructure. With the support and investment of our members, we work hard every day to grow the Memphis economy, market the region to selected parts of the world, and provide the connections and resources our community needs to be successful.



HIGHEST BUDGET PRIORITIES

- Coordinate with TDOT to minimize the impact to traffic and businesses with the pending Poplar Avenue viaduct replacement project in Midtown Memphis.
- Support funding of the STEM Research and Classroom building at the University of Memphis to help strengthen the pipeline of engineers needed with local and state business community.
- Advance funding and implementation of transportation projects for City of Memphis.

PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

Listed below are our TOP 5 legislative priorities for 2019 based on annual Public Policy Survey results:



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & JOB GROWTH

- Strengthen state business assistance tools to attract and retain businesses inclusive of efforts to enhance site development and use of qualifying brownfield properties in economically distressed neighborhoods.
- Support funding for Epicenter to leverage its existing local investments in entrepreneurship and job creation.
- Support efforts to maintain Tennessee's reputation as business friendly by opposing legislation that negatively impacts the economy and jobs.
- Promote updates to the tax credit structure to incentivize rehabilitation of historic property to spur economic development activity and opportunity.
- Support incentives for film making as a means of diversifying and strengthening our economy.



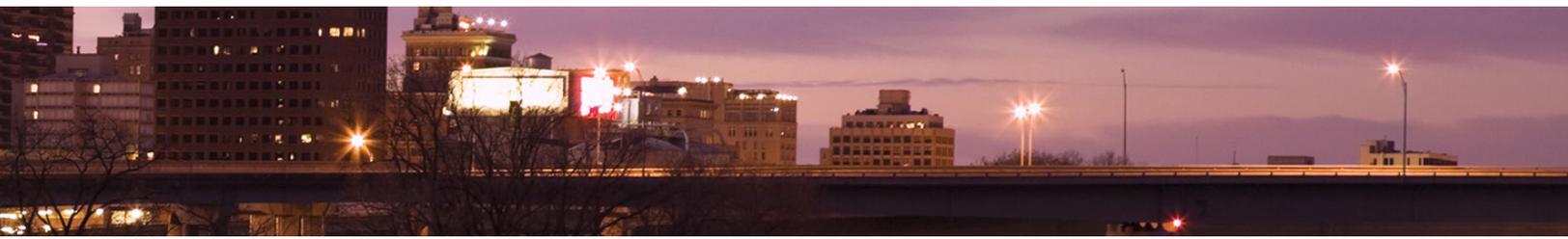
HEALTHCARE

- Urge the members of the Tennessee General Assembly and the Governor's Administration to prioritize fiscal sustainability, expanded coverage, and overall quality with any agreement for the Medicaid block grant program.
- **NEW PROPOSED ITEM** Support a raise in the age of eligibility for the purchase of tobacco and vaping products from 18 years of age to 21 years of age to develop a healthier workforce, prevent teenage addictions, and lessen the overall cost of healthcare.
- Support access to telehealth programs for citizens across the state of Tennessee.



PUBLIC EDUCATION & EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Invest in evidence-based early education programs to ensure students are reading on grade level by the end of the third grade.



HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

- **NEW PROPOSED ITEM Support greater access to and affordability of quality childcare for members of the workforce.**
- Build on work in career and technical training and the alignment of training with in-demand jobs to expand Governor Lee's investment in vocational training, postsecondary credentials, and his focus on putting Tennessee in the top 25 states for job creation in the technology sector by 2022.
- Improve workforce development and remove barriers for ex-offenders to enter the workforce.
- Increase state research funding to establish the University of Memphis as the only Carnegie R1 University in West Tennessee.
- Support funding of the STEM Research and Classroom building at the University of Memphis to help strengthen the pipeline of engineers needed with local and state business community.
- **NEW PROPOSED ITEM Support commonsense requirements that employers provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant workers when such accommodations are not burdensome or expensive.**



INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION

- Urge the State to allocate, at a minimum, a proportionate level of funding to the Memphis area for transportation projects based on the Memphis area population in comparison to the entire State.
- Coordinate with TDOT to minimize the impact to traffic and businesses with the pending Poplar Avenue viaduct replacement project in Midtown Memphis.
- Advance the funding and implementation of the 25 priority projects with the use of Federal DOT funds, State of Tennessee funds, and other funding sources as appropriate.



URBAN CHAMBERS

2020 Joint State Legislative Agenda

CHATTANOOGA | NASHVILLE | KNOXVILLE | MEMPHIS

As a part of a strategic partnership, the Greater Memphis Chamber, Chattanooga Area Chamber, Knoxville Chamber and Nashville Chamber of Commerce have convened to create a joint legislative agenda for 2020. Our vision is to align our efforts to support initiatives that positively impact our state economy.

1. Support strategies to reach the state's college completion goal of 55 percent of Tennesseans with postsecondary credentials through innovative means such as early postsecondary opportunities, career and technical education, Tennessee Promise, and Tennessee Reconnect.
2. Support state and local business incentives and tools that make Tennessee competitive with other states while emphasizing transparency, accountability, and a return on investment.
3. Support access and affordability of medical care to more citizens - including prevention and treatment of substance abuse and addiction - to provide a healthier workforce and to alleviate health care costs to businesses.
4. Support a change in state law to raise the age of eligibility for the purchase of tobacco and vaping products from 18-years-old to 21-years-old to develop a healthier workforce and prevent childhood addictions.
5. Support increased funding and bold statewide planning for a robust transportation infrastructure network including mass transit in the urban core regions.
6. Support justice reform measures aimed at increasing the employability of non-violent offenders following their release from incarceration.
7. Support commonsense requirements that employers provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant workers when such accommodations are not burdensome or expensive.
8. Support efforts to expand access and affordability to quality childcare.