

# 2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



Government Affairs Committee

 GREATER MEMPHIS CHAMBER



## 1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The delivery of business services that help existing Memphis businesses thrive and grow, and that attract new businesses with high-quality jobs to the region.

### Legislative Priorities:

- Support the strategic investment and development in Downtown Memphis, at Memphis International Airport, and at the Port of Memphis to attract private capital, stimulate business growth, and revitalize key economic corridors.
- Support/Maintain the continued allocation of Tennessee Highway Patrol resources in Shelby County to enhance regional public safety and strengthen critical transportation corridors.
- Support the timely implementation of Tennessee's statewide criminal justice data system to improve coordination across jurisdictions, reduce repeat offenses, and enhance transparency and uniformity in public safety reporting and decision-making.
- Support Artificial Intelligence policy that ensures that AI technologies are used responsibly, securely, and effectively while never stifling the progress of Tennessee's thriving AI and technology ecosystem.



## 2. DIVERSIFIED HUMAN CAPITAL

Workforce development and educational alignment that fosters a labor force diverse in the skills our employers need and is inclusive of all races and demographics.

### Legislative Priorities:

- Encourage state policies that keep Tennessee's workforce agile and aligned with emerging industries by streamlining credential recognition, supporting lifelong learning, and promoting industry-driven skill standards.
- Promote alignment between education programs and workforce demand by increasing career awareness and employability skill development for Tennessee students.
- Support working families in Tennessee by expanding access to quality, affordable childcare and early education.



### 3. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Direct support to improve and expand regional physical infrastructure and illuminate infrastructure needs that are critical for Memphis businesses.

#### Legislative Priorities:

- Support strategies to eliminate cargo theft including stiffer criminal penalties.
- Support transportation infrastructure development as an economic driver. Priority projects include but are not limited to: the start of construction on the I-55 bridge replacement project (Kings Crossing); the completion of Elvis Presley Boulevard, Lamar Avenue, and funding the International Airport Gateway project including the I-240/Airways Interchange and Plough Boulevard and improving vehicular access to Downtown Memphis from the region and movement within the Downtown area.



### 4. MAINTAINING A PRO-GROWTH BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Promote policies that reinforce Tennessee's low-tax, pro-business reputation while advancing strategies to reduce business costs and support a healthy, stable workforce.

#### Legislative Priorities:

- Support efforts to maintain Tennessee's low-tax, business-friendly environment, including protection against new tax burdens on employers and continued investments in incentive tools that promote economic growth.
- Support initiatives that increase access to affordable, high-quality healthcare options for employers and employees, including strategies that reduce employer healthcare costs and enhance benefit flexibility.
- Advocate for maintaining the current limits on noneconomic damages in civil lawsuits and preserving historical tort reform efforts that positively impact the business community.
- Support initiatives that increase access to affordable, high-quality housing options for residents and workers, including strategies that reduce development and financing costs while promoting flexibility in housing types and ownership opportunities.
- Ensure Tennessee remains a welcoming state and the premier state for all people to live, work, and do business.