



Legislative Agenda

2012 -
2013

PEORIA AREA
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE



State Policy Agenda

TAXES & BUDGET

The Chamber supports a sustainable revenue and expenditure system for the State of Illinois that is fiscally responsible, business friendly and encourages job growth.

- The Chamber believes that in order to enhance the overall business environment in Illinois the State needs to make timely payments of financial obligations to all vendors.
- The Chamber believes that the State each year must have truly balanced budgets that rely on realistic revenue projections, pay all bills in a timely manner, and utilize accounting standards and practices that are transparent and straightforward.
- The Chamber supports an equitable resolution of State pension and retirement issues that creates a long-term, financially sustainable solution.
- The Chamber supports using revenues from the 2011 tax increases as a temporary measure only and for the specific purpose of offsetting the present shortfall resulting from deficit spending.
- The Chamber supports making the Research and Development Tax Credit Extension of 2011 a permanent part of the Illinois Tax Code to encourage innovation and growth in Illinois business.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Chamber supports further growth of Illinois' businesses through consistent and transparent use of development incentives.

- The Chamber supports the creation and implementation of workforce development programs to attract young professionals to Illinois.
- The Chamber encourages consistent state support and funding to allow local workforce boards to be effective in providing local employers with skilled workers.

HEALTHCARE

The Chamber supports legislation that minimizes the cost and increases the value of healthcare to businesses and the government while still providing high quality service to consumers.

- The Chamber supports responsible Medicaid/Medicare reform that addresses budgetary concerns and increased pressure on healthcare providers.
- The Chamber supports developing State health insurance exchanges to assist individuals and businesses during the transition to the Affordable Care Act.

HUMAN RESOURCES & LABOR

The Chamber supports further enhancement of the overall Illinois business environment through laws that encourage investment and job creation.

- The Chamber supports meaningful reform of Workers Compensation Laws that have become a major financial burden on businesses with the inclusion of causation as the highest priority.
- The Chamber opposes any increase in the minimum wage.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

The Chamber recognizes the importance of infrastructure at both the State and Local levels and therefore encourages appropriate funding types, levels and policies that support and enhance the business climate.

- The Chamber supports the Regional Road Projects Agenda developed by Central Illinois Chambers.
- The Chamber's top priority projects from the Regional Road Projects Agenda are the Eastern Bypass, the Pioneer Parkway Extension, and Route 336 between Peoria and Macomb.
- The Chamber supports an adequate and dedicated funding source for infrastructure construction and maintenance that is fair and equitable throughout the State.

EDUCATION

Business success relies upon an educated workforce and a good education is the foundation for maintaining that workforce.

- The Chamber supports legislation that enhances the viability of charter schools and provides for school choice.
- The Chamber supports legislation that will allow local school districts to hire the superintendant of their choice. And that the requirements for the superintendant position be maintained by the local school board, rather than mandated by the State of Illinois.
- The Chamber supports equitable and predictable funding for education at all levels.
- It is important to maintain a fair balance between the major streams of education funding – general education, career and technical education, special education, and developmental education.

ETHICS

The State of Illinois continues to need more ethics reform to ensure all public officials are held to the highest standards and all elections are fair and open.

- The Chamber supports an amendment to the Illinois Constitution that creates an independent commission to draw legislative district boundaries.

Local Policy Agenda

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Chamber supports the growth and development of businesses throughout the Greater Peoria Area and the transparent use of development incentives.

- The Chamber supports efforts to redevelop and revitalize Downtown Peoria and the Warehouse District.
- The Chamber supports continued collaboration between regional workforce development service areas to better serve business throughout the region.
- The Chamber supports strong regional economic development and encourages public bodies to financially support such regional efforts.

EFFECTIVE & EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT

The Chamber supports efforts to create a more efficient and effective government.

- The Chamber supports increased collaboration and shared services within and between all local units of government.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Chamber recognizes the importance of infrastructure at both the State and Local levels and therefore encourages appropriate funding types, levels and policies that support and enhance the business climate.

- The Chamber supports the Regional Road Projects Agenda developed by Central Illinois Chambers and encourages all local units of government to support these projects also in the interest of regional economic development.
- The Chamber's highest priority road project in Peoria County from the Regional Road Projects list is the Pioneer Parkway Extension plan.
- The Chamber supports an adequate and dedicated funding source for local infrastructure maintenance and construction.
- The Chamber supports the addition of a customs facility at the General Wayne A Downing International Airport.
- The Chamber supports City and County policies that encourage the development of the technological infrastructure needed for a modern community.

TAXES & BUDGET

The Chamber supports balanced budgets for local units of government and believes raising taxes or fees is best avoided in challenging economic times.

EDUCATION

Business success relies on an educated workforce and a good education is the foundation for maintaining that workforce.

- The Chamber supports shared resources between and among education providers at the K-12 and post secondary levels to provide more efficient and effective delivery of services to all students.
- The Chamber supports balanced budgets for schools at all levels.
- The Chamber supports the addition of more charter schools in the region.
- The Chamber supports efforts to allow local school districts the opportunity to hire the superintendant of their choice, rather than having certain requirements for the position by mandated by the State of Illinois.

"We in America do not have a government by the majority. We have a government by the majority who participate"
- Thomas Jefferson

The Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce is the driving force for business prosperity in the Greater Peoria region and one of our guiding principles is to be the leading voice and advocate for business in the region. To accomplish that we must be actively engaged in the legislative process. We need to speak for our members and encourage them to be a part of the legislative process at all levels of government.

MISSION

The Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice and resource for business in the region.



Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce

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