

2018 Public Policy Agenda

The Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce is a dynamic business organization with over 2,175 members that employ over 50,000 people. It represents every industry sector and businesses of all sizes, from Fortune 500 companies to micro businesses, and is committed to promoting a positive business climate in Middlesex County and in Connecticut.

The Chamber urges lawmakers to pursue legislation that encourages Connecticut businesses to invest and grow opportunities for good, well-paying jobs. In the upcoming session, we specifically ask the Connecticut General Assembly to:

Support a balanced and sustainable state budget that addresses long-term pension obligations and maintains critical services without raising taxes, raiding ratepayer funds or shifting burdens to municipalities. Strive to craft a budget that allows our state to unlock its full economic potential.

Protect the financial viability of the Special Transportation Fund by establishing, maintaining, and protecting adequate revenue streams for transportation needs, including a plan for tolls. Transportation infrastructure is critical to the movement of people, goods and services, and the economic vitality of our state.

Support policies that encourage and promote tourism, as that is an especially important economic driver in Middlesex County and its surrounding areas.

Ensure that state plans and policies, including the State's Comprehensive Energy Strategy and State Water Plan, properly balance the public interests including the needs for safe and adequate water supply, economic development, public health and safety, recreation and the environment. The state should pursue a diverse, balanced energy supply to improve Connecticut's cost competitiveness.

Review and eliminate unnecessary municipal or educational requirements and oppose any additional mandates that result in higher property tax burdens for residents and businesses.

Require that existing regulatory programs are effectively and efficiently administered to reduce unnecessary costs, burdens or delays for Connecticut's businesses. Onerous regulatory processes and excessive regulation are not conducive to economic growth.

Explore innovative ways to strengthen the workforce talent pipeline to meet the needs of key sectors by working with school systems, the manufacturing community and other key stakeholders.

Explore additional partnerships with private providers that deliver services to state residents in a more cost effective manner.

Work with the Department of Transportation on the prioritization of projects and ensure timely completion of the Route 9 Signal Removal Project to improve traffic flows and safety without adversely affecting access to downtown Middletown.

Protect the hospital agreement that improves the financial stability of our hospitals, which are major employers and important economic drivers throughout the state.