

2017 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 and retirement obligations, and maintains critical services, without raising taxes. Avoid imposing onerous paid leave or other employee benefit mandates on Connecticut businesses. Strive to craft a budget that allows our state to unlock its full economic potential.

Pursue a Constitutional Amendment to establish a “transportation lockbox” to ensure that any dedicated funding collected specifically to meet identified transportation needs is used only to fund transportation initiatives.

Implement a comprehensive fiscal policy that ensures there is a clearly defined and enforceable state spending cap.

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

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

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.

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

Support legislation that ensures the financial strength of our hospitals which are major employers and important economic drivers throughout the state.

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

Work with the Department of Transportation to ensure time and cost effective completion of the Route 9 Signal Removal Project in a way that improves traffic flows and safety without adversely affecting access to downtown Middletown.