



2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1. Business Climate and Economic Development

The Bristol Chamber will work with elected officials and partners throughout our states to strengthen and expand our economy to maintain top rankings as the best states in the nation to start, expand or relocate a business. We support policy efforts to stimulate diversification of the economy.

2. Education

The Bristol Chamber is focused on legislation to fix shortcomings in our education system so that: students emerge from our public education system prepared for college or career; higher education is more accessible and affordable; employers can find workers with the right skills and qualifications; and our workforce will attract investment, drive growth and spur innovation.

3. Energy

The Bristol Chamber supports the creation of a balanced, sustainable energy policy that supports economic development and job growth while meeting the growing needs of our population and business community. We are focused on policy that moves the country toward greater energy self-reliance by allowing greater access to oil and gas resources, recognizing the important role of coal in our economy.

4. Healthcare

We continue to face the challenge of making quality health care more affordable, more accessible and more reliable for all Americans. The Bristol Chamber is focused on promoting effective private sector solutions to our health care challenges that will help control costs, expand access and improve the quality of care.

5. Labor and Workforce Development

The Bristol Chamber recognizes that a skilled, talented and educated workforce is the lynchpin of maintaining and elevating our economic competitiveness. To keep the economy vibrant and to continue to create opportunity for our workers, we must ensure that new businesses can be launched and current ones can be expanded. We will work to promote workplace policies that will enhance, not inhibit, economic growth and job creation.

6. Manufacturing

The Bristol Chamber supports policy to enhance the growth of advanced manufacturing and strengthen the business climate throughout Tennessee and Virginia.

7. Regulation and Taxation

We recognize the need for smart regulations to ensure workplace safety and protect public health, but support a regulatory system that is fair for everyone and that evaluates the impact new regulations will have on jobs and small businesses in our community. Additionally, the Bristol Chamber is committed to pro-growth, pro-job tax policies at both the local and state level to preserve our states' competitiveness.

8. Tourism and The Arts

Travel and tourism accounts for ___ in revenues and ___ jobs in our region. The Bristol Chamber supports efforts to maintain and expand domestic and international travel markets while promoting our distinctive visitor experiences and strengthening programs that support tourism product development.

9. Transportation and Infrastructure

Infrastructure across our states is an opportunity to invest wisely and carefully in our most critical needs while eliminating wasteful spending. The Bristol Chamber supports the funding of a safe and efficient transportation system that effectively moves people and goods and fosters economic growth for a competitive economy.

10. Workers Compensation and Unemployment

The Bristol Chamber supports an unemployment and workers' compensation system that balances the needs of employers and employees while minimizing burdensome regulations. We will work to promote efficient regulatory oversight, strong communities and a robust housing market.