



# 2018 METRO NORTH CHAMBER LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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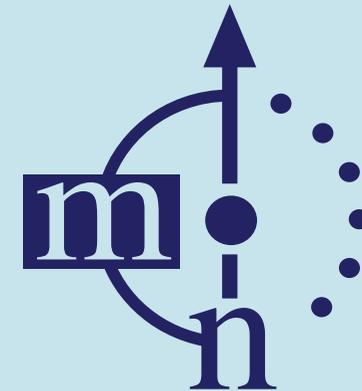
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TRANSPORTATION; WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION & AFFORDABLE HOUSING;  
PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE; ECONOMIC GROWTH; HEALTH CARE



### Major Chamber Investors

Trustee Level



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## 2018 METRO NORTH CHAMBER LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Metro North Chamber of Commerce supports ideas, strategies and legislation that will improve Colorado's business environment, continue to expand economic opportunities and promote vibrant local communities with a high quality of life. As Colorado's economy and population continue to grow, the Metro North Chamber of Commerce will be a strong advocate at the Capitol in 2018 to represent our region and to seek legislative opportunities to benefit our public and private sector members. As such, the Metro North Chamber of Commerce urges the Colorado Legislature to collaborate on a bipartisan basis on five important policy categories:

### TRANSPORTATION

As the Metro North's regional growth continues to outpace the state, there are dire needs to expand and improve capacity of our multi-modal transportation network. The Metro North Chamber has long supported investment in Colorado's transportation infrastructure because it stimulates primary job growth, lays the foundation for economic development opportunities and promotes stability within and between our communities.

Metro North Chamber of Commerce recommendations:

1. Encourage the introduction and discussion of innovative legislation (including tolling, tax increment financing and referred voter measures) that increases funding for all types of transportation.
2. Advocate for a general budget fund increase for transportation.
3. Support incentives for public/private transportation cooperative projects.
4. Support legislation that increases the transparency and efficiency of operations of the Regional Transportation District (RTD).

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

For businesses to remain competitive, expand or relocate to the Metro North region, there must be a trained workforce as well as affordable housing options. We believe that a strong community college system as well as innovative workforce education, retraining and attraction programs are needed as technology evolves at an ever-increasing pace. The metro area now has the most expensive housing market between the West and East coasts, and the cost impedes business expansion and relocation. For our economy to remain strong, more affordable housing options are needed, including multi-unit dwellings and entry-level single family homes.

Metro North Chamber of Commerce recommendations:

1. Support operational and capital construction funding of our local Front Range Community College.
2. Encourage legislation that creates new, or improves existing, workforce development programs.
3. Support legislation that incentivizes affordable and/or owner-occupied, multi-unit housing.
4. Oppose any efforts to roll back or weaken newly enacted reforms that now require an affirmative vote of a majority of homeowners to approve a construction defects lawsuit being initiated.

### PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Metro North supports efforts to establish vibrant and attractive centers of commerce, a strong public safety system and a reliable water supply and distribution system. Also, we support equitable funding of our local K-12 school districts.

Metro North Chamber of Commerce recommendations:

1. Oppose any further efforts to weaken existing urban renewal or downtown development authority statutes.
2. Support measures that assist our cities, counties and metro districts with their provision of public safety services.
3. Support legislation that promotes the funding and construction of new or expanded water storage and drainage systems.
4. Listen to the legislative needs of our local school districts and assist in their endeavors.

### ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Metro North Chamber of Commerce supports comprehensive economic development policies that create opportunities for sustained growth. We understand that our state has had a history of boom-and-bust cycles, so we must never stop pursuing policies that foster economic growth by reducing or simplifying tax policies, decreasing obsolete regulations and providing incentives for industries of all types.

Metro North Chamber of Commerce recommendations:

1. Promote legislation that expands tax incentives, including credits and exemptions for business development growth, especially for Metro North members.
2. Continue to review existing regulations to identify redundancy, inefficiency, contradiction and/or obsolescence.
3. Oppose any new employer mandates without justifiable cost benefit analyses.
4. Through consensus and negotiation, support sensible oil and gas legislation that balances quality of life and maintains a stable energy industry.

### HEALTH CARE

Metro North members expect quality, accessible and affordable health care that is available in our immediate region. As our population continues to grow and age, health care will remain a major public policy issue.

Metro North Chamber of Commerce recommendations:

1. Support adequate health care funding in the upcoming 2018-19 budget.
2. Continue to support innovative programs for mental health to serve our state's population.
3. Advocate for new programs to effectively address our opioid addiction crisis.