

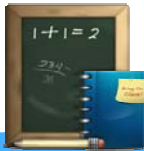
As the voice of business, The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce has identified legislative priorities that encourage economic development, innovation and strategic growth.



BUSINESS TAXATION AND REGULATION

Foster a pro-business climate to attract and retain businesses in Bloomington and Indiana

- Support the repeal of the medical device tax
- Support comprehensive tax reform efforts that lessen tax burdens on business
- Encourage regulatory reform efforts that lessen burdens on business and restore Congressional accountability in the rulemaking process
- Support a local option for exemption of personal property tax on new business machinery and equipment
- Support policies that empower businesses to attract and retain a world-class workforce



EDUCATION

Create educational opportunities to ensure an intelligent, high-skilled workforce

Preschool and K – 12 Education

- Emphasize importance of funding for early childhood education, preschool, and kindergarten
- Improve the school funding formula to focus on equitable per pupil funding and multiple student count days
- Promote the importance of STEM-related programs & career training
- Encourage development of entrepreneurship programs & vocational training for technical fields to develop a qualified workforce

Higher Education

- Encourage institutional innovation and flexibility to best meet student needs
- Encourage federal lawmakers to help close the innovation deficit by decreasing the gap in needed/actual federal investment in research



HEALTHCARE

Promote education and awareness opportunities that help local businesses manage their health care costs

- Educate members on developments of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)
- Educate members on the plan(s) in the Federal Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Marketplace as details emerge (~Nov. 2014)
- Support continued enrollment in the Healthy Indiana Plan and continued waiver for and expansion of the plan in 2015



INFRASTRUCTURE

Develop and maintain a superior state and local framework that supports the needs of business

- Prioritize ongoing construction and funding of I-69, focusing on planning and design of Section 5
- Promote and protect Crane as a primary regional job provider
- Support policies that incentivize investment in rural telecom for gigabit connectivity
- Support development and implementation of a strategic water resource plan



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVANCEMENTS

Ensure local services are delivered with the most effective and efficient administrative structure

- Support measures to increase accountability, transparency, and effectiveness of government at the local level