



## WHERE WE STAND

## TAXES/ GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS/ REGULATIONS

*Make the Capital Region and New York State more competitive through mandate relief, responsible stewardship of local finances, and reducing significant state and local regulatory and tax burdens.*

*The Chamber supports policies that improve the state's business climate.*

### **Support broad-based tax reform:**

- ▶ Support efforts by the state to provide municipal governments with meaningful mandate relief. It is an absolute necessity to provide municipal governments with appropriate state aid and mandate relief;
- ▶ Support the reduction of burdensome, outdated and complex business taxes;

**Support reforms** that will make New York State cost structure more competitive with other states to assist employers in attracting and retaining talent.;

**Support policies** that foster the viability and sustainability of family-owned farms;

**Support legislation** that will provide Rivers Casino & Resort with a tax reduction to bring it in line with other casinos licensed by the state and to allow the casino to better market itself;

**Support legislation** that would require that any new state-mandated programs imposed on municipalities and school districts be fully funded by the state;

**Support legislation** that provides that an employer's unemployment experience rating account will not be charged for a temporary employee whose employment ends as the result of the return of an employee after family leave;

**Support policies** that encourage the sharing economy and gig economy and ensure New York State's competitiveness in this innovative marketplace;

**Support amendments** to the "Housing Stability and Tenant Protection act of 2019" (Universal Rent Control) that reduces and eliminates burdens on responsible landlords;

**Support legislation** that provides the Office of the State Comptroller with the authority to audit all state-funded economic development initiatives.

**Oppose state legislation** that would institute net neutrality. This is a federal issue and Congress should pass legislation that provides commonly agreed upon net neutrality protections;

**Oppose government mandates** that require electric vehicle charging stations in private parking lots.



## WHERE WE STAND

## GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

*The public has a right to be served by a government that is accountable, responsive and transparent. Process matters. All too often, significant policy decisions are made by a select few, behind closed doors during budget negotiations. This allows for very little public review and input. Policy issues should be submitted as stand-alone bills, debated and subject to public hearings and public comment. The Chamber will advocate for a process that provides opportunities for our voice and the public to be heard.*

**Oppose the inclusion** of substantive policy issues in the Budget. Policy issues should be submitted as stand-alone bills, debated and subject to public hearings and public comment;

**Budgetary matters** that have a substantial effect on taxpayers should be published at least 10 days in advance of any vote so that the taxpayers and legislators will have ample time to review its impact on the taxpayers. All legislators must have the opportunity to read the proposed budget to their satisfaction before being required to vote either in favor or against it;

**Oppose the use of Messages of Necessity** for Budget Bills. A Message of Necessity allows the Governor, Senate and Assembly to bypass the three-day waiting period between when a bill is introduced and when it can be put to a vote. Its function is to address a situation that requires immediate attention. Far too often, these messages are used to avoid proper debate, public review and comment. These messages should only be used for their intended purpose: situations that require immediate action;

**Funding for non-profits** should continue even if the budget is not passed by April 1. Any budgetary changes would be adjusted from moneys already paid to those non-profits if they were to continue with funding post April 1st, otherwise moneys would need to be repaid if they were not supported in the then-passed new budget;

**Executive Orders** should be limited in nature and should not be used to bypass policy issues that should more appropriately be addressed by the legislature.



## WHERE WE STAND

*Economic Development is essential for a prosperous Capital Region. The Chamber supports policies and funding that advance the region's economic development priorities.*

**Support policies** that strengthen the Capital Region's ties to the advanced materials, bio/life sciences, clean-tech/energy, homeland security/defense, information technology and nanotechnology/semiconductor industries;

**Support policies** that foster the creative economy; Advocate for a digital gaming media production tax credit;

**Support feasible**, locally-identified and locally-focused projects;

**Advocate for a broad-based approach** to economic and community development projects, and environmentally responsible measures, as well as a balance between commercial and recreational uses;

**Support integrated policies** that support urban redevelopment, including transit and mobility options that include bike and pedestrian enhancements;

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Support efforts to improve** the availability of capital from both conventional and unconventional sources to attract investment for housing, retail, business expansion, mixed-use and other economic development projects;

**Support enhanced historic rehabilitation** tax credits; Support continued investment and innovation in our region's downtowns;

**Support an asbestos remediation** tax credit to promote the redevelopment and reuse of existing underutilized properties;

**Support meaningful efforts** to repurpose the former Central Warehouse Cold Storage Building;

**Support reforms to the brownfield program** to include certain superfund and RCRA sites, and to expedite review and approval of remediation projects.



CAPITAL REGION  
CHAMBER

WHERE WE STAND

EDUCATION/  
TALENT DEVELOPMENT

*Employers rely on a qualified and diverse workforce to successfully operate. A skilled and inclusive workforce is therefore critical to regional job growth and prosperity. The Chamber supports early childhood development programs, education policies, school funding, and talent development initiatives that are available to all students and workers at all levels so that they are ready to enter and re-enter the job market.*

**Support full funding** of the On-the-Job Training Grants Program which provides financial assistance to local businesses to address employee training needs;

**Support funding** for the University at Albany's renovation of the Schuyler Building to become the home of UAlbany's new engineering college;

**Support increased funding** for community colleges toward customized industry training and equipment. Community colleges play a vital role in our region's economic development;

**Support K-12 education models** that better prepare students for entry into career and/or college:

- ▶ Support efforts to improve science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education;
- ▶ Support efforts to better prepare students for careers in healthcare and long-term care;
- ▶ Support expanded access to innovative education models and multiple pathways to graduation;

**Continued support** for Capital Region P-TECH is essential;

**Support higher standards** for education and assessments;

**Support teacher** quality and retention initiatives; Support evaluating the publicly funded employment and training system to better align resources for employers and job seekers. This must include a standardized system of assessment and accountability;

**Support increase** in Tuition Assistance Program funding.





**WHERE WE STAND**

**EMPLOYMENT**

*Growing private sector jobs is key to the Capital Region's economic future. The Chamber believes employers are best suited for determining the terms and conditions of employment based on their financial condition and competitive position. We must encourage state and federal governments to pursue pro-employment policies*

**Support programs** that assist veterans and disabled veterans with business ownership and employment opportunities;

**Support our military** installations and their significance to the overall well-being of the Capital Region, all of which impact our global, national, state and regional security and economy;

**Oppose efforts** to prohibit employers from using consumer credit reports in hiring and employment decisions;

**Oppose efforts** to regulate or prohibit employers use of on-call scheduling of employees;

**Support increasing** the availability of temporary skilled-worker (H-1B) visas;

**Support increasing** the availability of permanent-resident visas (green cards) for STEM graduates and workers;

**Support creating** new-startup visas for immigrant entrepreneurs who launch businesses in the U.S. and meet certain employment and financing goals;

**Support legislation** authorizing non-CPAs to be minority owners of CPA firms.



**WHERE WE STAND**

**HEALTHCARE**

*As healthcare costs rise, many employers and working families continue to experience difficulties finding coverage. The Chamber supports policies that promote affordable access to health insurance and a robust healthcare system without imposing new mandates and taxes.*

**Oppose efforts** to implement government run, single payer healthcare;

**Support the reinstatement** of the Health Care Quality and Cost Containment Commission. This commission would provide lawmakers with a cost and efficacy analysis prior to a vote on health insurance mandates;

**Support reforming** the medical tort system to make costs more affordable and predictable;

**Oppose any additional** health insurance tax to sustain New York State's Health Exchange;

**Oppose efforts** to mandate healthcare staffing.



## WHERE WE STAND

*Infrastructure is an important asset for all businesses and residents. Without the proper investment, our economic stability, potential for job growth and competitiveness are threatened. The Chamber supports continued investment in our transportation, water and sewer infrastructure.*

**Advocate for a stronger** regional transportation system and upgraded infrastructure that will provide new and improved mobility options for the Capital Region. Those that live and work in the region should have access to an integrated mobility system. Such a system will result in smarter mobility options, will assist people to easily navigate our region and will reduce unnecessary traffic congestion;

- ▶ Support funding for highway and bridge improvements;
- ▶ Support funding for increased public transit services;
- ▶ Support funding for improved sidewalks and biking paths;
- ▶ Support efforts to integrate our public transit, taxi, ride-sharing, bike-sharing and other mobility services;

**Support increased** frequency and improved reliability of Amtrak rail service;

**Support continued investment** in our aging water and sewer infrastructure;

**Support the redesign** of I-787 in order to provide improved access to the Hudson River waterfront;

## TRANSPORTATION/ INFRASTRUCTURE

**Oppose efforts** to shift the cost of MTA capital improvements onto utilities and their customers. MTA must take responsibility for these improvements and must ensure that costs are properly controlled; Advocate for increased flight service and competitive pricing to/from the Albany International Airport;

**Support increased funding** for continued improvements at the Port of Albany. As shippers look to increase their use of East Coast ports, it is critical that improvements be made at the port to further attract the shipping industry;

Support re-imagined uses for the New York State Canal System:

- ▶ Support traditional and modern commercial transportation options;
- ▶ Support enhanced recreational uses;
- ▶ Support environmentally-responsible industrial, commercial and recreational uses for the Canal's shores;
- ▶ Support the prudent use of state-owned land and assets along the Canal system to support the economically-challenged Canal communities;
- ▶ Support the lengthening of the Canal's navigation season and support maintaining the Canal's proper depth;

**Support expansion** of CDTA's Bus Plus (Bus Rapid Transit).



## WHERE WE STAND

## ENERGY

*New York State consumers pay some of the highest energy prices in the nation. Physical limitations in bringing electricity to the Capital Region from power producers outside of our region are creating congestion that is driving up costs significantly. The Chamber supports policies that promote access to affordable and reliable energy.*

**Support upgrading** the state's high-voltage electric transmission system in a manner consistent with competitive wholesale energy markets to make pricing more competitive in upstate communities;

**Support policies** that allow for the development of natural gas infrastructure and expand access to natural gas for consumers and businesses;

**Support policies** that allow for the development of renewable energy sources;

**Support smart city and green initiatives** in the Capital Region.