

2022 ADVOCACY AGENDA



seattle metropolitan chamber of commerce

The Chamber is a business advocacy organization that promotes a competitive, equitable, and resilient economy. As we recover from the major economic shock brought on by the pandemic, we are committed to working with policymakers at every level of government to rebuild a thriving region. Recovery necessarily requires inclusion of BIPOC, LGBTQ+, gender-diverse, and veteran-owned businesses.

At the state level, the Chamber will advocate for legislators to:

- Advance economic recovery through relief and support targeted at:
 - Small businesses, with a particular emphasis on businesses owned by historically excluded groups, including making it easier for BIPOC- and women-owned businesses to access capital and technical assistance
 - Industries that were especially hard hit by the pandemic and subsequent economic downturn, like tourism and hospitality
 - Ensuring the state's reserve funds are replenished and sustainable
- Preserve our state's competitiveness and jobs by avoiding unnecessary tax and regulatory burdens on businesses. [See Chamber's State Tax Principles]
- Pass a comprehensive transportation funding package for a more equitable, accessible, affordable, and resilient transportation system that promotes the mobility of people and freight. [See Chamber's Transportation Principles]
- Ensure robust public support for high-quality education including:
 - Increasing access to high-quality early learning, particularly for middle-income workers in high-cost areas
 - Bringing rigor back to K-12 schools and promoting recovery from learning loss
 - Assuring appropriate funding for post-secondary higher education, which includes two- and four-year degrees as well as career-connected learning and apprenticeships
- Use federal recovery resources to make significant investments in evidence-based regional solutions to homelessness and affordable housing, including medically necessary supportive housing and permanent supportive housing
- Support investments and actions that will help employers successfully recruit staff with necessary training, skills, and experience
- Fix the Long-Term Care Act so that the tax and associated spending are fair and financially stable, while preserving an opt-out provision for those who select a private plan