



FEDERAL

▪ Economic Development & Business Growth

- Government Contracting
 - The Chamber supports acquisition and procurement reform initiatives that streamline the contracting and purchasing process and maximize the business opportunities for the private sector in the federal market. The Chamber opposes legislation that would harm the contracting community and create more barriers to entry.
- Health Care
 - The Chamber supports legislation to help businesses continue to provide affordable coverage for their employees; including but not limited to, improvements to health savings accounts (HSAs) to make it easier for small businesses and individuals to participate, tax deductibility of premiums for individuals and the self-employed, and additional private options in the marketplace.
 - At this time, the Chamber cannot support any of the health care proposals currently before Congress due to lack of available information about the impact of the proposals on the business community.
- Health Information Technology & Research
 - The Chamber encourages expanded funding for federal research that will create more high-tech related jobs, foster a high-technology economy and increase scientific literacy.
- Labor Unions
 - The Chamber opposes any efforts, such as “card check” legislation, which substantially change the process by which employees unionize and threatens Virginia’s right to work law.

▪ Education & Workforce Development

- Early Childhood Development
 - The Chamber supports necessary and adequate federal funding of early childhood development initiatives including, but not limited to, home visitation programs, Head Start, Early Head Start, and state and local early childhood programs.
- Immigration
 - The Chamber supports border security and visa policies and procedures that are reasonable and carried out efficiently; and comprehensive immigration reform that takes into account the need for essential workers.
 - For essential workers, the Chamber encourages continued advancement to long-term immigration objectives to secure additional workers to counteract demographic trends and provide for the targeted earned legalization of those essential undocumented workers already in the U.S. The Chamber supports programs that give employers the ability to access and keep talent necessary to compete in the global market.
 - The Chamber supports comprehensive immigration reform that establishes a temporary worker program and an earned pathway to work or citizenship for undocumented residents while also improving border security and employee verification systems.

▪ Regulation & Systems Reform

- Tort Reform
 - The Chamber encourages Congress to pass legislation that would cap punitive damage awards and establish proportional liability for small businesses.
- Tax Credits for Workplace Wellness/Disease Management
 - The Chamber supports stand-alone legislation that offers tax credits for employer-sponsored workplace wellness programs.
- Taxation on E-Commerce
 - The Chamber supports the extension of the moratorium on taxation of e-commerce.
- Federal Financial System Reform

- The Chamber opposes the creation of a new government bureaucracy, such as the Consumer Financial Protection Agency, to regulate the financial services industry.
- The Chamber supports strengthening enforcement authority at existing regulatory agencies in a manner that increases consumer protection, expands scope to include non-banks, but does not stifle innovation, restrict access to products and services, or disrupt the dual banking system.
- **Transportation & Infrastructure**
 - Energy & Public Utilities
 - The Chamber supports positive energy proposals to expand domestic nuclear, oil, coal, and on and offshore gas production; invest in alternative and clean energy technologies; and improve the energy infrastructure.
 - The Chamber opposes legislation raising fuel economy standards and support efforts to promote awareness of the costs of increasing fuel economy standards.
 - The Chamber supports efforts to encourage the responsible and efficient use of natural and energy resources, but opposes efforts to implement an energy cap & trade system.
 - Mass Transit & Public Transportation
 - The Chamber supports funding to create higher speed rail from Richmond to DC, Richmond to Hampton Roads and into North Carolina.
 - Water Transportation
 - The Chamber supports the Water Resources Development Act, which would provide better protection to the economy and citizens against severe weather and flooding and would facilitate commerce at our nation's waterways and ports.
 - Environment
 - The Chamber supports the creation of a comprehensive water plan and measures that seek fair, comprehensive, and economically and scientifically-sound methods to improve the water quality of the James River and the Chesapeake Bay.

STATE

- **Economic Development & Business Growth**
 - Healthcare
 - The Chamber supports legislation to help businesses continue to provide affordable coverage for their employees; including but not limited to, improvements to health savings accounts (HSAs) to make it easier for small businesses and individuals to participate, tax deductibility of premiums for individuals and the self-employed, and additional private options in the marketplace..
 - Cultural Arts, Entertainment, Sports & Tourism
 - The Chamber urges the Governor and General Assembly to support the film and television production incentives to ensure that this vital and high-profile sector of the economy retains and expands its market share.
 - The Chamber supports public funding for cultural arts, entertainment, sports and tourism activities.
 - Business Attraction
 - The Chamber supports fully funding the Governor's Opportunity Fund
- **Education & Workforce Development**
 - Early Childhood Development
 - The Chamber supports full funding for home visitation programs.
 - The Chamber supports the funding and full implementation of a statewide quality rating system.
 - The Chamber supports legislation that would expand the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation's board to include legislative representation and encourages expansion of funding through public/private partnerships.
 - K-16 Education
 - The Chamber supports proposals that create a more rigorous curriculum in middle schools and high schools, advance lifelong learning and teach quality incentives, and address workforce shortage issues.
 - The Chamber supports proposals that decrease the dropout rate and increase the availability of technical and vocational training.
 - The Chamber supports strategies that ensure all high school graduates are college or workforce ready. The Chamber supports strategic education and workforce policies and programs focused

on strengthening U.S. education performance and workforce competitiveness, including, but not limited to, the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

- The Chamber supports proposals that assist in the attraction and retention of quality teachers.
- Higher Education
 - The Chamber supports the issuance of bonds to address necessary capital construction for higher education institutions.
 - The Chamber supports efforts to fully fund base adequacy standards.
- Immigration
 - The Chamber supports rational and reasonable immigration reform that takes into account the need for essential workers and does not place an undue burden on businesses.
- Affordable Housing
 - The Chamber urges funding support of a statewide housing trust fund and supports reasonable public policy measures which would encourage and incentivize the development of affordable workforce housing in the Greater Richmond Region and throughout the Commonwealth.
- **Regulation & System Reform**
 - Government Infrastructure (2-Term Governor, Redistricting)
 - The Chamber supports the passage of a constitutional amendment that would permit two consecutive gubernatorial terms.
 - The Chamber supports a non-partisan redistricting process in the Commonwealth.
 - The Chamber supports efforts that facilitate greater public/private partnerships in government contracting for capital expenses including, but not limited to, bridges, buildings, roads and schools.
 - Taxation
 - The Chamber supports efforts to ensure that Virginia maintains a favorable business climate and policies that encourage business opportunities and investment.
 - The Chamber supports the extension of the moratorium on taxation of e-commerce.
- **Transportation & Infrastructure**
 - Energy & Public Utilities
 - The Chamber supports the development of sustainable alternative energy sources.
 - The Chamber opposes legislation raising fuel economy standards and support efforts to promote awareness of the costs of increasing fuel economy standards.
 - Mass Transit & Public Transportation
 - The Chamber supports public policy measures and funding to expand mass transit within our region and the Commonwealth of Virginia consistent with the recommendations of GRTC's Operational Study and the recommendations of the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission's regional mass transit study.
 - The Chamber encourages adequate funding for bridge maintenance and repair.
 - The Chamber supports funding to create higher speed rail from Richmond to DC, Richmond to Hampton Roads and into North Carolina.
 - The Chamber supports the creation of a regional transportation authority for the Greater Richmond region.
 - Technology
 - The Chamber supports universal access to broadband communication through the use of wireless technology.
 - Environment
 - The Chamber supports the creation of a comprehensive water plan and measures that seek fair, comprehensive, and economically and scientifically-sound methods to improve the water quality of the James River and the Chesapeake Bay.

LOCAL

- **Economic Development & Business Growth**
 - Crime & Public Safety
 - The Chamber supports the City's successful efforts to enforce "community sector policing" to reduce criminal activity and increase the quality of life for all residents and employees.

- The Chamber supports and encourages sustainable development in the construction and development of new public projects; including but not limited to, Hanover County's utilization of any of the recognized "green building" rating systems in the development of their new school buildings.
- Mass Transit & Public Transportation
 - The Chamber supports continued funding for the local and regional priority transportation projects as identified by the RRPDC/MPO.
 - The Chamber supports the implementation of the recommendations of GRTC's Operational Study and the recommendations of the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission's regional mass transit study
 - The Chamber supports adequate funding for mass transit.
- Regional Transportation Authority
 - The Chamber urges localities to support and participate in the creation of a regional transportation authority for the Greater Richmond region.
- Waterways
 - The Chamber supports the creation of a comprehensive water plan; including but not limited to a new reservoir in Amelia County and reasonable measures to improve the water quality of the James River and the Chesapeake Bay.