



2021 Public Policy Agenda

The Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce is a dynamic business organization with over 2,200 members. Our chamber represents every industry sector and businesses of all sizes, from large corporations to micro businesses and entrepreneurs. We are committed to promoting a positive business climate in the State of Connecticut and Middlesex County.

On behalf of our members, we urge the General Assembly to focus their efforts in these particularly challenging times on providing meaningful support to the businesses in the state, partnering on measures to assist in recovery, and avoid imposing unnecessary tax or regulatory burdens on businesses and residents of Connecticut.

Budget and Recovery

Provide support to businesses, especially those most impacted by the pandemic, by leveraging all levels of government to provide financial assistance, training and programs to help them remain viable in these challenging times.

Support a balanced and sustainable state budget that does not raise taxes, impact ratepayer funds, or shift burdens to municipalities.

Work with Connecticut's Congressional Delegation to steer vital federal resources for infrastructure and recovery to our state.

Tourism

Support policies that encourage and promote tourism which has been severely impacted by the pandemic. This includes maintaining current levels of funding for regional tourism districts. Tourism is a critical industry sector in Middlesex County and throughout Connecticut.

Infrastructure and Services

Work to meet the state's critical transportation infrastructure needs that are essential for the economic vitality of the state. Provide for the establishment and maintenance of dedicated revenue streams that will be directed to the Special Transportation Fund to meet those needs.

Prepare for the anticipated wave of state retirements over the next two years and ensure the effective administration of vital state services. Expand partnerships with private, non-profit providers to deliver high quality services to residents in a more cost-effective manner.

Workforce Development

Support education programs and business partnerships to ensure a reliable workforce talent pipeline that will meet the needs of manufacturing and other key sectors of Connecticut's economy.

Economic Development

Support the transformation of old industrial and commercial sites throughout the state by implementing streamlined remediation standards and permitting.

Business Development

Restore the R&D tax credit to incentivize entrepreneurs, foster startup businesses, and promote private sector investment.

Expand the state's manufacturing apprenticeship tax credit program to include small manufacturers and repeal the state sales tax on employer training programs.

Employer Relief

Actively engage the business community to assess the impact of paid family leave and the increase in the minimum wage. Explore additional creative options that could relieve the significant pressures on employers.

Require that regulatory programs are effectively and efficiently administered to reduce unnecessary costs, burdens or delays for Connecticut's businesses.

Support the health of businesses in the face of the pandemic by providing liability protections where appropriate.

Health Care

Protect the health insurance industry in the state by maintaining a high quality, market based, employer sponsored apparatus. Encourage employers to focus on cost containment, wellness programs and the use of technology.

Energy and Technology

Ensure adequate generation and transmission, support the continued development of energy efficiency programs, and employ an innovative approach to meeting our renewable goals. Consider not only what is best for ratepayers, but also what is best for our public utilities, and what is best for Connecticut's energy future.

For more information, please visit www.middlesexchamber.com.