

## 2021 Pro-Business Agenda

### GUIDING STATEMENT

The Lancaster Chamber is committed to fostering a positive business climate for all Lancaster County's businesses. We will advocate on behalf of our members at the local, state, and federal levels on the issues that have the greatest impact on the business community, with an immediate focus on recovering from the current pandemic crisis.

### WE ADVOCATE FOR YOU BY:

- Working with elected officials, staff and stakeholders to advance pro-business policies;
  - Sharing the impacts of policy or legislative proposals on businesses with elected officials;
  - Testifying at public meetings and hearings;
  - Monitoring, reviewing and taking positions on proposed legislation and regulations with member input and guidance from the Advocacy Committee and Board of Trustees;
  - Representing the business voice on committees and task forces; and,
  - Supporting business interests in the media.
- **NAVIGATE, RECOVER AND REBUILD DUE TO COVID-19**
    - The following represents the Chamber's commitment to economic recovery, resiliency and equity in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### BUSINESS & WORKFORCE

- Advocate for the safe reopening of the economy and promote policy innovation and flexibility that allows businesses to operate safely.
- Disseminate important information related to COVID-19 recovery to ensure all businesses are aware of available relief funding and critical updates.
- Advocate for and administer COVID-19 related relief funding programs, as appropriate.
- Leverage the trusted voice of the business community for protocols and vaccine education and distribution.
- Address gaps critical to recovery, inclusive of continuing to push for the passage of liability protection and challenges in access and availability of testing.
- Oppose costly regulatory and labor mandates as businesses seek to reopen/rebuild.
- Monitor work from home implications on workforce supply and commercial space needs.
- Advocate for the modernization of the unemployment compensation system to address deficiencies made clear as a result of the COVID crisis.

#### COMMUNITY

- Promote health and safety needs of K-12 schools to ensure operation of in-person instruction.
- Support continued collaboration among higher-education institutions to address campus and classroom safety and the local economic implications.
- Advocate for greater access to local health data.

- **WORKFORCE**
  - Strengthen the Workforce and Restore Momentum for Business and Employment Growth
    - Promote workplace diversity, equity, and inclusion policies and support equal access to workforce opportunities.
    - Remove barriers to employment for qualified workers, including immigrants or re-entrants, without adding mandates to employers in order to support the County's workforce needs.
  - Align Systems to Workforce Demands
    - Support efforts to increase effective workforce training and service programs, which are critical for employers to find people with the right skills for the jobs available and for job seekers to find the right job to match their skills and abilities in the face of sector specific job losses.
    - Support legislative measures that appropriate more long-term, sustainable K-12 funding through Pennsylvania's fair funding formula to ensure equitable access to high-quality education.
    - Strengthen partnerships between higher education and the employer community in order to meet workforce training needs and retain students in our community.
    - Evaluate proposals to increase resources for early child-care which would strengthen their ability to remain open over the long-term, ensuring families have reliable, safe and affordable childcare as they return to work.
  
- **TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY PLANNING**
  - Connect Employers and Employees
    - Prioritize and mobilize the community to advocate for the County's top priority infrastructure needs and projects, including Route 222, Walnut Street Extension, and Congestion Improvements on Route 30 East and Route 23.
    - Collaborate with community partners on initiatives to sustain, create and promote favorable regulatory conditions for affordable housing and to ensure safe, quality housing options near job centers.
  - Advocate for Community Needs
    - Advocate for a federal infrastructure improvement bill with new and sustainable funding to build and maintain modern, multi-modal infrastructure for the region to effectively compete in the global marketplace.
    - Advocate to increase high-speed broadband access for all residents, as connectivity is critical for businesses, remote workers and educators.
  
- **REGULATIONS & TAXES**
  - Improve Competitiveness by Creating a Business-Friendly Tax & Regulatory Environment
    - Support legislative measures that would improve our business climate and strengthen our ability to create, attract, retain and expand jobs.
    - Advocate for a regulatory environment that is balanced and not burdensome for business.
    - Inform businesses on employment law changes and impacts to their business.
  - Encourage Responsible Stewardship of State & Local Finances
    - Support structurally sound, on-time budgets that do not place undue tax burdens on the business community or reduce the effectiveness of essential state programs.
    - Support a two-year budget cycle and zero-based budgeting for the state budget.
    - Support measures to give cities and municipalities tools that will ensure fiscal sustainability without forcing costs on overburdened residents or sacrificing public services and safety.

Approved by the Advocacy Committee on 12.7.2020.  
 Approved by the Board of Trustees on 12.8.2020.