



## Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce 2016 Legislative and Economic Development Agenda for Maryland

The Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce will advocate to elected leaders in the State of Maryland for policies that will create a vibrant economy. In that spirit, the Chamber will evaluate legislation based on the 5 elements of a vibrant economy:

### THE 5 ELEMENTS OF A VIBRANT ECONOMY

1. A competitive business climate
  - ✓ A place to do business that is affordable, predictable, and ripe with incentives for growth
  - ✓ A place where small businesses can start, thrive, and grow
  - ✓ A place where regulatory obstacles do not interfere with private sector job growth
2. A robust private sector environment that works in partnership with the public sector to spur innovation and produce collective problem-solving
3. Strategic process for recruiting new employers to locate in Montgomery County and strengthening existing businesses
4. Enhanced global-trade opportunities
5. A vital comprehensive infrastructure through regional partnerships

### CREATING A VIBRANT AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

GGCC will support both the Executive and Legislative branches of the **State Government** in creating a vibrant economy.

- ✓ **Support** adequate resources for the economic development efforts of the State including:
  - Marketing the State as a place for businesses to locate.
  - Assisting incoming and existing businesses in their efforts as they navigate a complex regulatory and permitting environment.
  - Studying ways to improve the State's business environment relative to other States and eliminating unnecessary burdens that interfere with business growth and expansion.
- ✓ **Support** legislation to lower the costs associated with doing business in Maryland.
- ✓ **Support** legislation to reduce the tax burden on businesses, particularly small and startup businesses.
- ✓ **Support** legislation creating strategic tax credit programs for high-tech, cutting edge, high-wage, and other industries which the State is looking to attract.
- ✓ **Support** legislation that strengthens investment in educational institutions to grow a local talent pool that will position our region to achieve further economic growth.
- ✓ **Oppose** legislation that will constrict private sector growth and development.

### SPECIFIC LEGISLATIVE GOALS FOR 2016:

#### *Education*

- ✓ **Support** workforce development efforts to maintain and enhance the pipeline of highly trained, skilled workers in Montgomery County by supporting education programs and facilities in the County.
- ✓ **Support** funding for Montgomery College.

#### *Health Care*

- ✓ **Support** initiatives that expand access to insurance and care in Maryland.
- ✓ **Support** initiatives that will reduce overall health care spending.

#### *Infrastructure*

- ✓ **Support** a State-County partnership to fund and build the Corridor Cities Transitway.
- ✓ **Support** state funding for the Full Watkins Mill Interchange.
- ✓ **Support** increased capacity on I-270.
- ✓ **Support** efforts to encourage inter-jurisdictional cooperation to solve transit needs.
- ✓ **Support** MARC Commuter Service, as well as adequate parking facilities for MARC.
- ✓ **Support** initiatives aimed at significantly accelerating adoption of internet broadband access by customers, businesses, schools, and government enterprises.

The Chamber looks forward to being a part of a partnership between the private and public sector in implementing these suggested changes and finding common ground to create a vibrant and sustainable economy in Maryland.