



Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce, Inc. 2021 Legislative Agenda

The Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce will advocate 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

CREATING A VIBRANT AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

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

- ✓ **Support** adequate resources for the economic development efforts in the County and the State including:
 - Creating a strategy to attract new business sectors and direct investment in those businesses.
 - Defining success in Economic Development through agreed upon federal data and metrics.
 - Marketing the State and County 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 County and State's business environment relative to other jurisdictions and eliminating unnecessary burdens that interfere with business growth and expansion.
- ✓ **Support** legislation to lower the costs associated with doing business.
- ✓ **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 and County are looking to attract.
- ✓ **Support** initiatives geared towards attracting the next generation of the workforce to Montgomery County.
- ✓ **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 2021:

Infrastructure

- ✓ **Support** increased capacity on I-270.
- ✓ **Support and expand** MARC Commuter Service, as well as adequate parking facilities for MARC.
- ✓ **Support** a State-County partnership to fund and build the Corridor Cities Transitway.
- ✓ **Support** sustainable WMATA funding.
- ✓ **Support** County-wide Rapid-Transit system assuming that funding is not diverted from existing transportation priorities.
- ✓ **Support** efforts to encourage inter-jurisdictional cooperation to solve transit needs.
- ✓ **Support** initiatives aimed at significantly accelerating adoption of internet broadband access by customers, businesses, schools, and government enterprises.

Land Use

- ✓ **Support** implementation of the **Germantown Master Plan**, the **Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan** and the **Shady Grove Sector Master Plan**.
- ✓ **Advocate** for the needs of the Upcounty in the **THRIVE 2050 General Plan**.

Education

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

Health Care

- ✓ **Support** initiatives that expand access to insurance and care in Maryland, including Association Health Care plans.
- ✓ **Support** initiatives that will reduce overall health care spending.

Covid-19 Recovery

- ✓ **Support** ongoing financial resources for businesses through City, County, State and Federal initiatives.
- ✓ **Support** legislation to reopen businesses in a safe manner.
- ✓ **Support** the replenishing of the unemployment trust fund without raising the rates of premiums for employers. Ensure that the unemployment claims made by an employee during the pandemic are not counted toward an employer's experience rating.
- ✓ **Support** efforts to protect employers and business owners from liability when following State and County best practices for reopening.

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 Montgomery County and Maryland.