



GREATER MEMPHIS CHAMBER

## Policy Agenda

*Adopted by the Government Affairs Council's Executive Committee on February 14, 2014 and  
The Greater Memphis Chamber Board's Executive Committee on February 27, 2014*

The Greater Memphis Chamber is a diverse organization of civic, community, business and professional leaders, whose collective mission is to: 1) Strengthen our area's existing businesses and to serve as a catalyst for new commerce and economic development; 2) Foster partnerships that build a qualified workforce linked to targeted industry, efficient infrastructure and an environment that stimulates growth; and 3) Accelerate our members' growth and success by connecting people, programs and resources.

To serve as the "Voice of Business" we support development of policies and programs consistent with the following principles:

### **Economic Development:**

- Jobs, private capital investment and income are key indicators of economic success.
- We must foster business formation and entrepreneurship to provide ownership opportunity and diversify the economy.
- In a competitive marketplace, incentives are essential to attract jobs and private investment.
- We support diversity and inclusion in business opportunities.
- A favorable business environment includes efficient local government and a business-friendly regulatory system.

### **Workforce Development & Education:**

- Early childhood education is critical for ongoing student achievement.
- A strong public education system is the gateway to productive citizenship and prosperity.
- We should promote public and private research to take advantage of our life science capabilities and university areas of excellence.
- A skilled and healthy workforce is vital to economic growth.
- We require an employer driven workforce development system that equips Memphians for current and future jobs.
- High academic standards comparable to other successful jurisdictions should be maintained.

### **Infrastructure:**

- We seek to leverage Memphis' unparalleled transportation infrastructure: Runway, River, Rail and Roads.
- Utilities, sewer systems and mass transits should be reliable and reasonably priced.

### **Natural Resources:**

- It is essential to be good stewards of our natural resources including: water supply, air quality, green spaces and riverfront.

### **Urban Planning:**

- We are committed to the long range comprehensive planning that provides a framework for guiding development and enhancing neighborhoods.
- Restoring Memphis' reputation as a clean city is a priority.
- We support core city investment and revitalization.
- We promote planning and zoning policies and processes that encourage responsible development, redevelopment and investment.