

2024 **TENNESSEE METRO CHAMBERS** AGENDA



The Chambers of Commerce of the state's four largest metro areas – Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville, and Memphis – collaborate on an annual state legislative agenda, recognizing that the state's economic prosperity is entwined with that of the state's metro areas. Combined the four largest cities are home to nearly 70 percent of the state's residents and produce more than two-thirds of the state's gross domestic product.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Support creative and strategic state and local business incentives and tools to encourage the growth of high-wage jobs and to ensure Tennessee is competitive with other states while emphasizing transparency, accountability, and a return on investment.
2. Increase the availability of capital for businesses of all sizes by leveraging public and private funding sources to foster innovation and promote small businesses.
3. Support efforts to preserve Tennessee's reputation as a welcoming state for all by opposing discriminatory legislation that negatively impacts the economy, jobs, and the ability to attract and retain talent.
4. Support market-driven evidence-based regulations that allow businesses to make decisions regarding their employees, customers, and clientele.
5. Support opportunities for small, minority, and women-owned businesses in to thrive and oppose policy that would limit the ability to seek out these businesses in contracting.

TALENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

6. Support strategies to increase the number of Tennesseans with a post-secondary credential by increasing investment in TCATs and community colleges, as well as expanding access to industry-valued credentials and work-based learning opportunities.

7. Support processes and policies to ensure funds allotted to the state through the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act are administered equitably, efficiently, and creatively.
8. Support justice reform proposals that seek to provide opportunities for previously incarcerated individuals to enter the workforce and be productive citizens.
9. Support initiatives that increase access and affordability of medical care to more citizens – including behavioral health and prevention and treatment of substance abuse and addiction – to provide a healthier workforce.

INFRASTRUCTURE

10. Support increasing investment in transportation infrastructure to sustain and promote economic growth, job creation, quality of life, and public safety, while encouraging regional solutions for transportation through dedicated funding and regional coordination across planning, funding, construction, and operation.
11. Support efforts to expand access to quality, affordable childcare.

