

## ***Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce 2026 Policy Agenda***

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce is a key advocate for businesses in Springfield and Sangamon County, committed to representing the interests of our members. We support public policies that foster entrepreneurship, development, investment, and job creation, while opposing regulations that could hinder the business climate and job growth.

### **Chamber Advocacy Efforts:**

- Collaborating with elected officials, staff, and stakeholders to promote pro-business policies
- Providing testimony at public meetings and hearings
- Monitoring and reviewing proposed legislation and regulations, and taking appropriate stances when necessary
- Advocating for business interests in the media

### **Local Policy Agenda**

**Development Policy** We advocate for a consistent, streamlined, transparent, and predictable development process in Springfield and Sangamon County.

**Infrastructure** Maintaining our infrastructure and transportation systems is vital for the quality of life and economic growth in our community. The Chamber supports a comprehensive transportation and infrastructure plan, including the continued implementation of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project.

**Economic & Local Business Incentives** To enhance business retention, expansion, and attraction, Springfield and Sangamon County must adopt a proactive, coordinated public-private approach to economic development.

**Springfield Secondary Water Supply** Securing a secondary water source is essential for Springfield. Studies have identified Lake II as the most cost-effective, high-yield option. The Chamber supports Lake II as the designated secondary water source for Springfield and surrounding communities.

### **State Policy Agenda**

**State Business Climate** We advocate for a competitive tax climate that encourages entrepreneurship, investment, and job creation.

**State Regulations** The Chamber opposes excessive regulations and government overreach that complicate business operations and increase costs, particularly concerning employment law and workers' compensation.

**State Budget, Finances, and Pension Reform** Addressing Illinois's fiscal crisis is critical. The state must cap spending for several years and develop a long-term strategy to tackle the structural budget deficit, including unfunded pension liabilities. Without significant reforms, pension costs threaten core government services and could lead to tax increases.

**Ethics Reform** To restore public trust, the Chamber supports meaningful ethics reform aimed at combating corruption and rebuilding confidence in state government.

**Redistricting Reform** The process of drawing electoral districts is crucial for fair elections. The Chamber supports efforts to amend the Illinois Constitution to transfer this responsibility to an independent, nonpartisan panel.

**Mid-Illinois Medical District** The Mid-Illinois Medical District, established in 2003, promotes healthcare development and biomedical research. The Chamber advocates for state funding to support the MIMD's growth.

**Transportation** The state must invest adequately in our transportation network, leveraging resources from the Rebuild Illinois program and federal funding opportunities.

**Energy** The Chamber supports an energy policy that prioritizes carbon capture technologies alongside renewable energy solutions to drive economic growth and enhance sustainability.

## **Federal Policy Agenda**

**Transportation** We endorse the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which provides long-term funding for surface transportation and infrastructure needs through 2026.

**Federal Regulations** The Chamber opposes burdensome federal regulations that complicate business operations, particularly regarding employment law and insurance costs.

**Tax Reform** The current federal tax code is overly complex and burdensome. We advocate for simplification and reform to ensure fair treatment for all businesses while linking reforms to a plan for deficit reduction and long-term spending control.

**Healthcare** Supporting market-based solutions is essential to provide affordable, efficient, and high-quality healthcare options for employers and residents.

**Immigration Reform** We advocate for comprehensive immigration reform that secures borders while addressing workforce needs and providing pathways to legal status. The Chamber aligns with the U.S. Chamber's Project Liberty in tackling the immigration crisis.