



ROCHESTER AREA CHAMBER 2020

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



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Reduce the Cost of Doing Business in Rochester / Olmsted County

- Commercial Property Tax Burden
- Parking Supply, Access & Cost
- Government License & Permit Fees



Promote Small Business Growth

- Tax Relief: Simplification, Conformity
- Healthcare
- Labor / Management Mandates
- Shop Local First
- Small Business Support Center



Promote Energy Cost Savings and Sustainability

- Identify and inform businesses of cost saving opportunities



Strengthen Workforce Supply & Development

- Increase supply / reduce the cost of child care
- Increase supply of workforce housing
- Ensure safe, reliable, and efficient transportation system
- Recruitment and Retention
- Future Workforce Pipeline



Reduce the Impact of Public Works Construction Projects on Small Business

- Align 2020 Projects with Impacted Businesses
- Mitigate against disruption with Education and Support





REDUCE THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS

COMMERCIAL TAXES

- Advance innovative solutions to reduce the commercial property tax burden

PARKING SUPPLY, ACCESS, & COST

- Reform the parking slot allocation system to meet the needs of small business employees, customers, and Rochester visitors
- Advocate for city government to provide more parking for downtown small business
- Ensure consistency and fairness in slot allocation
- Align timing on parking meters to fit the needs of small business customers

GOVERNMENT LICENSE & PERMIT FEES

- Oppose significant increases in government license and permit fees on small business
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STRENGTHEN WORKFORCE SUPPLY & DEVELOPMENT

INCREASE SUPPLY OF WORKERS

- Increase the supply and reduce the cost of child care
- Increase the supply of workforce housing
- Ensure the development of a safe, reliable, and efficient transportation system
- Maximize the utilization of Hubsorce for employers and job seekers

FUTURE WORKFORCE PIPELINE

- Leverage all tools - FutureForward & Hubsorce - to connect employers with students for job shadow opportunities and internships



PROMOTE SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH

- Tax Relief: Simplification & Conformity
 - Modify Minnesota's income tax system to reduce the tax rates that impact pass through entities
 - Conform Minnesota law to Federal section 179 standards
 - Simplify the tax credit available to those who are engaged in research and development
 - Conform Minnesota with the federal estate tax threshold of \$11.4 million
- Enhance small business ability to provide healthcare coverage
- Oppose mandates that increase cost and reduce flexibility in workplace management

SHOP LOCAL FIRST

- Support operational excellence of Rochester area businesses to enhance competitiveness and sustainability

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT CENTER

- Provide web-based resources for small business
 - Collaborate with relevant partners to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem in our community
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REDUCE IMPACT OF MAJOR PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ON SMALL BUSINESS

- Identify, triage, and align relevant public works construction projects with impacted businesses
 - Educate businesses of the variety of ways they can promote their business and stabilize operations during times of disruption
 - Develop a construction mitigation program for small business
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PROMOTE ENERGY COST SAVINGS & SUSTAINABILITY

- Identify and inform businesses of cost saving opportunities
- Collaborate with local utility companies to increase small business engagement and energy saving opportunities
- Promote reliable, safe, and cost-effective power at competitive prices