



ADVOCACY COUNCIL CHARTER

Statement of Purpose

The Board of Directors has established the Advocacy Council to study, analyze and recommend support or opposition of government issues, regulatory statutes, non-partisan ballot measures and legislation – local, state and national – affecting businesses and consumers.

The Board of Directors will act on the recommendations and direct staff and Council members to advocate on behalf of the Chamber.

Council Goals

The Advocacy Council has adopted the following broad goals:

- Effectively advocate on behalf of Chamber members by communicating the views of the business community to local, state and federal elected officials;
- Enhance the overall quality of life and the standard of living in Solano County by supporting initiatives and reforms that propel economic vitality;
- Create a Legislative Agenda for adoption by the Board of Directors;
- Build partnerships that create economic opportunities for businesses and residents.

Advocacy Process & Guidelines

The Council has an independent role from the Business Education Committee and the Political Action Committee (PAC) of the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce. Therefore:

- Acting as the clearinghouse for all government affairs, the Advocacy Council will field all requests made to the Chamber of Commerce by those seeking an endorsement of their project, program or ballot measure.
- The Council will meet quarterly with elected officials and top government leaders to discuss issues, challenges and potential partnerships.
- The Council will research of all affairs before making a recommendation, including interviews, public forums and independent research.
- The Council will make recommendations to the Board of Directors in a timely manner.
- The Council can create special issue subcommittees, as needed, whose task it will be to bring recommendations for positions to it.
- The Council will make recommendations to the Board of Directors on ballot issues of local interest, including those placed on the ballot by local, state and national proponents.

- The Council will not endorse political candidates, leaving that responsibility to the Political Action Council of the Chamber.
- The Chairman of the Board of the Chamber, the chair (or co-chairs) of the Council and the President and CEO of the Chamber are the only authorized individuals who may speak on behalf of the Council and the Board of Directors on matters of government affairs.
- To facilitate open discussion among Council members, the Council may choose to restrict meetings to Council members only and invited guests.

Council Membership

Members of the Advocacy Council will be chosen by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors at the beginning of each year.

The maximum number of members of the Council shall be 12, plus no more than three ex-officio members.

Council membership shall include:

- The chair or co-chairs, who shall be members of the Board of Directors of the Chamber, or a representative of a business member in good standing;
- At least two other members of the Board of Directors;
- Up to 9 members-at-large who are in good standing of the Chamber; and
- No more than three ex-officio members including a representative of the Political Action Committee, the Chairman of the Board of the Chamber, the chair-elect of the Board of Directors and one non-Chamber member whose expertise is deemed beneficial to the Council.

The term of Council members shall be two years with re-appointment up to a four-year tenure; Members are expected to attend no less than two-thirds of all meetings of the Council in any given year.

The general membership will be notified that the Chamber is accepting applications in January of each year. Only Chamber members may apply.

Members are expected to actively participate in meetings and public forums and Council work that are conducted each year. Participation will be considered for those seeking re-appointment to the Council.

Task Forces and Subcommittees

Subcommittees and Task Forces can be created as needed to assist in the analysis of major issues or ballot measures. Membership will be open to all Chamber members on a first-come, first-served basis.

The chairperson of a Task Force or Subcommittee will be chosen by the Chair (or co-chairs) of the Advocacy Council.