

St. Charles Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee
Advocacy Policy and Procedures

Legislative Committee Role:

Public policy affects our members and their businesses. Whether it is local, state or federal policy, the Chamber has a vested interest in educating our membership, and when necessary advocating a pro-business position. Our legislators need to and should hear our voice. Our purpose in this mission is not to become political. Pro-business policy statements are not partisan. We seek to educate and advocate on behalf of a diverse business community. Our intent is to be clear, principled, and proactive in shaping federal, state and local policy that impacts our economic vitality.

The Legislative Committee will review legislation, voter initiatives and other governmental actions that may impact the St. Charles business community. On a case-by-case basis, the committee may survey membership to seek input on legislative policy, priorities and positions. The committee will review the available facts and information and further confirm that the necessary information required to make a recommendation (support, oppose, remain neutral) on the position is available. The committee must then submit a written position statement including both sides of the issue and analysis of local special interest groups to the Chamber Board for review and final action. If approved by the Board, the committee will work to share the position statement with membership as well as the appropriate legislators and government officials.

Legislative Platform:

Civil Justice:

The St. Charles Chamber of Commerce encourages efforts to reform the civil justice system to promote business growth, job creation and economic development while providing reasonable protections for the citizens of Illinois to guard against abuse.

Economic Development:

The St. Charles Chamber of Commerce opposes government action which negatively impacts business growth and prosperity.

Education:

The St. Charles Chamber of Commerce encourages the preservation and improvement of the existing quality of local education as vital to attracting residents and businesses to St. Charles and opposes any state or federal intervention in our local school system which threatens the quality of education our community currently enjoys.

Environment:

The St. Charles Chamber of Commerce believes that a clean, healthy and attractive environment is essential to the continued economic development of St. Charles. Central to this concept is the protection and prosperity of the Fox River. The Chamber encourages all businesses and citizens to be good stewards of our abundant and picturesque natural resources and would promote any legislation designed to enhance that goal.

Health Care:

The St. Charles Chamber of Commerce encourages efforts to expand health care availability without government intervention and opposes government interference in health care that increases costs to businesses and consumers. Health care should be simplified and transparent.

Minimum Wage:

The St. Charles Chamber of Commerce opposes any alteration of the current minimum wage which would negatively impact the current economic environment and stifle future growth.

Taxes:

The St. Charles Chamber of Commerce opposes any increases to current taxes and encourages the reduction and simplification of existing taxes. Government should strive to operate with fiscal responsibility and, above all, balanced annual budgets.

Technology:

The St. Charles Chamber of Commerce encourages public and private efforts to provide incentives designed to prioritize investment in research, development and technology.

Transportation:

The St. Charles Chamber of Commerce believes that a strong transportation infrastructure is essential to economic growth in St. Charles and the Fox River Valley. Infrastructure improvements should be focused on maintaining existing resources and then the creation of a world class system of roadways, bridges and rail systems that are efficient and sustainable. Infrastructure funding should be focused on the maximization of existing tax funds and elimination of waste.