

2026 ADVOCACY AGENDA: PRO-GROWTH, PRO-RETENTION



POLICY PLATFORM

AGRICULTURE:

We support policies that promote modern, profitable farming practices and strengthen the agriculture businesses that connect producers to markets.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

We support the responsible, innovative use of standardized tax incentives to retain, expand and attract business and special-use cases in certain circumstances where the regional benefit is of a highly significant nature resulting in economic prosperity.

EDUCATION:

We support investment in quality education, an innovative workforce talent pipeline that leads to a more skilled workforce, and consistent collaboration between the business community and education providers to not only upskill our current workforce to meet the needs of business, but also retain local students of all ages.

ENERGY:

We support policy that promotes reliable, affordable, and diverse energy sources, ensuring businesses can operate competitively while fostering economic growth.

HEALTHCARE:

We support local providers recognizing that quality health care services are a key element in attracting and retaining businesses and organizations.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION:

We support increased collaboration and sharing of resources between local units of government to establish strategic community vision as well as increase the cost effectiveness and efficiency of service to taxpayers and businesses.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE:

We support policies that expand international trade opportunities, reduce barriers for exporters, and strengthen access to global markets for local businesses.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT:

We support legislation that emphasizes that the free market coupled with a fair and level playing field is the most efficient and profitable way to conduct business.

REGULATION:

We support a competitive and fair regulatory climate that promotes and fosters economic growth.

TAXES AND FEES:

We support a competitive and fair tax climate that promotes and fosters economic growth paired with an efficient use of tax dollars by government entities.

TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND ENERGY:

We support quality, free market-driven transportation and infrastructure solutions vital to the region's economic growth.

WORKFORCE:

We support efforts to attract and retain a dynamic workforce and promote strategic population growth, especially creating an affordable cost of living environment and an increase in affordable housing supply and childcare options.

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POLICY PRIORITIES

BUSINESS GROWTH & RETENTION:

Unleashing prosperity with new and retained business that drives our regional economy to new heights.

Top Platform Connections: Taxes and Fees, Regulation, Economic Development.

1. We support a competitive tax and regulatory environment which includes efforts to diversify government revenue streams and intergovernmental cooperative savings to mitigate the need for higher taxes.
2. We support regionally consistent and streamlined processes that fast-track economic development.
3. We support policy that leads to reduced operating costs.

WORKFORCE GROWTH & RETENTION:

Removing barriers that prevent workforce entry and population growth.

Top Platform Connections: Workforce, Economic Development, Education.

1. We support efforts to make us an affordable place to live for the employees who currently work here.
2. We support efforts to increase the local workforce housing and affordable childcare supply.
3. We support efforts to train the local workforce to match employer needs including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and College Board Preparing Tomorrow's Workforce initiative.

COMMUNITY GROWTH & QUALITY:

Building community that makes us a regional quality of life and place destination for residents, talent and visitors.

Top Platform Connections: Transportation and Infrastructure, Workforce, Economic Development, Intergovernmental Cooperation.

1. We support transformational projects including but not limited to the Downtown Bloomington Streetscape Project, mixed-use redevelopment of Eastland Mall, Uptown North development, and community gateway improvements along Route 150 off I-55, Along Veterans Parkway off I-55, Along Business 51 off I-55 and I-74, Along Route 150 Coming from Downs, Along Route 9 Coming from the Central Illinois Regional Airport.
2. We support standard and fair tax incentives or otherwise appropriate public investments for economically viable projects that enhance the overall quality of life for McLean County residents that may not otherwise occur without a public-private partnership.
3. We support exploring the economic viability of transformational projects our most recent RAMP event participants identified as aspirational for the next decade including a multi-sports complex with an outdoor entertainment venue component, an aesthetically vibrant Midtown Corridor from Uptown to Downtown, and a designated and enhanced entertainment district.