

2016-2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The advocacy role of the Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce centers around three key components: educating its members, building relationships, and creating capital for the regional business community. To accomplish a successful program, the Aurora Chamber develops a Public Policy Agenda that focuses on its goals.

The Aurora Regional Chamber represents business from the greater Aurora area. We act as the voice for business and we are committed to ensuring a favorable economic, legal, and regulatory climate for the business community. Our mission is to publicly support policies that will protect our member business needs and facilitate economic growth in our region. We hope that you will take the time to become engaged in these issues and, in turn, communicate with your elected representatives.

At all levels of government, well-intentioned initiatives often have unintended consequences. Without input from the business community, these initiatives could adversely impact the ability of businesses to stay healthy, generate jobs, and create a higher standard of living. However, when business leaders communicate with their elected officials, better public policies result. A Chamber-generated legislative scorecard tracking local elected officials and Chamber-identified legislation may be found online at AuroraChamber.com.

THE CHAMBER'S POSITIONS

The Aurora Regional Chamber advocates on behalf of its members and the regions businesses and their employees. Annually, the Board of Directors approves the Legislative Agenda as presented here. Throughout the year, based on surveys, polls, and work of the Council on Legislative Affairs, the Board may take positions on legislation, policies, referenda, and issues that may not be contained within this agenda. Examples of these issue-based resolutions may be found online at AuroraChamber.com.

The Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for business and believes in free enterprise. The Chamber reserves the right to involve itself in rule-making decisions. It is a priority to support our business community by assisting in the cutting of red tape and removing excessive restrictions. The Chamber will be proactive on issues of concern to its business membership, including:

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

The Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce strongly supports increased collaboration and sharing of resources between local units of government to improve the cost effectiveness and the efficiency of service delivery to taxpayers and business.

ETHICS

The State of Illinois continues to need more ethics reform to ensure all public officials are held to the highest standards and all elections are fair and open.

- The Chamber supports an amendment to the Illinois Constitution that creates an independent commission to draw legislative district boundaries.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Education is integral to the community and fosters a desirable quality of life that attracts and supports a thriving business environment. Adequate funding for our schools is imperative. Public education should provide a well-educated workforce that will enable attraction of new employers and the retention and expansion of existing businesses. Because the business community is a stakeholder in the quality of public education, we encourage business involvement in all aspects of public education.

- The Chamber supports the development of an adequate and predictable funding formula that enables the education system to deliver an affordable and quality education to all students.

- The Chamber encourages improving the region's education and quality of workforce by supporting education reform at the local, State, and Federal levels that improve school outcomes.
- The Chamber supports building the capacity for enhancement of parent/guardian engagement, community involvement, and cultural diversity in students' learning and development.
- The Chamber encourages strengthening the articulation and accessibility between our education systems and workforce.
- The Chamber promotes access to high quality, life-long career development for the region's present and future jobs.
- The Chamber supports efforts to create quality programs and services that will increase entrepreneurship.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce supports economic development initiatives that will make our region's businesses stronger, healthier, and more prosperous. The Chamber supports business by encouraging and playing a key role in economic development. The Chamber will support economic development policies that are aimed at encouraging business investment and improving business productivity.

- The Chamber promotes international business investment and trade opportunities.
- The Chamber encourages balanced environmental regulations with the social and economic realities.
- The Chamber encourages enhancing our region's infrastructure to increase efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and self-sufficiency.
- The Chamber supports creating an environment that fosters an entrepreneurial focus for small and emerging businesses.
- The Chamber encourages legislators to foster a competitive climate between Illinois and neighboring states.

- The Chamber encourages additional sources of assistance from the State to increase job creation, business expansion, and increased utilization of goods and services.
- The Chamber supports assisting with the growth and development of leading-edge initiatives.
- The Chamber supports continued collaboration between regional workforce development service areas to better serve business throughout the region.
- The Chamber supports strong regional economic development and encourages public bodies to financially support such regional efforts.

BUDGET & TAXES

The Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce supports a competitive and fair tax climate that promotes and fosters economic growth through private sector expansion.

- The Chamber encourages a tax climate that promotes the region as fair and competitive for business and protects businesses from targeted taxes on one sector of business, regardless of size or industry.
- The Chamber encourages structural reform of the tax system to reduce the reliance on property taxes to fund education and governmental entities.
- The Chamber believes that in order to enhance the overall business environment in Illinois the State needs to make timely payments of financial obligations to all vendors.
- The Chamber believes that the State each year must have a truly balanced budget that relies on realistic revenue projections, pays all bills in a timely manner, and uses accounting standards and practices that are transparent and straightforward.
- The Chamber supports an equitable resolution of State pension and retirement issues that creates a long-term, financially sustainable solution.
- The Chamber supports reform to reduce the deficit and develop a realistic plan to balance the State budget.

- The Chamber supports fair pension reform to develop new, more affordable retiree health care plans for all State workers that are comparable to the benefits available to taxpayers in the private sector.
- The Chamber discourages the diversion of transportation user fees and taxes for non-transportation programs.
- The Chamber encourages coordinating efforts among the business community, local governments, and our Congressional delegation to maximize Federal funding for the region.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

The Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce believes transportation and infrastructure are vital to the region's economic growth. As such, we support improvements to our region's transportation infrastructure, including the Interstate and State highways, railroads, and municipal airport.

- The Chamber supports an adequate and dedicated funding source for infrastructure construction and maintenance that is fair and equitable throughout the State.
- The Chamber supports an adequate and dedicated funding source for local infrastructure maintenance and construction.
- The Chamber supports City and County policies that encourage the development of the technological infrastructure needed for a modern community.

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW

The Aurora Regional Chamber recognizes the current and future workforce challenges facing our region's employers. The Chamber supports legislation that enables businesses to hire and maintain a skilled workforce.

- The Chamber supports worker's compensation reform to make costs in line with neighboring states.
- The Chamber provides a collective voice on behalf of member businesses regarding employment law legislation on the municipal, State, and Federal level.

- The Chamber believes in the ability of market forces to set wages and benefit levels. We encourage workers to further job skill levels to increase value in the workplace and increase their salary levels. We oppose mandated increases to the minimum-wage level or the creation of livable-wage legislation.

HEALTHCARE & INSURANCE REFORM

The Aurora Regional Chamber recognizes that most healthcare coverage is provided by employers. To make it easier for employers and their employees to afford the healthcare coverage they need and the effective quality they deserve, the Chamber supports action to accomplish these goals.

- The Chamber encourages change in the employee health plans and Medicare reimbursement structures that give greater personal incentives to help manage healthcare costs by introducing market forces as a factor to help control expenses.
- The Chamber opposes coverage mandates and attempts to dictate policy provisions within an employer's healthcare plan.

HOSPITALITY & ENTERTAINMENT

The Chamber appreciates the crucial role travel and tourism plays in our community, our State, and our country's economy. We support efforts to revitalize growth in all sectors of the industry and oppose efforts to cripple segments of the business community through unfair means.

- The Chamber opposes any and all gaming expansion that would negatively impact the local facility and community.
- The Chamber encourages initiatives that will help the Aurora region secure a larger share of the multi-million dollar regional tourism industry.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ILLINOIS STATE OFFICIALS

Gov. Bruce Rauner (R)

207 State House | Springfield 62706
(217) 782-0244

Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti (R)

214 State House | Springfield 62706
(217) 558-3085

Attorney General Lisa Madigan (D)

500 S. Second Street | Springfield 62706
(217) 782-1090

Secretary of State Jesse White (D)

213 State Capitol | Springfield 62756
(217) 785-3000

Comptroller Leslie Geissler Munger (R)

325 W. Adams | Springfield 62704
(217) 782-6000

Treasurer Michael Frerichs (D)

219 Statehouse | Springfield 62706
(217) 782-2211

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Sen. Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant (D-49)

15300 Route 59 # 202 | Plainfield 60544
(815) 254-4211

Sen. Michael Connelly (R-21)

1725 S. Naperville # 200 | Wheaton 60189
(630) 682-8101

Sen. Linda Holmes (D-42)

76 S. LaSalle St. # 202 | Aurora 60505
(630) 801-8985

Sen. Karen McConnaughay (R-33)

81 S. McLean Blvd. | South Elgin 60177
(847) 214-8245

Sen. Jim Oberweis (R-25)

959 Oak Street | North Aurora 60542
(630) 800-1992

Sen. Sue Rezin (R-38)

103 Fifth Street | Peru 601354
(815) 220-8720

Sen. Dave Syverson (R-35)

200 S. Wyman # 302 | Rockford 61101
(815) 987-7555

Rep. Steven Andersson (R-35)

127 S. First St. # 204 | Geneva 60134

Rep. Mark Batinick (R-97)

24047 Lockport St. | Plainfield 60544
(815) 254-0000

Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia (D-83)

8 E. Galena Blvd. # 240 | Aurora 60506
(630) 264-6855

Rep. Mike Fortner (R-49)

135 Fremont St. | West Chicago 60185
(630) 293-9344

Rep. Stephanie Kifowit (D-84)

1677 Montgomery # 116 | Aurora 60504
(630) 585-1308

Rep. Robert W. Pritchard (R-70)

2600 DeKalb Ave. # C | Sycamore 60178
(815) 748-3494

Rep. Grant Wehrli (R-41)

55 South Main | Naperville 60540
(630) 696-4160

Rep. David Welter (R-75)

1421 N. Division St. | Morris 60450
(815) 416-1475

Rep. Keith Wheeler (R-50)

959 Oak Street | North Aurora 60542
(630) 345-3464

CITY OF AURORA

Mayor Thomas J. Weisner

44 E. Downer Place | Aurora 60507
(630) 256-3010

Aldermen's Office

60 E. Downer Place | Aurora 60507
(630) 256-3020

VILLAGE OF NORTH AURORA

Village President Dale Berman

25 E. State Street | North Aurora 60542
(630) 897-8228

VILLAGE OF MONTGOMERY

Village President Matthew T. Brolley

200 N. River Street | Montgomery 60538
(630) 896-8080

VILLAGE OF SUGAR GROVE

Village President P. Sean Michels

10 Municipal Drive | Sugar Grove 60554
(630) 466-4507

VILLAGE OF OSWEGO

Village President Gail Johnson

100 Parkers Mill | Oswego 60543
(630) 554-1555

AURORA TOWNSHIP

Supervisor Bill Catching

80 N. Broadway | Aurora 60505
(630) 897-8777

NAPERVILLE TOWNSHIP

Supervisor Rachel Ossyra

139 Water St. | Naperville 60540
(630) 355-2786

CONNECT. GROW. INFLUENCE.



43 W. Galena Blvd.
Aurora, IL 60506
(630) 256-3180

The Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce is a private, not-for-profit, membership-driven organization comprised of more than 700 members representing nearly 40,000 employees. Our mission is to be the catalyst for business success by providing leadership that facilitates the creation of a prosperous regional economy and effective advocacy for our members. The Chamber has become one of the largest, oldest, and most influential organizations in our area by working for more than a century to make the Aurora and North Aurora region a better place to live and work for all.

Contact President Joseph Henning, IOM, ACE, CAE, at (630) 256-3180 for information.