



2017

Legislative Platform

LZ Area Chamber Mission

The Mission of the Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce is to enhance the economic vitality of its members and communities.

Vision Statement

The Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce is recognized as a positive influence on the economic development of, and as a valuable resource to businesses and residents in the six communities and surrounding areas it serves.

The Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce is the primary business support organization serving businesses in Ela Township and the Southwest region of Lake County. Our membership consists of a majority of the businesses and service organizations in the area. Businesses consider us the first source of contact for:

- Information about available local services, ordinances, and current legislation.
- Support for or against current and proposed issues affecting businesses.
- Information about current and upcoming community events and activities.

Businesses join and participate in the Chamber because of the:

- Positive image and reputation Chamber membership provides.
- Beneficial relationships they form with other local business members.
- Opportunities for them to volunteer and become involved in the community.
- Support and resources the Chamber provides.

The general public knows that the Chamber is the first point of contact for:

- Information on a specific business or recommendations on which business to contact for a particular service or product.
- Information on available services in the area.
- General information on area events, activities, and resources.

Government Affairs Committee Mission

The Chamber's Government Affairs Committee encourages and supports pro-business legislation and opposes legislation harmful to the business interest and economic vitality of the area.

The Committee represents the business community at the local, regional, state, and national levels of government, and advocates for growth through economic opportunity, fair taxation, and controlled government regulation.

Committee Structure

The GAC is open to all members of the LZ Area Chamber. The committee meets monthly to discuss, review and explore local, regional, state and federal issues that impact businesses and the economy.

After sufficient discussion on an issue has been had and the Committee decides the Chamber should take a position, a draft of the position is approved and presented to the Chamber Executive Committee for consideration. The recommendation is then presented to the Chamber full Board of Directors for final consideration.

The GAC and Chamber's legislative focus for 2017 will be on:

- 1. Encouraging a better tax and regulatory environment**
- 2. Support reduction of healthcare costs and reform the of the Illinois insurance system**
- 3. Scrutinizing and informing members of proposed Service Tax**
- 4. Employment Law issues including Workers Compensation, Overtime Laws, and Minimum Wage increases.**
- 5. Supporting and working to move forward the Marketplace Fairness Act proposals.**
- 6. Telecom Infrastructure Upgrade**
- 7. Creating a business friendly environment through reasonable business code requirements, a better understanding of current codes, and streamlined permitting and approval processes on all levels**

Taxes:

The Chamber believes that fiscal stability in government is essential to the positive growth of the private sector. The Chamber will continue to fight to minimize the tax burden on employers and instead push for much-needed budgetary reforms, such as sound pension and Medicaid reforms, that continue to exacerbate the state's budget problems year after year.

In order to achieve fiscal stability locally, regionally and statewide, the Chamber:

- Does not support increases in taxes or fees on businesses, as they are detriments to economic growth and should not be enacted unless all other options have been exhausted.
- Supports a balanced budget on the local, regional, state and federal level based on sound fiscal planning, financial best management practices, and through the reduction of government redundancy where appropriate.
- Supports tax incentives and tax relief strategies, as necessary, to encourage economic growth and business retention.
- Supports the removal of state mandates on local governments that are not fully funded.
- Supports the implementation of collecting sales tax from all sales of merchandise over the internet.
- Does not support an increase in minimum wage in the state of Illinois.

Local Economic Development / Codes / Ordinances:

The Chamber is focused on enhancing the business climate and quality of life in the Southwest area of Lake County by:

- Updating local zoning and building codes to provide clarity, transparency, and a clear direction for future development.
- Streamlining development and permitting approval processes to ensure consistency and simplicity.
- Supporting incentives and block grants to encourage the quick sale and rehab of older vacant buildings.

Healthcare:

Affordable and accessible healthcare is critical to the business community. In order to have a vibrant market place we need to reduce healthcare costs and reform the Illinois insurance system.

To control healthcare cost and reform the current insurance system the Chamber:

- Supports reducing healthcare costs by reforming medical liability & workers compensation
 - Tort reform - Liability Law
 - Preventative/Wellness programs – best practices
- Supports monitoring workers compensation reforms.
 - Measure injuries/cost against national averages
- Supports legislative movement to assist businesses in regards to healthcare cooperatives to reduce healthcare premium costs.
- Supports initiatives that encourage innovation and flexibility and increases competition and choice.

Educational & Workforce Development:

The LZ Area Chamber of Commerce as an integral partner with Community Unit School District 95 (CUSD 95) shares the school district and community's goal to develop and sustain a highly skilled, regional workforce. The development of this workforce begins within our local schools where the Chamber and its members can be an advocate for excellence in public education for Lake Zurich and the surrounding region.

As tomorrow's workforce is developed, the Chamber will continue to demonstrate a long-standing commitment to education recognizing how important strongly performing schools are to the success of a community. The Chamber supports building a stronger partnership between employers and educators so we are preparing our children for the jobs of today and tomorrow – whether that job demands a college education, a graduate degree, skills training in community or technical colleges, high school degree or union apprenticeships. It is critical that local job creation activities ensure that our future workforce is adequately educated, skilled, and trained.

The Chamber is committed to the following initiatives as an advocate of education to ensure local resources are optimally utilized:

- 1) Advocate for level, and where needed, increased state funding for public education, K-12, to address critical funding gaps and avoid the shifting of operational costs back to local funding sources.
- 2) Maximize opportunities for grant funding offered by federal and state governmental agencies and private foundations requiring corporate and public partnerships to qualify for funding.
- 3) Support increased funding for Illinois higher education institutions to lower in-state tuition and fee rates comparative to those of border states to encourage local students to remain within the state.