

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

2009 Legislative Agenda

Economy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Encourage support of bills that support economic growth for small business 2) Encourage support of legislation to bring life back into the economy by creating jobs
Health Care	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Discourages government policies that create unnecessary regulations, most particularly mandated benefits. Oppose any Employment Tax to fund Health Care. 2) Allows Insurers to offer affordable basic health care plans, free of mandates, along with those that may contain more options, and would increase competition. 3) Support legislation that encourages affordable coverage for small business employers and expands coverage to some who are currently uninsured.
Regulatory Reform	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Improves the burdensome regulatory climate in Washington State by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A) Requiring agencies to have legislative authority and cite law when creating new rules B) Clarifying the burden of proof that an agency has in it's need for rulemaking 2) Expands the equal access to justice laws for small business to all counties in Washington State 3) Amends the Washington Administrative Procedures Act to enhance objectivity in contested cases 4) Streamlines the permit process. 5) Reduce the permitting and planning requirements that limit economic and development and employment opportunities
Death Tax	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The elimination of the death tax
State Tax Appeals Reform	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Allows taxpayers to have disputes heard by an independent and qualified body without being required to pre-pay the tax or post a bond 2) Reviews and considers the Model State Administrative Tax Court Act as a framework for state tax dispute resolution 3) Makes decisions of tax tribunals binding and published
Unemployment and Workers Comp	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reforms State Unemployment and Workers Comp programs to prevent uncompetitive increases in employer costs. 2) Assures that benefits are only extended to workers who fully qualify and follow requirements of UI system
Water Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Creates flexibility and ensures resources to serve growing populations and economies 2) Supports a streamlined permitting process for implementing and constructing new water storage facilities and systems 3) Fund the WSARP Program
Energy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Encourages development of, and proactive preparation for, conventional and renewable energy resources such as solar, wind, geothermal, tidal, etc. 2) Implementation of policies that encourage green building standards and energy efficiency

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Transportation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Encourages the timely completion of transportation projects for which funding has already been committed2) Targets state investment to increase roadway capacity and efficiency for freight, motor vehicle, transit and other transportation modes.3) Mandatory maintenance program for the Ferry System
Education/ Work Force Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Recommits to educational accountability and targets higher education investments to programs that contribute to economic growth2) Provides opportunity to enhance and broaden the opportunities to strengthen the skilled labor force in Washington State