

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce Legislative Agenda

<p>Economic Conditions</p>	<p>The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce believes that conditions which help to create a stable economy will encourage small business growth resulting in the creation of jobs. We encourage policies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ease the existing tax burden for small businesses; by creating a tax structure that is fair to all. • Create a fair, stable and predictable tax structure so small businesses can reinvest in employees and product development. • Provide meaningful incentives that encourage economic growth and prosperity.
<p>Health Care</p>	<p>The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce believes that adequate and affordable health care is important to all citizens. To ensure member companies can offer the best possible options to their employees, we encourage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater options for individuals to choose the coverage that best meets their needs and circumstances; • Efforts to make health care affordable to small businesses and the self employed; • Medical malpractice and other legal reforms that will make health care more affordable and accessible to everyone.
<p>Regulatory Reform</p>	<p>The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce believes that regulations on business and commerce should be limited when possible. As such, we encourage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careful consideration of proposed regulations to ensure they are not previously established; • New regulations affecting businesses are created only by agencies that have proper legislative authority ; • Streamlining the permitting process to reduce time and duplicated planning requirements that increase costs and time. • Reducing dependency on a taxation method that places an untoward burden on small business.
<p>Unemployment Insurance and Workers Compensation</p>	<p>The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce believes that protection of workers and their families is the concern of every business. We support policies that fairly represent employers and workers that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage prompt and early resolution of claims; • Establish clear rules and regulations that establish eligibility; • Make it easy to contact a State Representative for problem resolution; • Keep costs to businesses down by recognizing and implementing cost containment measures. • Provide regular Legislative oversight and look for competitive savings.

<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce believes in protecting our natural resources so the beauty of our region will be enjoyed for all future generations. We support policies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create flexibility and ensure the preservation of resources for the future; • Encourage alternative energy production and "green" efficiencies in buildings and infrastructure; • Seek solutions to regional resource challenges by working in partnership with businesses, industry and government; • Avoid a singular approach to pollution control; • Recognize the importance of accurate data and research in efforts to provide comprehensive and timely flood control policies and practices.
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce believes that our transportation systems are a crucial component to the viability of our businesses and industries. We support policies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on balancing costs and benefits to achieve efficient and timely public transportation services; • Increase road capacities to promote the efficient movement of people and freight. • Recognize the importance and value of the ferry system to our region.
<p>Education and Workforce Development</p>	<p>The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce recognizes the importance of education and employee development in order to remain competitive in an increasingly global marketplace. The Chamber supports policies and practices that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on educational accountability and achievement for all students; • Target higher education investments that promote emerging technologies and contribute to economic long term growth; • Provide a wide range of educational opportunities to strengthen the skilled labor force in our region. • Recognize that continuous skill development of workers is an essential part of long term business prosperity.