

2019



Illinois Policy and Advocacy Priorities

Business Climate and Economic Competitiveness:

- **Worker's Compensation**
 - Illinois consistently ranks highest among states for worker's compensation insurance rates. The Chamber urges members of the General Assembly to pass meaningful reforms to lower the cost to do business in Illinois.
- **Protecting Economic Development Incentives**
 - Economic incentives are crucial to attract new businesses and expand businesses. We ask the General Assembly to protect incentives like Historic Tax Credit, Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) tax credit and Enterprise Zone tax credits to continue to grow our region.
- **Reduce Overall Property Tax Burden on Businesses**
 - When surveyed, Quad Cities Chamber members shared their main concern holding them back from expanding is property taxes. The Chamber stands ready to work with our elected officials to reduce the overall property tax burden on businesses.

Education and Workforce Readiness:

- **Expansion of Higher Education**
 - Workforce development is by far, the number one issue to our members. Along with fully-funding Phase III of Western Illinois University – Quad Cities (WIU-QC), we ask the legislature to increase spending for higher education to prepare the next generation workforce.
 - Last session the General Assembly took the first step in eliminating per pupil funding inequity in K-12 education. Our members believe this to be a critical issue in ensuring college and workforce readiness and ask that another appropriation be designated to further closing this equity gap.

Transportation and Infrastructure, Quality of Place:

- **Capital Funding Legislation**
 - Members have expressed the importance of reinvesting into our community. We ask the legislature to fully-fund Phase III of WIU-QC, Quad Cities-Chicago Passenger Rail, I-74 / John Deere Rd. interchange, and I-80 Bridge.
- **Complete Quad Cities-Chicago Passenger Rail Project**
 - Quad Cities Chamber members ranked transit as their second-most important transportation issue, after roads. We are committed to completing the Passenger Rail project between the Quad Cities and Chicago.