



HARRISONBURG - ROCKINGHAM
Chamber of Commerce

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to ensure that the Harrisonburg-Rockingham metropolitan area has a thriving collaborative business environment. To make this the best place to live, work and play, the Chamber will advocate for the following policies in an effort to allow for equal economic opportunity and quality of life for all.

Priority Issue Areas (HRCC)

1. **Affordable Housing** – Pursuing policies that will allow and attract the development of affordable housing throughout the Valley to support our diverse workforce needs.
2. **Child Care** – Developing and supporting initiatives to assist our employers and employees find affordable childcare services, while simultaneously working to create a better regulatory environment for child care providers.
3. **Transportation/ Public Transit** - Support the use, maintenance, and growth of our region’s diverse transportation assets, such as airports, roadways, interstates, railroads, and in-land port of Virginia while also advocating for more solutions to our every growing public transit needs.

Policy Areas of Engagement (HRCC)

1. **Business Climate** - Ensure the proper regulatory environment exists to allow businesses to grow while providing the necessary tools for effective economic development which will attract new business to the region.
2. **Infrastructure & Logistics** - Promote policies and projects that will ensure the Shenandoah Valley remains a vital link in the supply chain while simultaneously supporting various technology initiatives to make the region a hub for innovation.
3. **Small Business** - Promote policies that allow for the growth of small and emerging business in addition to fostering an environment where entrepreneurs can thrive.
4. **Workforce Development & Education** - Ensuring every child in the region has access to a world class education and developing a talent pipeline for the business community of today and tomorrow. The Chamber supports local K-12, community colleges, and four-year universities to work together to ensure the full spectrum of regional workforce development needs are addressed.
5. **Agriculture** - Promoting policies and initiatives which will allow our agricultural community to continue, thrive, and prosper for following generations to enjoy and cultivate.
6. **Environment** - Promoting policies to ensure that our communities maintain smart and sensible environmental standards.
7. **Tourism** - Ensuring the resources, methods and policies are in place to promote the valley as the best place to live, work and play.
8. **Manufacturing** - Promoting policies which will allow our manufacturers to compete not only domestically, but on a global scale.
9. **Health Care** - Promoting policies and initiatives to ensure our community can continue to provide quality health care for all.
10. **International Trade** - Support policies that will allow our region to obtain a global brand as the best place to do business, while helping our business community access new markets overseas.