

Land Use

Economic growth and environmental progress go hand in hand. Business and environmental leaders should work together to grow our economy while maintaining a sustainable environment.

Energy

Future economic prosperity relies on a broad range of energy sources. It is essential that these sources be available, safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable.

Tourism Development

Tourism plays an important role in any economic development plan especially in an area with a history as unique as the Prince William region. The Chamber supports funding for and the development of tourism initiatives across Prince William County and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park that attract tourists to the region, create jobs, and support the region's economy.

Governance

Government must operate with a business-minded focus on efficiency, responsiveness, and strategic vision that enable government to adjust to rapidly changing economic and political landscapes.

The governing process must be transparent and ethical so that the public may maintain confidence in the independence of elected officials.

The Chamber supports a regulatory framework that emphasizes the importance of strong economic growth while ensuring rules are cost effective and based on valid scientific and technical data.

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PRINCE WILLIAM
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES 2016

The Prince William Chamber of Commerce is the "voice of business" on behalf of its diverse membership and their 70,000 employees in Northern Virginia.

The Prince William region is one of the fastest growing areas in the Commonwealth. **Prince William County and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park are poised for incredible economic growth** over the next several years due to their many geographical advantages and access to a talented workforce.

The region's economic viability depends on support for initiatives that strengthen the business environment and increase efficiency and investment in education, workforce development, economic development, and transportation.

Our members believe:

- ★ **Laws, regulations and tax policies should be considered in a way that maintains a strong, pro-business environment** that enhances economic competitiveness and protects the ability of business to create jobs and economic opportunity.
- ★ **The tax base should be grown through expanded economic development, and any tax increases should be a last resort**, be applied broadly and not on any one business or industry.
- ★ **Revenue targets should be driven by conservative fiscal principles and highly efficient operations** at all levels of government, recognizing that spending directly affects tax rates.

The following outlines the Prince William Chamber of Commerce's specific public policy positions on the priority issues for our members.

This document has been condensed. View the full 2016 Public Policy Priorities by visiting the "Advocacy" page at PWChamber.org.

To view our 2016 Public Policy Priorities in their entirety, please visit the "Advocacy" page at PWChamber.org.

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Proudly serving the businesses of Prince William County and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. Northern Virginia's largest Chamber of Commerce.

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Tax and Fiscal Policy

Conservative, pro-growth tax and fiscal policies enhance our region's national and global competitiveness.

The Chamber supports:

- ★ Proposals that simplify the tax code
- ★ Tax incentives to promote business expansion and economic growth
- ★ The use of performance-based budgeting
- ★ Elimination of the BPOL and Machinery & Tools Taxes

Transportation

Creating greater connectivity is one of the greatest challenges facing our region. **Businesses must be able to move their goods, services, and work-force efficiently for the region to fully realize its economic potential.**

As part of the large Northern Virginia network of business communities, the Prince William Chamber of Commerce supports these major regional transportation projects:

- ★ Bi-County Parkway
- ★ Godwin Extension
- ★ New Northern Potomac River Crossing
- ★ I-66 upgrades to improve vehicular and public transit movement between US-15 and the Roosevelt Bridge
- ★ Route 28 upgrade to 8 lanes from I-66 to Route 7

The Chamber also encourages greater recognition for innovative uses of technology that expand the use of telecommuting.

Health Care

The Prince William Chamber of Commerce aligns with efforts of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to continue to reduce significant new costs from the taxation and regulatory burdens created through passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The Chamber supports:

- ★ Private market based healthcare solutions that allow Virginia to bring back federal Medicaid funding
- ★ An outcome or value based Medicaid payment model rather than paying a fee for service

Economic Development

The Chamber strongly opposes all policies and regulations that unnecessarily drive up the cost of doing business.

- ★ Supports a free market economy
- ★ Supports Virginia's Right To Work laws
- ★ Opposes imposition of an increased minimum wage

Economic investment is necessary to support our region's growing business community.

The Chamber supports:

- ★ Continued strategic approach to the development of Innovation Technology Park and Gateway Business Park
- ★ Further efforts to develop the Manassas Airport
- ★ Continued state and local funding for the Virginia Main Street Initiative
- ★ Renewed strategic approach to redevelopment and revitalization initiatives along the Rt. 1, Rt. 28, and Rt. 234 corridors

Workforce & Education

One of the region's greatest assets is its workforce. Investing in workforce development is key to attracting businesses that will fulfill economic development goals, enhancing the Prince William region's reputation, and continuing to provide an educated workforce to support our existing and future businesses.

The Chamber supports:

- ★ Full state funding of Cost of Competing Adjustment funds for Northern Virginia
- ★ Continued higher education funding for NVCC and GMU
- ★ Public-Private partnerships like SPARK that create school to business relationships
- ★ Additional funding for workforce development programs such as STEM and CTE
- ★ Improving the flexibility of existing funding for the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) to allow for greater utilization

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