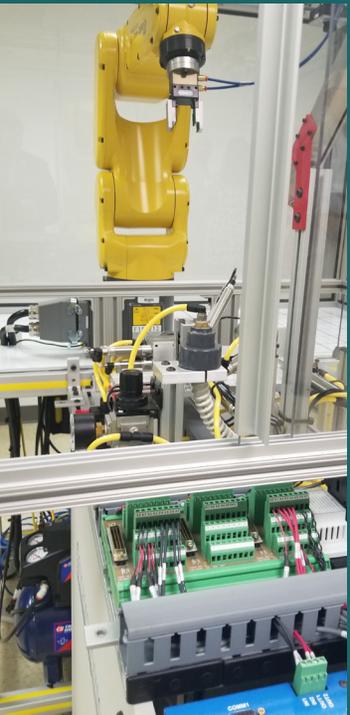




## ADVANCING NORTH CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS



This document is intended to serve as the guideline for the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce's government affairs efforts, and has been reviewed and approved by the Government Affairs Committee and the Board of Directors. Adjustments and additions to these policies will be made as necessary.

Please contact Travis Condon at 978.353.7600 ext. 224 with any questions you may have regarding this Public Policy Agenda.

[www.NorthCentralMass.com](http://www.NorthCentralMass.com)

North Central  
MASSACHUSETTS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

APPROVED  
September 17, 2020



## OUR MISSION

As an organization, we are committed to guiding North Central Massachusetts through the ongoing challenges of **COVID-19** towards recovery. We also remain focused on advancing North Central Massachusetts by promoting and leveraging **economic competitiveness**; advocating on behalf of **small business**; asserting our role as the Commonwealth's hub of **manufacturing**; and appreciating that we cannot do any of this without innovative **education** strategies and a strong **transportation** infrastructure.



### COVID-19 AND ECONOMIC REOPENING

Work actively to ensure the needs of North Central Massachusetts and our employers are addressed by recovery efforts.



### ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

Advocate for the tools and resources necessary to lead locally, regionally, nationally and globally.



### EDUCATION

Seek to be more competitive by supporting high quality education systems that address workforce needs.



### TRANSPORTATION

Push for transportation improvements, extended commuter rail access and increased reverse commute options.



### SMALL BUSINESS

Embrace small businesses as the heartbeat of our economy, and remove any roadblocks that impede their success.



### MANUFACTURING

Support careers in manufacturing and ensure our largest industry remains a priority.

## COVID-19 AND ECONOMIC REOPENING

*COVID-19 has forced the nation to contend with both a public health and economic crisis. Both Beacon Hill and Capitol Hill have taken drastic action to face this dual challenge, and the Chamber will work actively to ensure that the needs of North Central Massachusetts and our employers are addressed by these efforts.*

- A Balanced Approach to Reopening
- Clarity & Coordination at all Levels of Government
- Interstate Coordination
- Testing and Resource Equity
- Access to Childcare
- Support for Healthcare Institutions
- Liability

## ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

*At the heart of the Massachusetts economy is innovation. As we work to strengthen our emerging sectors and clusters, we must recognize our strengths while addressing our weaknesses.*

- Regional Equity
- Investments in the Public Promotion of Tourism
- Public Infrastructure
- Broadband and High Speed Internet Access
- Single Rate Property Taxes
- Regulatory Reform and Streamlined Permitting

## EDUCATION

*At the backbone of any successful economy is a state of the art educational framework. We must support high quality education systems that align the strengths of North Central Massachusetts with workforce needs.*

- Access to High Quality Education
- College & Career Readiness
- An aligned K-12 Curriculum with Workforce Development Initiatives

## TRANSPORTATION

*The Route 2 corridor is poised to be the next area of growth in Massachusetts. Without transportation infrastructure improvements, we will be unable to expand our residential, commercial, or industrial tax bases. We will advocate for transportation improvements, extended commuter rail access, and increased reverse commute options will be essential to ensuring growth.*

- Improving Route 2
- Increased Transportation Options for Employees
- Roadway Improvements
- Airport Enhancements
- Commuter Rail Improvements
- Establishment of a Permanent MBTA Oversight Board
- Raising & Distributing Resources in a Regionally Equitable Manner

## SMALL BUSINESS

*North Central Massachusetts is one of the last places in the Commonwealth where owning a small business is feasible. We must create a business friendly environment that supports thriving, independent small businesses.*

- Minimum Wage Increases
- Health Insurance & Health Care Costs
- Unemployment Insurance Taxes
- Energy Costs
- Micro-lending and Technical Assistance
- Paid Family Medical Leave & The Grand Bargain

## MANUFACTURING

*North Central Massachusetts is home to the highest concentration of manufacturers in Massachusetts, with manufacturing firms accounting for 15% of regional employment.*

- Remove the Stigma Associated with Manufacturing
- Support Updated Trade Agreements
- Remove Inventory Tax