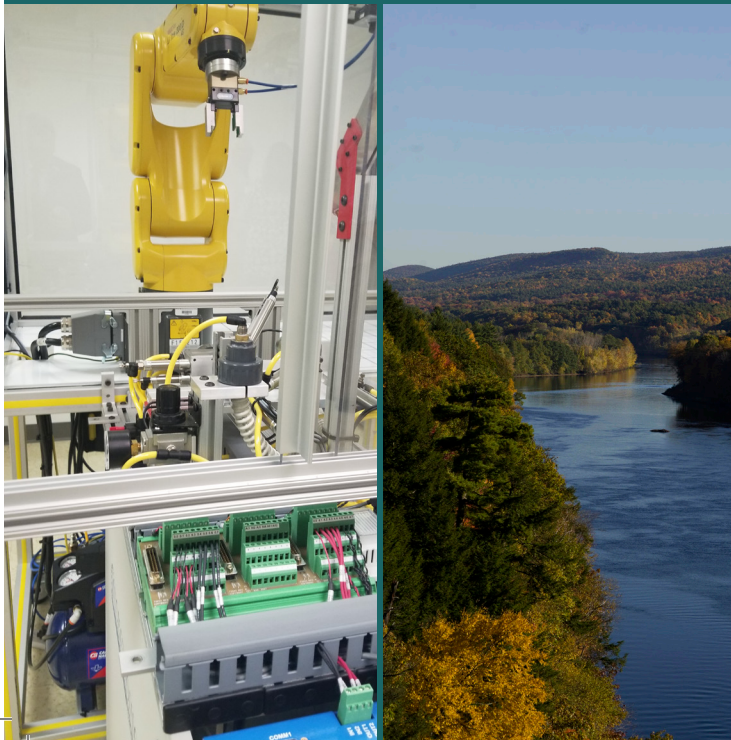




ADVANCING NORTH CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS



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.

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North Central
MASSACHUSETTS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

APPROVED
September 19, 2024



OUR MISSION

As an organization, we are committed to advancing North Central Massachusetts by promoting and leveraging economic competitiveness with our state, region, and nation; 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 and leading **education** strategies, a strong **transportation** infrastructure and greater **real estate** development.



ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

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



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.



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.



REAL ESTATE

Support a diversity of housing options as well as increased industrial and commercial real estate development across the region.

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.

- Enacting Recommendations from One North Central
- 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

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
- Unemployment Insurance Taxes
- Micro-lending and Technical Assistance
- Energy Costs
- Paid Family and Medical Leave
- Healthcare Equity & Healthcare Costs
- Barriers to Employment

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 our Plastic Manufacturing Industry
- Support Updated Trade Agreements
- Remove Inventory Tax

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.

- Support High Quality Education
- An Aligned K-12 Curriculum with Workforce Development Initiatives
- Ensuring College Degree and Certificate Attainment
- Support Vocational Education

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.

- Transportation Investments
- MBTA Reforms
- Modernizing Route 2
- Commuter Rail Improvements
- Increased Transportation Options for Employees
- Airport Improvements

REAL ESTATE

The Chamber believes that real estate development is important to the economic competitiveness and quality of life of the region.

- Expand the variety of housing types in the region
- New, ground up commercial/industrial real estate development