



# LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## GREATER SPOKANE VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

We are the catalyst for building relationships, driving collaboration, and championing opportunity in the Greater Spokane Valley.

## 2026

509-924-4994

[info@spokanevalleychamber.org](mailto:info@spokanevalleychamber.org)

[www.spokanevalleychamber.org](http://www.spokanevalleychamber.org)

Presented by



SCHWEITZER  
ENGINEERING  
LABORATORIES

**BUSINESS CLIMATE** We work to create a vibrant business climate that promotes innovation and allows business to thrive. A healthy business climate is vital to ensure that our region stays competitive, sustainable and attractive to future business. We support legislation that promotes economic growth, develops a strong workforce and reduces the tax and regulatory burden.

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE** We work to maintain and advance infrastructure systems that power economic growth and support a resilient regional economy. We promote growth by supporting projects that preserve existing infrastructure, strengthen the energy sector, and align land use and infrastructure planning to strategically increase capacity and drive economic advancement. We support legislation and infrastructure investments that improve accessibility, reliability, and safety—while retaining local control to meet the unique needs of our communities.

**QUALITY OF LIFE** We work to enhance our vibrant community with diverse opportunities to live, work and play. We are committed to supporting policies and investments that strengthen community safety, expand access to housing, and sustain the amenities and services that contribute to a high quality of life for individuals, families, and employers.

**EDUCATION & WORKFORCE** We support an education system that meets the workforce demands of our region. Investment in education increases the opportunities of our students and meets the needs of our business community. Developing a skilled workforce of the future depends upon a robust education system that serves students of all ages. We support a fully-funded education system with clear and challenging academic standards, expanded options that are innovative and affordable, and a system that operates with accountability, efficiency and transparency.

**HEALTHCARE** We work to protect and strengthen access to robust services that improve the health of our community. Expanding access to health care and the resources needed to identify and address public health issues is vital to a strong economy. We support legislation that improves access to physical and behavioral health services and strengthen the healthcare workforce.

# Top Legislative Priorities



Our Top Priorities represent those that we believe will have a great and lasting impact on our region. These priorities will increase economic opportunity, improve the quality of life, and enhance the vibrancy of the Greater Spokane Valley.

## Business Climate

### Business Tax Burden & Statewide Competitiveness

We support a competitive and predictable tax environment that allows businesses to grow, invest, and create jobs in Washington State. Policymakers should consider the cumulative burden of taxes and fees on employers and avoid new or expanded business taxes that undermine competitiveness, investment, and long-term economic growth.

## Business Climate

### Sales Tax on Services & Digital Activities (SB 5814 Reform)

We support reforms to SB 5814 and related sales tax policies to ensure clear, consistent, and workable implementation affecting services and digital activities. The state must avoid duplicative taxation structures and provide reasonable scope, exclusions, and guidance that allow businesses to comply without undue administrative burden or competitive disadvantage.

## Education & Workforce

### No New Unfunded Mandates on School Districts

We oppose the creation of new unfunded or underfunded mandates on school districts. Any new requirements must be fully funded, clearly defined, and implemented in a manner that allows districts to meet expectations without diverting resources from classrooms or relying on local levies.

## Development & Infrastructure

### North Spokane Corridor Completion

We support protecting and maintaining all committed funding for the North Spokane Corridor to ensure timely completion. This long-planned project is critical to regional mobility, freight movement, safety, and economic competitiveness, and delivering it as promised remains a priority for the Greater Spokane Valley.

## Development & Infrastructure

### Sullivan/Trent Interchange & I-90 Capacity Planning

We support advancing improvements to the Sullivan/Trent Interchange and continued planning to address capacity and access constraints along the I-90 corridor, including the Barker Road interchange. Proactive investment and planning are necessary to ensure infrastructure keeps pace with regional growth, freight demand, and safety needs.

## Healthcare & Quality of Life

### Behavioral Health, Public Safety & Community Stability

We support policies that strengthen healthcare systems sustainability, improve affordability, and expand access to care by stabilizing funding, addressing workforce shortages, and supporting behavioral health treatment capacity. A financially viable healthcare system is essential to community stability, workforce participation, and long-term economic vitality.

# Additional Priorities

## BUSINESS CLIMATE

Create a dynamic business climate that promotes innovation and allows business to thrive.

- **State Budget & Fiscal Sustainability** - we support a fiscally responsible, balanced, and sustainable state budget that funds ongoing obligations with recurring revenues, prioritizes investments that strengthen the economy and workforce, and provides long-term predictability for employers and taxpayers.
- **Tax Policy: Predictability, Fairness and Competitiveness** - we support tax policies that enhance predictability, transparency, and competitiveness for employers while opposing new or expanded business-targeted taxes that increase costs or create uncertainty. We advocate for technical clarity in tax law, consistent administration, and protection against the diversion of industry-paid taxes and fees from their intended regulatory purposes.
- **Sales Tax on Services & Digital Activities (SB 5814)** - we support clear, consistent, and workable implementation of sales tax policies affecting services and digital activities, including reforms to SB 5814. We oppose duplicative taxation structures and advocate for reasonable scope, exclusions, and guidance that allow businesses to comply without undue administrative burden or competitive disadvantage.
- **Regulatory Costs and Litigation Exposure** - we support regulatory and enforcement frameworks that prioritize compliance, transparency, and timely resolution over punitive or duplicative litigation. Policies should provide notice and opportunity to cure, reduce unnecessary legal exposure, and avoid expanding liability in ways that increase costs without improving outcomes.
- **Environmental Stewardship & Business Certainty** - we support environmental policies that deliver measurable improvements to public health and environmental outcomes while ensuring regulatory certainty, scientific rigor, and achievable compliance for employers. Environmental policy should avoid duplicative or conflicting requirements, utilize existing infrastructure and investments, and balance environmental objectives with economic competitiveness.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** - we oppose broad or material-specific extended producer responsibility mandates that increase costs without demonstrating improved outcomes. Any consideration of EPR policies should be material-neutral, technology-neutral, and fully leverage existing recycling and waste-reduction systems.
- **Commercial Interior Design - Regulatory Modernization** - we support regulatory modernization that allows qualified commercial interior designers to independently deliver non-structural, code-compliant interior projects through a voluntary framework that maintains life-safety standards.
- **Minimum Wage Policy & Entry-Level Workforce Access** - we support a balanced approach to minimum wage policy that considers regional economic conditions, business sustainability, and the availability of entry-level employment opportunities. Policymakers should preserve flexibility for training and entry-level wages to ensure employers can continue to hire, train, and advance workers into the workforce without reducing job availability.

## DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Maintain and develop efficient transportation and infrastructure systems that power economic growth.

- **Broadband Infrastructure & Connectivity** - we support policies that accelerate broadband expansion and remove barriers to deployment. Reliable, high-speed connectivity is essential infrastructure that supports economic development, workforce participation, education, and housing access.
- **Transportation Maintenance, Preservation & Delivery** - we support fully funding transportation maintenance and preservation through sustainable revenue sources and honoring existing commitments. Transportation investments should prioritize system reliability, freight mobility, safety, and timely project delivery.
- **Regional Transportation Investment & Freight Mobility** - we support transportation investment strategies that protect existing regional commitments, improve freight mobility, and align with locally driven planning priorities that support economic competitiveness and job growth, including support for the 2026 Spokane Regional Transportation Council Unified List and Policy Principles.
- **North Spokane Corridor** - we support protecting and maintaining all committed funding for the North Spokane Corridor to ensure timely completion. This long-planned project is critical to regional mobility, freight movement, safety, and economic competitiveness, and delivering it as promised remains a priority for the Greater Spokane Valley.
- **Sullivan/Trent Interchange** - we support advancing improvements to the Sullivan/Trent Interchange to address structural deficiencies, congestion, and safety challenges along one of the region's most critical freight corridors. Continued state partnership is essential to deliver a project that supports economic activity and accommodates ongoing growth.
- **I-90 Capacity & Access Planning** - we support continued evaluation and planning efforts to address capacity constraints and access challenges along the I-90 corridor, including the Barker Road interchange. Proactive planning is necessary to ensure infrastructure keeps pace with industrial, residential, and employment growth across Spokane Valley and the surrounding region.
- **Traffic Safety & System Efficiency** - we support data-driven strategies and targeted investments to improve road safety and reduce traffic fatalities while maintaining efficient movement of people and goods.
- **Energy Reliability, Transmission & Siting** - we support policies that strengthen energy reliability, expand transmission capacity, and streamline permitting for energy infrastructure needed to support economic growth. Energy policy should ensure affordability, reliability, and timely project delivery while maintaining local input and coordination.
- **Land Use & Infrastructure Alignment** - we support aligning land use planning with infrastructure capacity to expand housing and employment opportunities, reduce permitting delays, and ensure growth occurs in a manner that is predictable, efficient, and responsive to local conditions.
- **Infrastructure Cost Containment & Regulatory Reform** - we support reform that reduce unnecessary project costs, liability exposure, and administrative delays that drive up infrastructure expenses and hinder timely delivery, while maintaining appropriate safety and accountability standards.

# Additional Priorities

## HEALTHCARE

Develop access to robust services that improve the health of our community.

- **Healthcare Access, Affordability & Market Stability** - we support healthcare policies that improve affordability and access for employers, workers, and families while sustaining a competitive healthcare marketplace. Efforts to address cost drivers should emphasize transparency, efficiency, and improved outcomes without reducing access to care or destabilizing employer-sponsored coverage.
- **Hospital Financial Viability, Partnerships & System Sustainability** - we support policies that strengthen the financial stability of hospitals and healthcare systems to ensure continued access to essential services. Hospitals must retain the ability to pursue mergers, affiliations, and partnerships without unnecessary government interference when such arrangements improve access, quality of care, and long-term sustainability.
- **340B Drug Pricing Program** - we support protecting the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program as a tool that enables hospitals and healthcare providers to expand access to care, support vulnerable populations, and reinvest savings into community health services
- **Healthcare Workforce Development** - we support policies that strengthen the healthcare workforce through expanded education, training, credentialing, and provider mobility. Addressing workforce shortages is essential to sustaining healthcare access, reducing wait times, and meeting growing community needs.
- **Behavioral & Mental Health Systems and Treatment Capacity** - we support a comprehensive behavioral and mental health system that expands workforce capacity, increases access to treatment and crisis response services, and improves coordination across providers to better serve individuals experiencing behavioral health and substance use disorders.
- **Healthcare, Public Safety & Community Coordination** - we support policies that strengthen coordination between healthcare systems, behavioral health providers, and public safety agencies to ensure individuals receive appropriate care while reducing unnecessary strain on emergency services and the judicial system.

## QUALITY OF LIFE & COMMUNITY

Enhance our vibrant community with diverse opportunities to live, work, and play.

- **Public Safety & Community Stability** - we support policies that enhance public safety, protect businesses and residents, and strengthen community stability. This includes adequate law enforcement and judicial resources, effective behavioral health interventions, and accountability measures that address repeat property crime and substance-related offenses.
- **Housing Availability, Affordability & Stability** - we support policies that expand housing availability, reduce barriers to development, and increase opportunities for homeownership and workforce housing. Housing strategies should balance affordability, supply, and neighborhood stability to support economic growth and community well-being.
- **Community Amenities, Economic Vitality** - we support strategic community investments that enhance quality of life, support workforce attraction and retention, strengthen tourism and event capacity, and drive regional economic activity. Well-planned amenities, recreational facilities, and public spaces contribute to vibrant communities and long-term competitiveness.
- **Capital Budget & Targeted Funding Requests** - we support targeted capital and funding investments that improve community amenities, expand recreational access, and strengthen Spokane Valley's role as a regional destination for events, tourism, and quality of life.

### Priority Capital Projects:

- **Mt. Spokane Ski & Snowboard Park Improvements** - support \$350,000 in capital funding to complete ADA compliance upgrades and asbestos removal, improving accessibility, safety, and long-term usability of a vital regional recreation asset.
- **Spokane Valley Ice Rink** - support \$3.5 million in capital funding to advance development of a Spokane Valley ice rink facility that expands year-round recreational opportunities, supports youth and adult athletics, and strengthens sports tourism and economic activity in the region.
- **Regional & Delegation-Supported Projects** - support additional regional capital and community investment projects that advance quality of life, economic vitality, and public benefit as they emerge during the legislative session with the support of the Spokane Valley legislative delegation.

## EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

Support an education system that meets the workforce demands of our region.

- **Education Funding Stability & Operational Sustainability** - we support stable, predictable education funding that reflects real operational costs and allows school districts to operate effectively within state-provided resources. Funding structures should prioritize student outcomes while maintaining accountability, efficiency, and transparency.
- **Materials, Supplies & Operating Costs (MSOC)** - we support aligning Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC) funding with inflation and actual cost drivers faced by school districts. Regular formula reviews are necessary to ensure districts can meet operational needs without overreliance on local levies.
- **Unfunded Mandates on School Districts<sup>A</sup>** - we oppose the creation of new unfunded or underfunded mandates on school districts. Any new requirements should be fully funded, clearly defined, and implemented in a manner that allows districts to meet expectations without diverting resources from classrooms or relying on local levies. <sup>A</sup>Status note: This item is pre-designated for elevation to Top Legislative Priorities.
- **Career-Connected Learning, CTE & Apprenticeships** - we support expanding career-connected learning, career and technical education, and apprenticeship opportunities that align education with workforce demand. Policies should strengthen partnerships between employers, K-12 systems, higher education, and training providers to prepare students for careers, college, military service, or technical training.
- **Higher Education Access, Affordability & Workforce Alignment** - we support policies that improve access to and affordability of higher education while strengthening alignment between postsecondary programs and workforce needs. Financial aid and credential pathways should prioritize completion, employment outcomes, and regional talent retention.
- **Childcare Access & Workforce Participation** - we support reducing barriers to childcare availability and expanding provider capacity to support workforce participation. Childcare policy should balance safety and quality with affordability, flexibility, and provider sustainability.
- **Financial Literacy & Workforce Readiness Skills** - we support integrating financial literacy and essential life skills into education systems to better prepare students for employment, personal financial management, and long-term economic stability.