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Dear Chamber Member,

We are pleased to present the 2024 Legislative Agenda of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. For 99 years, our Chamber has been recognized as The Voice of Business in Northern Virginia[®].

This year's Legislative Agenda is streamlined, resulting in a usable, broad document that will assist the efforts of Chamber Government Affairs staff in the upcoming session. Furthermore, this year, the Chamber advocacy work is focused on being proactive.

To ensure Chamber advocacy staff can accomplish this, we changed how committee meetings were conducted. This year meetings were structured as an interactive discussion. This allowed Chamber staff to listen to the needs of all members. This critical change wouldn't have been possible without our Policy Committee Chair, Maria Tildon, Vice President, Government, Community & Economic Partnerships at Johns Hopkins University & Medicine.

Thank you all for your time and your commitment to the Northern Virginia Chamber.

Sincerely,

Julie Coons

Julie Coons
President & CEO
Northern Virginia Chamber
of Commerce



Deb Gandy
Chamber Board Chairman,
Senior Managing Director,
Chevy Chase Trust







Chairman

Deb Gandy
Chevy Chase Trust



Vice Chairman

Mark Carrier

B.F. Saul Company

Hospitality Group



SecretaryRichard Pineda
CALIBRE



Treasurer
Jeff Rubery
EagleBank

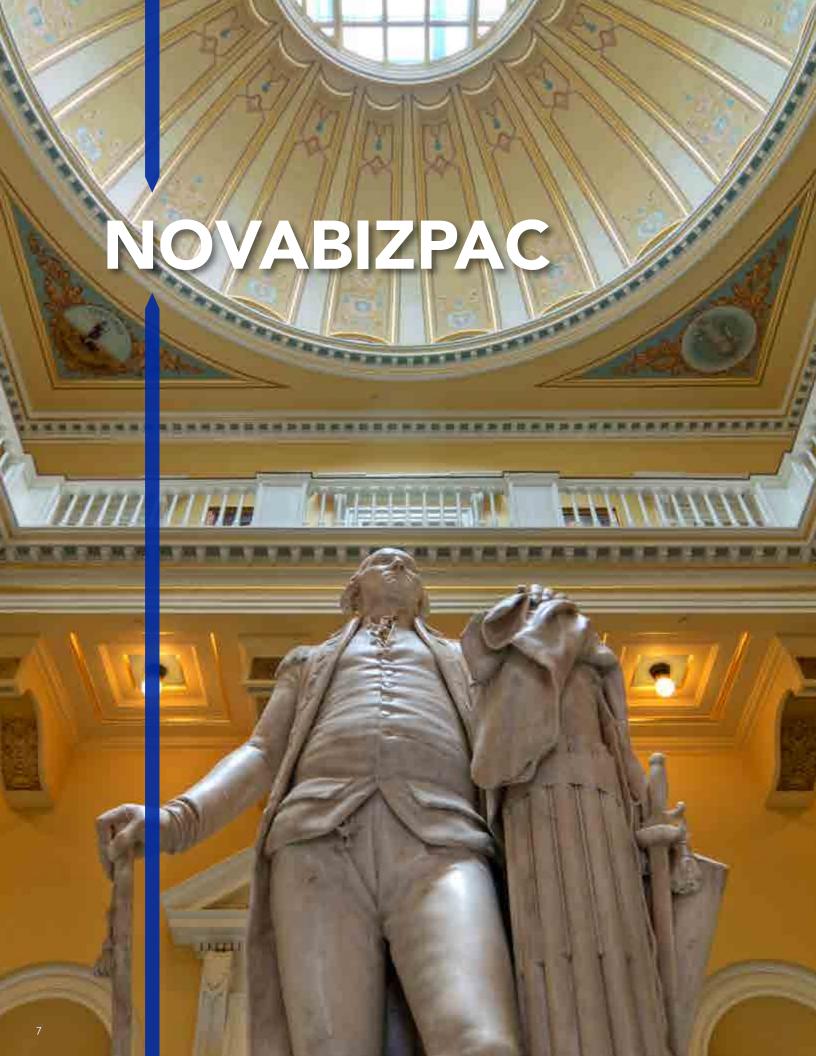


Immediate Past Chairman

Matt McQueen

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The NOVABIZPAC relies on the Northern Virginia Chamber's Legislative Agenda to determine if candidates are supportive of our priorities.

The Chamber established the Northern Virginia Business Political Action Committee (NOVABIZPAC) in 2002 to support legislators who advocate for business friendly and pro-growth policies. Our PAC is administered by a Board of Trustees composed of Chamber members. NOVABIZPAC receives advice and oversight from the Chamber's Board of Directors.

Andrew Palmieri

Saul Ewing, Arnstein, & Lehr, LLP

Gary Kirkbride

Dewberry

James Heo

Cox Communications

Timmy NortonGreat American Restaurants

Nicole Barranco Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

Robert WebbMiles & Stockbridge

John McGeehan McGeehan Pascale

Bismah AhmedApartment and Office
Building Association

Michael Ferraro TRAINING SOLUTIONS, Inc.

Bruce JenningsFairfax City Self Storage

Jo Thoburn
Fairfax Christian School

Julie Coons
Northern Virginia Chamber
of Commerce



Chairman Scott McGearyWashington Gas





The Chamber had an extremely productive advocacy year in 2023 and will continue building on these accomplishments in 2024 and into the future.

The following are some of our **accomplishments**:

Direct Advocacy Work

- We played the leading role in the passage of the Workforce Consolidation Act introduced by Delegate Kathy Byron's HB2195, and Senators George Barker and Frank Ruff's, SB1470.
- We championed Delegate Carrie Coyner and Senator Louise Lucas' bills HB 1526/SB 1175: Student literacy measures; scope, students in grades four through eight.
- We helped pass Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker: HB 1730 Alcoholic beverage control; grounds for suspension or revocation of license, exception.

Set Meetings with Legislators and Members

- During our Advocacy Day, we had meetings with over 20 state legislators, including the Senate Leader and Speaker of the House. In addition, we met with several Cabinet Secretaries.
- Our 2023 Viva Virginia event was attended by over 40 state legislators and the Lieutenant Governor Winsome Sears.
- Hosted Attorney General Jason Miyares on two different occasions at our Chamber offices.

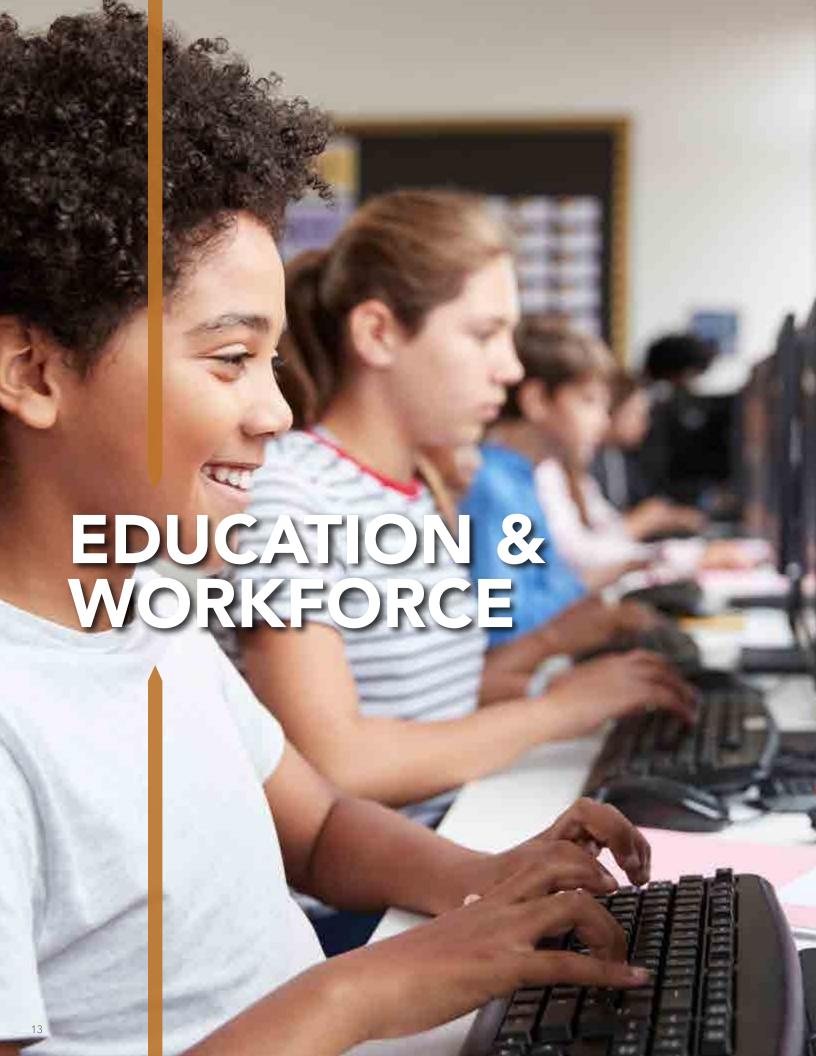
- After the General Assembly session, we hosted over 10 virtual roundtable discussions with State Delegates and State Senators.
- Hosted five in-person membership events with elected leaders at the state and local level as well as Cabinet members.

Other Highlights

- Kept Chamber members advised of specific Legislative Elections through bi-monthly Chamber Bulletin and individual discussions.
- Held first Advancing Civics Program with our partner, the Sorensen Institute.
 The event featured retiring Senate Leader Dick Saslaw (D) and Senator
 Emmett Hanger (R).
- Deeply engaged in discussions regarding the future structure and funding of WMATA. Working closely with Greater Washington organizations including Federal City Council and Greater Washington Partnership as well as the Council of Governments and WMATA leadership.







Our Regional economy is driven by world-class education and a skilled workforce.

The Chamber believes the growth of our economy is dependent on innovation and investments in public schools, higher education, and workforce programs.

The Chamber supports:

Higher Education and Workforce

- Funding George Mason University's in-state undergraduate students at a level equal to the average of doctoral institutions in Virginia.
- Increasing the regional capacity of NOVA Community College and other community colleges to close the Commonwealth's workforce gap.
- Virginia's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU).
- Continued investment in the consolidation of workforce programs to ensure the Secretary of Labor can eliminate structural inefficiencies and measure success of programs.
- The Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program.

K-12 Education

- Investment in providing access to postsecondary workforce credentials to all high school students.
- Increasing access to a quality education for students with learning disabilities, veterans, English learners, and those living below the poverty line.
- Continued funding for the Virginia Literacy Act and high impact tutoring.
- Continued investment in the Commonwealth's 19 Governor's Schools.
- Investing in building trades apprenticeship programs for our public schools.

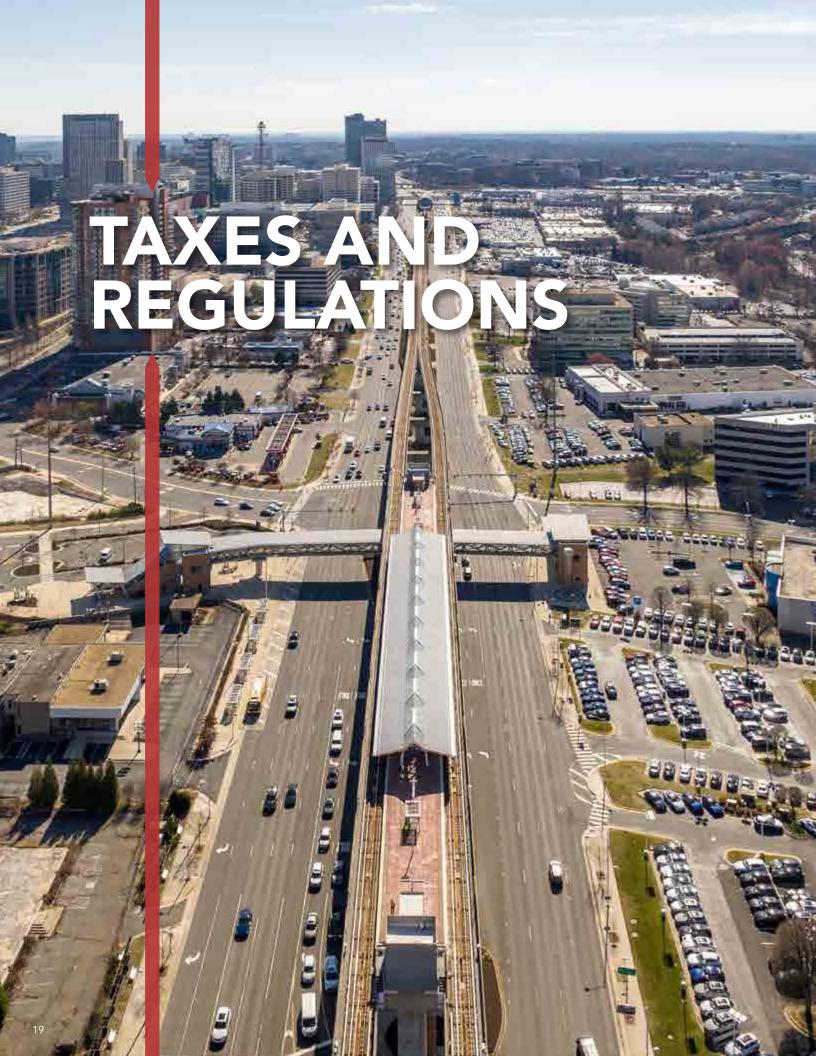




The economic success of the Commonwealth depends on a Regional approach to economic growth.

The Chamber believes future economic expansion depends on public-private partnerships, fostering innovative technologies, and expanding research and development.

- Regional collaboration between the public, private, and non-profit sectors.
- Increased investments in the Business Ready Site Program.
- Increasing our regional tax base to lessen the burden on commercial and residential property owners to fund our localities.
- Increased funding for the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP).
- Investments in tech hubs across the Commonwealth to ensure growth in innovative industries.
- Investments in the advanced manufacturing and material industries.
- Bringing broadband to all Virginians.
- Open, competitive, transparent, and timely state procurement.



The Chamber supports a consistent taxing and regulatory environment.

We believe modernizing the collection and distribution of tax revenue will spur economic prosperity and job creation. Furthermore, we believe that distribution of burdens across industries and regions leads to economic growth.

The Chamber opposes:

- Single industry taxes that are not requested by the targeted business sector.
- A regional sales tax to bailout WMATA.
- Taxing authority for school boards.

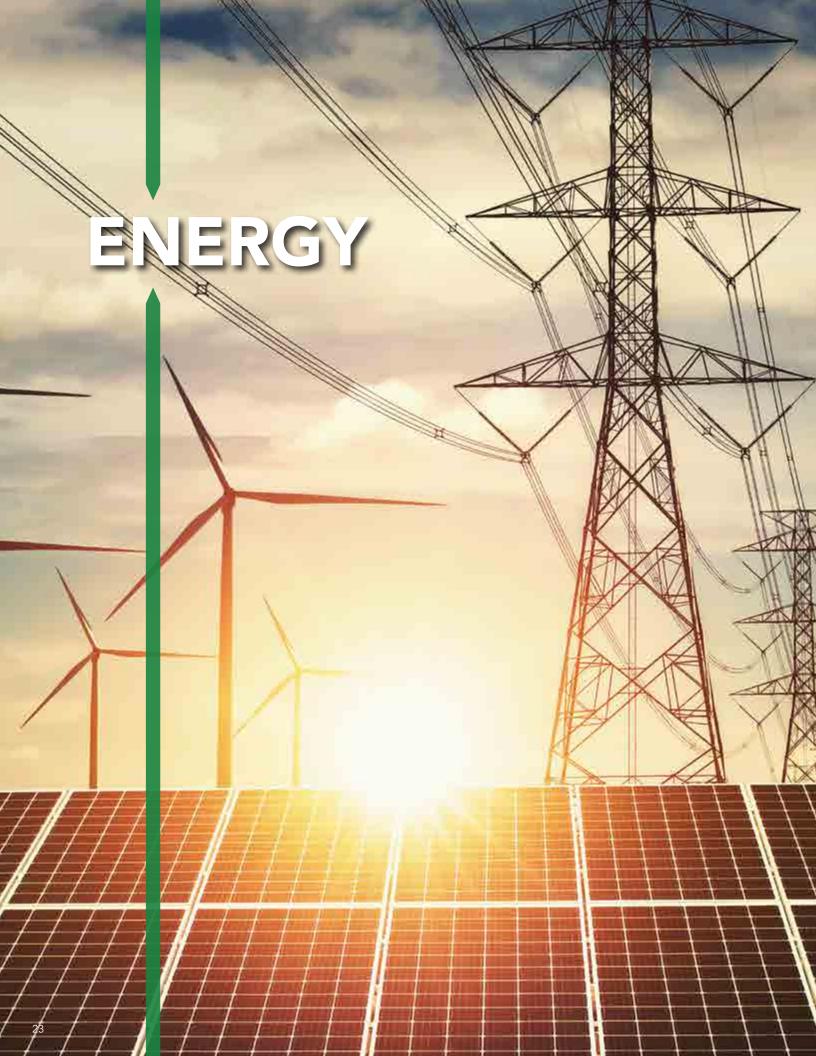
- Tax and regulatory policies that make Virginia competitive in the national and global economy.
- A repeal of localities' ability to pass a meals tax without a referendum.
- Maintaining the Dillon Rule.
- Reviewing regulations to determine if current and future regulations are needed.



The Chamber supports transportation policy that enhances connectivity, creates economic development, and provides congestion relief. We support performance-based and costeffective Regional solutions.

We encourage transportation policy to be compatible with the latest technological advancements.

- Local, Regional, and state funding for multi-modal transportation projects that spur economic development and protect taxpayer investments.
- Autonomy and dedicated funding of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.
- Guaranteeing Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) is efficiently operated, transparent and fiscally responsible.
- Transportation focused public-private partnerships (PPP).
- A new Western Bridge Crossing between Northern Virginia and Maryland.
- Policies that maintain and enhance the aviation industry.



The Chamber supports all encompassing energy portfolios to support our growing economy.

We believe projects should include input from all stakeholders while contributing to economic development and environmental goals. We support the Governor's initiatives for reducing the state's carbon footprint by developing clean energy through innovation.

The Chamber opposes:

• Localities independently setting energy and environmental objectives that are not required by state and federal laws or regulations.

- Cost-effective, future-focused, and data-driven climate resiliency standards.
- Use of tax credits and design flexibility to make climate resiliency standards affordable.
- Continued and appropriate utilization of energy sources such as natural gas, nuclear power, renewable energy, and cost-effective green building construction.
- Usage of innovative energy technologies such as biofuels, hydrogen, solar, and wind.
- Supports the use of innovative technologies in energy such as biofuels, hydrogen, solar, and wind in the Commonwealth.



The Chamber supports efforts to promote a healthy workforce and maintain a sustainable and accessible healthcare system.

We urge the General Assembly and the Administration to continue to engage with the business community, healthcare providers, and health plans to improve cost, quality, and access for all Virginians.

The Chamber opposes:

 Regulations that add administrative costs without improving rates, access, or quality.

- Reforms that increase access to healthcare and lower costs for consumers and employers.
- Investments in career development programs for the healthcare workforce.
- Maintaining private and non-profit sector delivery and coverage of health care.
- Innovation in delivery of medical care.
- State funding for behavioral health care services.
- Enhancing equity in health outcomes.
- Ensuring access to telehealth.



This section highlights actions the Chamber has taken to advocate for legislation that will increase diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I) in Virginia.

The policies noted below and throughout the rest of our agenda will create opportunities across the Commonwealth. The value of these initiatives will be tremendous for businesses and will create an inclusive Virginia. In addition, investment in education, ensuring transit agencies are financially responsible, building workforce housing, and increasing access to healthcare are critical for reducing barriers for people below the poverty line.

The Chamber opposes:

- Legislation to regulate residential rents or rent increases at the state or local level.
- Additional burdens on housing providers in managing their relationships with residents, beyond the protections for both parties already codified in the Virginia Residential Landlord-Tenant Act.

- Incentivizing the creation of a workforce housing inventory.
- Providing density bonuses, parking reductions, and tax incentives to developers who provide workforce housing.

- The creation of a comprehensive and achievable Regional Housing Master Plan.
- Funding the Virginia Housing Trust Fund to increase affordable housing developments.
- Incentives for developers to build additional density around multi-modal transportation hubs.
- Development of a Virginia Housing Voucher program to supplement the Federal Housing Choice Voucher.
- Establishing a rental assistance program to support residents facing a shortterm emergency.



2023 CHAMBER PARTNERS

Premier Partner







Elite Partner























Business Partner



































