



greater  
williamsburg  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# 2022 Legislative Priorities





## Dear Members of the Greater Williamsburg Chamber,

It is my great honor to serve as the President and CEO of the Greater Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce and to lead its efforts to maintain our mission to “Advocate, collaborate, and create an environment in which business can grow and succeed.” I have been working with our many volunteer members who embrace our mission and put in many hours each month in support of it.

One of the top benefits of being a Greater Williamsburg Chamber member is the advocacy effort that is put forth by staff and membership. I have once again engaged lobbyists who will advocate for our priorities before the Virginia General Assembly during the 2022 session. Many of you will recognize Emily Reynolds, who has previously represented us before the Virginia General Assembly. She recently joined Mindy Carlin, founder and co-owner of Access Point Public Affairs. I am pleased to have them working closely with me and our Legislative Affairs Committee as we collaborate with like-minded groups to maintain and grow a business-friendly environment in the Commonwealth.

We closed the 2022 Legislative Survey of our membership on Friday, November 13. The results are tallied, the 2022 Greater Williamsburg Legislative Agenda has been drafted by the Legislative Affairs Committee, and it has been approved by the Board. The top 5 priorities as confirmed by members who responded to the survey are listed below. Each provides examples of what the GWCC would support under these priorities; however, they are not exhaustive lists. As legislation is introduced, it may fall under the priority topics adopted by the Chamber.

Enjoy your holidays, your families, and great success in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Terry Banez  
President & CEO  
Greater Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce



## Dear Members of the Greater Williamsburg Chamber,

Your Legislative Affairs Committee has worked hard this year to determine the priorities of our membership through our annual survey. From the results, the Committee was able to adopt the top five priorities of the Greater Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce.

The priorities our GWCC members chose are below and contain brief descriptions of the sort of legislation that would fall under them. Our President, Terry Banez, has hired Access Point Public Affairs for the General Assembly session. Mindy Carlin, founder and co-owner, and Emily Reynolds will be heading the advocacy effort on behalf of GWCC. We are so lucky to have them!

I look forward to continuing to work on behalf of our Chamber in the coming year. I also ask you, our membership, to volunteer your time and talent when and where you can to deliver on the mission of the Greater Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce: "Advocate, collaborate, and create an environment in which business can grow and succeed."

Happiest of Holidays!



Angie Bezik  
Chair, Legislative Affairs Committee  
Greater Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce

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## Education and Workforce Development

- Support for engaging K-12 students (and faculty) to encourage participation in early certificate programs so that students will be job-ready upon graduation
- Support for “stackable” career certificate programs to enhance opportunities either within current employer structure and/or to shift to other employment opportunities
- Support creation of apprenticeship programs

## Business Recovery and Economic Development to Include Expansion of I-64 from Route 199 to Richmond

- Support funding to continue to assist the tourism and hospitality industry in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic
- Support incentives to bring employees back to the workforce
- Support funding of the Business Ready Site Program administered by VEDP

## Affordable Housing

- Support initiatives to incentivize development of affordable housing stock, which will support workforce development
- Support public / private initiatives to develop affordable housing options

## Technology Infrastructure Development and Investment

- Support funding to expand broadband, internet, wireless connection in underserved and unserved communities
- Support and public / private initiatives to deploy technologies to schools, communities and for business ready sites

## Pro-Business Environment to Include Tax Policies and Regulation

- Support tax policies that will incentivize hiring and training of workers
- Support reduction of overburdensome regulations that inhibits growth and economic development
- Support existing right-to-work policies