The Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organization of the business community that unites hundreds of business and professional firms, non-profit organizations, government entities and citizens, all operating under the sole purpose of improving the business climate and building a stronger community and immediate area.

The Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce offers four key components to its Investors:

- Advocacy
- Business Improvement
- Education
- Networking

The Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce has grown to over 450 Investors, many of which are small businesses. The Chamber’s strength is from its Investors. Our Investors create a dynamic pool of resources that can develop new ideas, influence decisions, hold legislative power, and address energy and financial matters.

**Advocacy:**

The Governmental Affairs Committee mission is to identify public and political issues at the local, state, and national level to keep the Chamber investors informed. Open to interested Investors who want to be instrumental in legislative issues. Includes Legislative & Health Care Reform Updates, "State of" Series, and assists with Mid-Year Luncheon.

Annually, the Governmental Affairs project team will draft and recommend for passage this Public Policy Agenda to determine the focus of the team as it believes are the most important issues for our Investors and community stakeholders.

Our advocacy includes meeting directly with elected officials at local, state, and national levels; arranging meetings of leaders on issues facing our Investors to best present our Investors best interest and desires; and promoting public policy positions that yield positive outcomes for our Investors and our local economy.

The Chamber will advocate on behalf of its members to contain the cost of doing business, seek to be a leader in addressing local and regional issues influencing our local business climate, and advise our lawmakers and elected officials on the impact of new laws and regulations on the interests of our Investors.

**Legislative Areas of Interest:**

The Governmental Affairs Committee has decided to provide policy positions on the following topics but may drop or add topics as deemed appropriate for our Investors:

- Taxes and Local Government
- Work Place Regulations
Taxes and Local Government:

- Tax policies should stimulate growth, encourage innovation, support job creation, and allow businesses to invest in their own operations and communities.
- Support efforts to achieve consistency among local and state tax codes to allow for easier compliance for businesses.
- Support repeal of existing sales taxes on industries and professional services.
- Support the continuation of the State level Common Sense Initiative (CSI) efforts to identify and reduce regulatory burdens on local businesses by supporting local implementation of CSI at the County and City levels.
- Encourage efficient and responsive government to the needs of local businesses and residents. The Chamber is committed to working with Bowling Green City Government to identify practices, operational efficiencies, and collaborative efforts to provide necessary services while increasing the transparency about the true costs of operations and reducing the overall burden on taxpayers and residents.

Workplace Regulations

- Encourage the alignment and uniformity of workplace regulations with other municipalities and the State.
- Support the continued reforms of Worker’s Compensation and Unemployment laws and taxes to assure solvency and lowest burden on business.

Zoning and Development

- Provide continued feedback on local businesses and property owners concerns for current and future zoning concerns and laws.
- Support continued review and alignment of zoning and development to the existing and future land use plans and strategic development.
- Support the implementation of new zoning laws aligned with the expectations of local business and property owners for strategic growth of Bowling Green.

Work Force and Education

- Support the development of programs which encourage employers to provide secondary and post-secondary students with internship, apprenticeship, and industry certification opportunities.
• Support implementation of consistent and rigorous K-12 Public & Private education and graduation standards
• Support enhancement of career tech and higher education programs and continued funding to ensure that the training needs for existing and emerging industries are met.
• Support continued collaboration with Ohio Means Jobs and programs meant to help offset costs of training and employee development through State funded programs

Additional Considerations and Topics

• Support policies to limit and lower costs of health care and employee health benefits at Federal level through advocacy with elected officials and industry associations
• The Chamber supports a Welcoming Bowling Green and the commitment of local business growth being inclusive among all that wish to make Bowling Green home or to start businesses
• The Chamber supports efforts to promote minority owned and women owned business and to provide opportunity and access to resources for new business development