



THE VOICE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY BUSINESS

**JAMES WHANG, CHAIRMAN
GEORGETTE W. GODWIN, PRESIDENT & CEO**

2009 MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

VISION 2030

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports policies that will ensure our community's global economic competitiveness into the future. MCCC believes that there are fundamental elements essential for maintaining a vibrant community and fostering healthy growth of knowledge economy industries.

Those elements are reflected in our 2009 Business Agenda and include: Investment in infrastructure, a commitment to an educated workforce to support the growth of knowledge economy jobs, balanced and sustainable budgets and a predictable and consistent business climate.

PRUDENT FISCAL MANAGEMENT

- Restrain new spending initiatives in order to protect Maryland's future financial stability.
- Advocate for redistribution of State revenues to Montgomery County so that more tax dollars paid by our businesses and residents return to the County.

TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS

- **Invest in Transportation** - Invest in a balanced transportation system in order to enhance Maryland's competitiveness, promote economic growth and maintain homeland security.
 - Protect funds in the Transportation Trust Fund – Ensure the integrity of the Transportation Trust fund by limiting transfers to the general fund.
 - Advocate for federal and state funding the Purple Line, Corridor Cities Transitway, in order to promote economic activity, transit oriented development and congestion relief.
 - Advocate for I-270 widening in order to support future growth along that corridor.
 - Support Congressional efforts to secure new Federal funding that would benefit our regional transportation network.

COMPETITIVE BUSINESS CLIMATE

- **Avoid further tax increases** – Avoid further tax increases or structural changes, such as combined reporting, that would further harm Maryland's competitiveness in an already depressed economic environment.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Economic Development efforts should support the growth of knowledge economy jobs, include investment in infrastructure, and enhance the overall business climate in Maryland.

- **Grow technology sectors to stay economically competitive**- Develop new tools to encourage capital formation for new and growing technology companies.
 - Support Life Sciences Advisory Board strategic approach to Biotechnology

- Advocate for a small amount of Maryland's pension fund to be invested in local technology start up companies.
- Support legislation fostering the growth of energy technology, green technology and information technology.
- **Energy**
 - Ensure access to affordable, clean, renewable sources of energy through the expanded use of current technologies and the development of new technologies.
- **Small business issues -**
 - Support the growth of an incubator network statewide.
 - Continue to provide opportunities for small business procurement to ensure that State government departments achieve their small business procurement targets.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE PREPARATION

- **K-12 Education.** We must continue to invest in capital infrastructure for our public schools in order to continue to have a world class system. School construction must be a capital priority in order to maintain the vibrancy of the system we have today.
- **Access to higher education** is critical to ensuring Montgomery County has the highly educated well trained workforce it needs to be competitive in today's global economy. The legislature should continue efforts to keep costs affordable in order to expand access at our Montgomery College and the Universities at Shady Grove.