



2026

LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AGENDA

BUSINESS LED. COMMUNITY
FOCUSED. FUTURE ORIENTED.

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OUR **APPROACH**

2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AGENDA

The LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce advocates for policies that strengthen local businesses, support workforce sustainability, and protect the long-term vitality of our communities. Our 2026 priorities reflect direct input from employers, entrepreneurs, and community leaders – and are focused primarily at the **county and state level**, where policy decisions most directly impact day-to-day business operations.

2026

TOP POLICY PRIORITIES



1. HEALTHCARE AFFORDABILITY & ACCESS



2. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT & ZONING REFORM



3. ENTREPRENEURSHIP & SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT



4. AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE CHILDCARE



5. TAX POLICY & BUSINESS INCENTIVES

1. HEALTHCARE AFFORDABILITY & ACCESS

The Challenge: Rising healthcare costs continue to strain employers, employees, and families - especially small businesses that lack purchasing power.

Business Impact: Healthcare affordability affects wages, hiring, retention, and overall competitiveness.

Policy Focus:

- Support cost-containment strategies and innovative care delivery models
- Protect access to rural healthcare services
- Encourage employer flexibility in offering benefits

2. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT & ZONING REFORM

The Challenge: A lack of attainable housing limits workforce attraction and retention.

Business Impact: Employers struggle to recruit and retain talent when housing options near job centers are limited or unaffordable.

Policy Focus:

- Modernize zoning and land-use policies
- Encourage housing development aligned with workforce needs
- Support public-private partnerships that accelerate responsible growth

TOP POLICY PRIORITIES CONT'D

3. ENTREPRENEURSHIP & SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

The Challenge: Small businesses face rising operational costs, regulatory complexity, and limited access to capital.

Business Impact: Small businesses and entrepreneurs are the backbone of LaGrange County's economy and require intentional support to start, grow, and sustain operations.

Policy Focus:

- Prioritize incentives and programs for small businesses - not just large corporations
- Reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens
- Support access to capital, technical assistance, and mentorship

4. AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE CHILDCARE

The Challenge: Childcare availability and affordability are workforce issues, not just family issues.

Business Impact: Lack of childcare limits workforce participation, increases absenteeism, and affects retention.

Policy Focus:

- Incentivize employer-supported childcare solutions
- Expand childcare capacity and workforce
- Treat childcare as essential economic infrastructure

5. TAX POLICY & BUSINESS INCENTIVES

The Challenge: Rising taxes and operational costs - energy, postage, compliance - are squeezing margins.

Business Impact: Cost pressures reduce reinvestment, wage growth, and expansion.

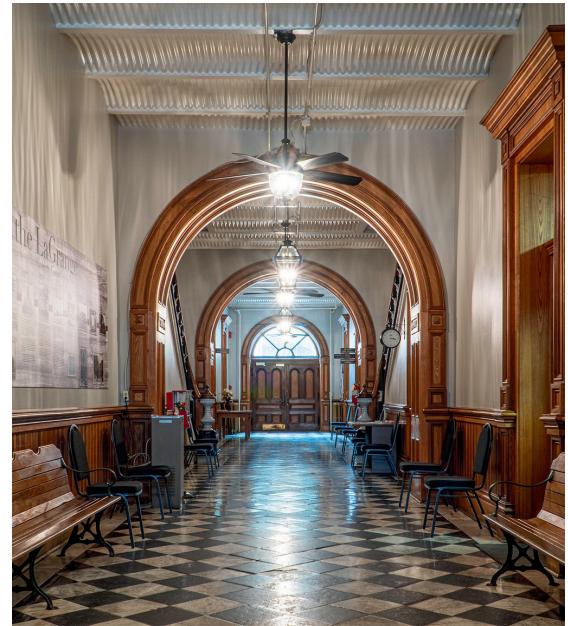
Policy Focus:

- Advocate for predictable, competitive tax policies
- Support targeted tax relief and incentives tied to workforce and community investment
- Ensure policies consider unintended consequences for small businesses

KEY BUSINESS **PAIN POINTS** (WHAT WE'RE HEARING)

**THESE PRESSURES ARE
INTERCONNECTED AND REQUIRE
COORDINATED SOLUTIONS - NOT
ONE-OFF FIXES.**

- Rising taxes and operational costs
- Healthcare affordability
- Workforce shortages and talent retention challenges
- Workforce readiness and skills mismatch



WORKFORCE-CENTERED SOLUTIONS THAT MATTER

**TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN TALENT, BUSINESSES IDENTIFIED
THE FOLLOWING AS HIGH-IMPACT SOLUTIONS.**

- Tax credits for workforce training and upskilling
- Incentives for employer-support childcare
- Housing development near job centers
- Stronger alignment between employers, schools, and career education systems



ADVOCACY FOCUS AREAS

BASED ON MEMBER FEEDBACK, OUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS WILL BE CONCENTRATED AT THE LEVELS WHERE IMPACT IS GREATEST:

1. Local - County Government (Primary Focus)
2. State of Indiana
3. Local - Municipalities Government
4. Federal (Limited, strategic engagement)

WHAT ELECTED OFFICIALS SHOULD UNDERSTAND ABOUT DOING BUSINESS IN LAGRANGE COUNTY:

In one sentence, LaGrange County offers a strong, locally supportive business environment where small businesses drive the economy - but thoughtful, well-informed policy decisions are essential to avoid unintended consequences and to invest in livability, workforce, and locally rooted growth.



This agenda reflects a shared responsibility between the business community and public leaders. When policy decisions are informed by real-world business conditions, LaGrange County is positioned to remain a place where businesses grow, families thrive, and local investment stays local.



2026

THANK YOU

LAGRANGE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



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