



# 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



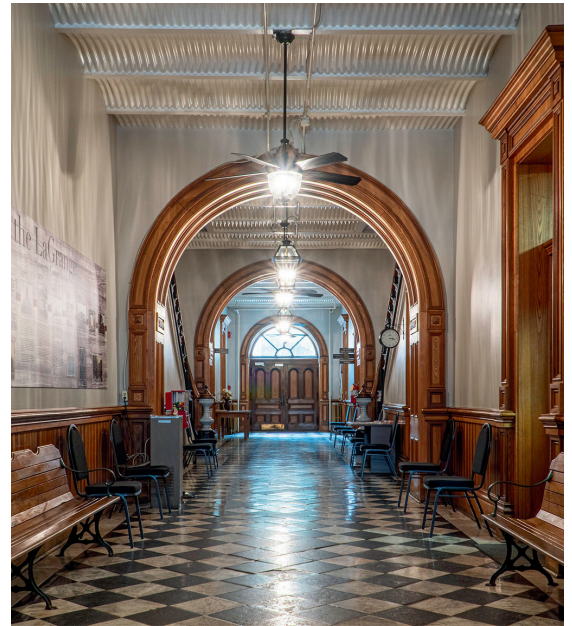
## KEY BUSINESS

# 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

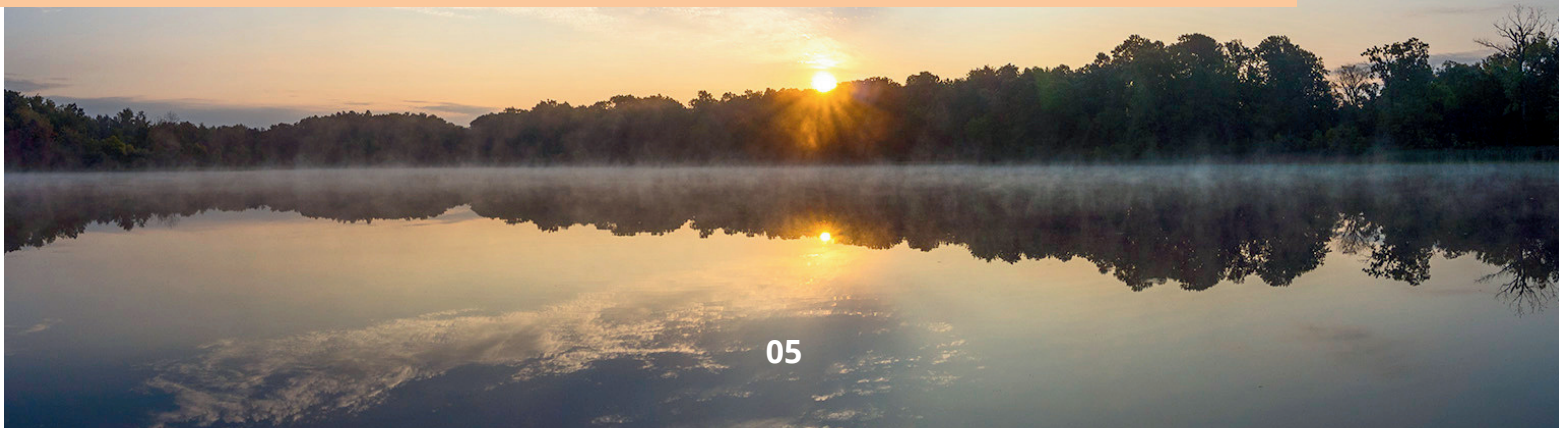


## WORKFORCE-CENTERED SOLUTIONS

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



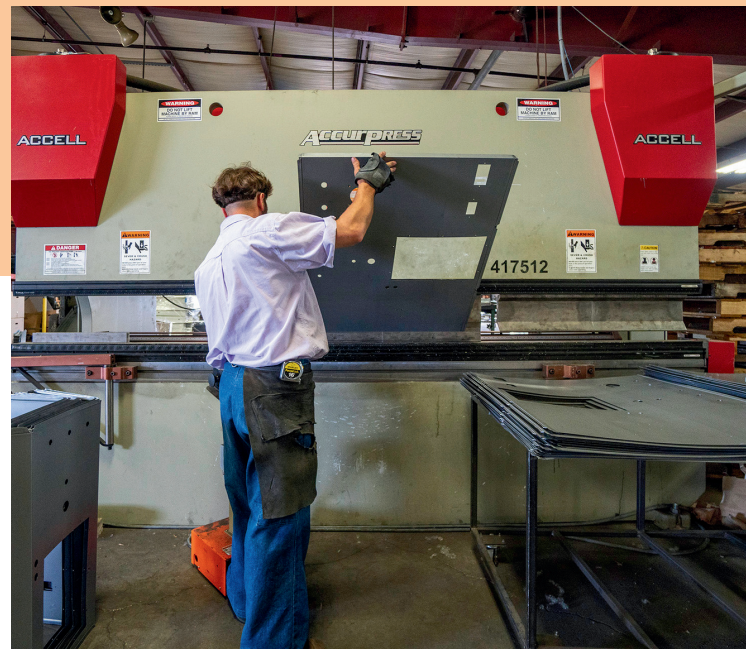
# ADVOCACY FOCUS AREAS

**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

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## LAGRANGE COUNTY

### LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



*Surveyed and produced by:*



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