

2025/26 ADVOCACY AGENDA

Since 1993 the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce (GSSCC) has worked to enhance the economic prosperity of greater Silver Spring and support businesses through unrelenting advocacy for the betterment of our community. The Chamber seeks to foster the growth of existing businesses, encourage new business creation, improve competitiveness in the region, maintain and enhance property values, and promote consumer and investor interest and confidence in the greater Silver Spring area.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, & TAXES: SUPPORT:

- A tax system that grows the tax base and economy by attracting new, and retaining existing, businesses and non-profits.
- A responsible budget that balances the needs of the residents with tax policies that don't place undue burdens on residents & business.
- Additional tax credits and changes to the J.O.B.S. Initiative and the MOVE Act to increase hiring and employee retention, with a focus on realistic numbers for small businesses and equity focus areas.
- Common Sense policies and legislation that doesn't put County business at a competitive disadvantage with non-County business.
- Pre-emption, by State law, with legislative language requiring for a single law for the state instead of an inconsistent, ambiguous, and often more rigorous compliance obligation by the County.
- Keeping "Economic Enterprise Zone" designation at State level and "Equity Focus Area" designation at County level for some areas of Silver Spring.
- Adopt legislation requiring that no new laws or regulations are enacted without a mandated and published fiscal impact analysis of the cost of compliance and the fiscal economic impact on the affected businesses.
- Legislation for General Assembly and County to delay implementation, by at least 18 months, of costly new regulations or taxes to allow businesses to budget for the changes and increases.
- Land usage and zoning policies that preserve and facilitate viable opportunities for existing and future businesses or business uses to increase County competitiveness.
- Increased housing density around retail and transit centers and the viability of office space initiatives by deregulating development to encourage and achieve the goal.
- Housing policies including, but not limited to, expedited approval, fee reduction, property tax credits/abatement, use of public land for mixed income housing, etc. that will result in more income aligned options, thus attracting and retaining a younger and more diverse workforce.
- A wholesale & retail alcoholic beverage system and liquor sales privatization.
- Repeal of Rent Control Legislation and eliminate vacancy control clause.

OPPOSE:

- The expansion of sales tax on services, mandatory combined reporting; increased corporate and pass-through taxes, and alternative fees
- Policies putting County business at a competitive disadvantage with non-County business.
- Efforts to enhance ABS or increase unfair competition with local businesses – Support wholesale & retail alcoholic beverage system and liquor licensing process privatization
- Tip Credit Repeal being presented by outside organization One Fair Wage

EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION:

SUPPORT:

- The delay in implementing the State mandated FMLI (Family & Medical Leave Insurance) Act.
- Preserving an employer's ability to manage its workforce to best suit its business needs (maintaining control over wages, scheduling, benefits, leave policies).
- Continued investment in Montgomery College and Universities at Shady Grove and their expansion.

EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION CONT.:

SUPPORT:

- Support the delay in implementing the State mandated FAMILI (Family & Medical Leave Insurance) Act.
- Preserving an employer's ability to manage its workforce to best suit its business needs (maintaining control over wages, scheduling, benefits, leave policies).
- Support implementation of laws that incentivize expansion of affordable, quality childcare.
- Support continued investment in Montgomery College and Universities at Shady Grove and their expansion.
- A balanced MCPS budget that links spending to results and prepares students to read, write, do basic mathematics, and be productive members of society upon graduation, without undue fiscal burden on residents, and increased transparency and accountability.
- Expansion of MCPS programs that address ALL Levels of student learning capacity.
- Support expanding educational attainment and employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated Marylanders. At the same time, employers must be protected from liability associated with hiring and customers/consumers from risk.

OPPOSE:

- Unreasonably restrictive employee shift scheduling requirements.
- Current Unemployment Law Reform. Support policies that provide fair unemployment insurance benefits to workers without creating an undue burden on job creators and an unemployment insurance system that provides transparency for employers and benefit recipients.

TRANSPORTATION

SUPPORT:

- Speedy completion of Purple Line and continued State funding for communities beyond completion date.
- State funding for Metro system reliability and hold Metro accountable for the performance of the system, personnel, and costs.
- The integrity of the Transportation Trust Fund and fair share funding for the County.
- Efforts to encourage inter-jurisdictional cooperation to solve transit needs.
- Adequate funding to sustain the State's and County's network of roads and bridges.
- Measures that improve traffic flow and reduce congestion on I-270 and I-495, major regional arteries, and the expansion of the American Legion Bridge to promote transportation resiliency.
- Reevaluation of Master Plans requiring loss of travel lanes and parking to underutilized buses and provide support for vehicular traffic along with bike lanes.
- Sunset of Impact Taxes

OPPOSE:

- County Executive's process to draft legislation to establish a separate commercial property tax rate dedicated solely to fund BRT.
- BRT on Rt 29 between Sligo Creek Parkway through the New Hampshire Rd on and off ramps.

ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY

SUPPORT:

- Sensible and fair regulations relating to decarbonization efforts and Building Energy Performance Standards including sustained and dedicated funding to meet requirements and appropriate grandfathering/legacy clause.
- Increased generation across the State to support energy need and reduce costs for businesses and residents.
- More transparency on gas tax and electric vehicle tax.
- Common sense policies to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals, both direct and indirect, and do not overburden businesses and residents with increased costs and policies with minimal to no real impact.

ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY CONT:

STATE & COUNTY

- Oppose the County's Community Choice Aggregation program.

PUBLIC SAFETY

SUPPORT:

- Budgetary resources and cost-effective policies that will attract and retain an increased number of police and first responders to serve our communities.
- Ways to work with District Commanders and partners to enhance crime prevention and safety like the Silver Spring Safety Alliance.
- New technologies as tools to provide shorter response times and increased care like the Drone as First Responder, Live 911, and INSIGHT - Intelligent Safety & Geographic Hotspot Targeting, while protecting the privacy of citizens and businesses.
- Updates to the juvenile justice laws to act as further deterrents to juvenile crime with increased accountability, particularly on non-Montgomery County residents committing crimes here.