



**2009 – 2010 PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY AGENDA  
Volume XIV**

**OUR MISSION**

**To drive economic development and prosperity for the people of the Greater Akron region.**

**Grow Greater Akron**

Grow greater Akron by broadening and strengthening innovative economic development efforts to sustain job growth and increase local wealth in the short and long term.

- a. Business Friendly Environment
  - i. Continue to support public policy that conveys the message that the greater Akron region is a favorable local to support attraction and expansion investment opportunities.
- b. Entrepreneurship
  - i. Work with local and regional partners to support technology transfer programs and the creation of startup tech businesses.
  - ii. Pursue policy and state and federal funding opportunities with regional partners to support entrepreneurial investment and innovation. Opportunities on the state level could be pursued through the Third Frontier Program.
- c. Innovation Centers
  - i. Promote policies and funding that enhance the expansion and retention of local industry clusters such as Advanced Materials (metal, polymers and liquid crystals); Healthcare (biomedical); Advanced Energy; Instruments, Controls; and Electronics and Service (Finance/Insurance/Real Estate/Housing) as an integral part of our economic growth strategy.
  - ii. The BioInnovation Institute will pioneer the next generation of life-enhancing and life-saving innovation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Support the Institute's goal of raising \$120 million over the next ten years to become a world class facility. Support will include advocacy for the increase of research and development funding for universities and health care partners from the state and federal government.
- d. Tax Reform
  - i. The Chamber is committed to support pro-growth tax policies that preserve global competitiveness and create a tax climate that fosters business development to invest in new products, equipment and employees.
  - ii. Continue to monitor the implementation of the state Commercial Activity Tax (CAT) and local taxes as they pertain to business.

- e. Health Care
  - i. Continue to support market-driven solutions to control growth in health care costs and to foster competition in the private health insurance market.
  - ii. Advocate for fair and equitable reimbursement plans for health care providers ensuring their continued growth in the region.
  - iii. Support public/private sustainable solutions to increase citizen access to health insurance coverage and decrease the number of uninsured.