



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

OUR MISSION

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

Revitalize our Physical Assets

Collaborate with the public and private sectors to continue the revitalization of our urban core and other key tangible assets that will enhance our sense of place and quality of life.

- a. Transportation
 - i. Air: Support Akron-Canton Airport's 2018 capital improvement plan which will make necessary upgrades to retain their low-fare advantage; retain and expand national service providers and flights. Advocate for international service for the region.
 - ii. Surface and Multi-Modal Transportation: Advocate for transportation policies and related funding that improves the movement of people and goods to spur economic growth.
- b. Energy
 - i. Advocate for the regulatory structure to achieve a fair balance between keeping prices reasonable and affordable for customers while ensuring utilities have the resources they need to make appropriate investments in service reliability.
 - ii. Support the development of renewable energy sources, provided the cost of these resources does not undermine economic development and job growth in the region. These efforts should recognize the importance of energy storage technologies that can make renewable sources such as wind and solar more feasible and cost-effective in our region.
 - iii. Support energy efficiency programs that can help our member companies better manage their energy use while achieving clearly defined environmental goals.
- c. Sustainability
 - i. Support efforts that promote community planning concepts and projects that would preserve and expand our park and green system and revitalize our urban area.
 - ii. Advocate for funding of sustainable development opportunities that enhance regional corridors; such as the Tech Belt, Biomedical corridor, University Park Area, Eastgate Renewal Area, and Firestone Park redevelopment.
- d. Cultural and Recreational Amenities

- i. Promote projects that would support the arts, sports and other recreational activities that add economic impact.
- e. Prisons and Corrections
 - i. The Greater Akron Chamber continues to support the utilization and expansion of successful, cost saving, community corrections programs which help to make communities safer, hold offenders accountable, and provide opportunities for offenders to improve their lives.
 - ii. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has the second largest department budget in the State of Ohio.
 - iii. While incarceration is dictated for violent, predatory offenders, there remains a large population of nonviolent offenders spending short periods of time in overcrowded, expensive prison cells. Over 60% of the offenders in Ohio's prisons are serving a sentence of less than one year and are unable to access rehabilitative services.
 - iv. Support Community Corrections for appropriate offenders, which will save the state hundreds of millions of dollars that could be better spent on education, health care and workforce development.
- f. Communication
 - i. Strive for communication policies that promote and ensure fair and open competition; removing obsolete barriers that result from outdated burdensome regulation and requirements; regulate for all technologies that provide similar services in markets that are competitive; and encourage innovation and investment.