



# **DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES**

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Updated December 2024

Updated February 2010

Adopted February 1996

## **DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

It is the mission of the Sacramento Metro Chamber to lead with a collective voice that brings members together, for business to prosper, by providing opportunity, service, and solutions for a thriving regional economy.

***The Sacramento Metro Chamber convenes, advocates, and supports policies and programs in the following areas:***

### **ADVANCE REGIONAL PROSPERITY:**

- Promote quality of life factors that ensure the Capital Region is an attractive place to live, work, and do business and that every resident who chooses to can find meaningful employment and opportunities for success.
- Create a prosperous business climate that fosters economic growth in the Capital Region for businesses of all types that encourages innovation and creativity.
- Prioritize business retention throughout the region and foster growth to stimulate economic vibrancy.

### **ADVANCE AND PROTECT BUSINESS INTERESTS:**

- Ensure that business regulations are reasonable and do not impose a competitive disadvantage.
- Prioritize maximum efficiency and return on investments with public funds by holding government accountable.
- Ensure that government's focus remains on its core responsibilities and that the public sector supports, complements, and empowers businesses to lead in driving innovation, growth, and a thriving regional economy.

### **PUBLIC / PRIVATE INTERFACE:**

- Encourage public/private partnerships wherever possible and achievable.
- Support a public education system that offers all an opportunity to learn, and which prepares students for meaningful employment.
- Encourage collaborative cooperation among government agencies and reduce the proliferation of unnecessary regulatory environments.

### **COMPETITIVENESS:**

- Seek a practical balance between the economic, environment, social, and technical issues that drive the public policy that impacts business while promoting the Capital Region's economic competitiveness.

## ISSUES STATEMENTS

### BUSINESS CLIMATE: CIVIC AMENITIES, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FOOD & AGRICULTURE, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND TECHNOLOGY & MEDIA

**CIVIC AMENITIES:** The Metro Chamber supports public/private partnerships that work collaboratively to create jobs and grow the economy. We support vital civic infrastructure, a vibrant urban regional core and a variety of recreation and leisure opportunities that improve the quality of life and enhance the region’s global competitiveness. We advocate for the reasonable development of green spaces and recreational facilities that enhance the community and attract new businesses and residents.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** The Metro Chamber supports policies that encourage entrepreneurship and small business growth, including access to resources and financing. We advocate for workforce development programs that provide training and job opportunities for residents. We believe in creating a business-friendly environment by reducing regulatory barriers and streamlining processes for businesses to start and grow, including reduction of development impact fees to make projects more affordable and attainable.

Specifically, the Metro Chamber:

- Opposes Mandatory PLA’s or Community Benefit Agreements that restrict developers’ ability to select partners that make projects economically viable.
- Opposes mandatory prevailing wage on all development projects, especially private projects.
- Supports the evolution of the clean energy economy and development and adoption of innovative technologies as an alternative to fossil fuels provided, they are reasonable, economically feasible, and consider potential barriers to adoption and use.

**FOOD & AGRICULTURE:** As the breadbasket to the world, the Metro Chamber supports the local farm to fork initiative, supporting agriculture and food manufacturing. We advocate for reasonable policies that protect farmland and preserve agricultural heritage in the community. We believe in advocating for increased investment in nutrition and food assistance programs to address food insecurity, strengthen local and regional food systems, and improve health. To support agricultural growth, we support investment in ag-tech and resilient systems and infrastructure to ensure long-lasting farms in the region.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** The Metro Chamber supports ongoing funding and investments in public safety infrastructure, such as police and fire departments, that strengthen the safety and security of businesses and residents. We advocate for policies that address substance abuse, mental health, and homelessness issues that impact public safety in the community, including supporting enforcement of existing laws for illegal activity tied to homeless encampments. We support community policing and collaborative efforts between law enforcement and local businesses to address public safety concerns.

**TECHNOLOGY & MEDIA:** The Metro Chamber supports technology, media, and broadcasting that prioritize accessibility, inclusivity, and local journalism that supports the free exchange of ideas, while safeguarding privacy and information security. Policies should encourage innovation, modernization, and competition, fostering connections and empowering changemakers to address communication and technology challenges that serve both community and business needs. Regulatory frameworks must evolve to accommodate emerging technologies, balancing

business interests with the need to enhance productivity, improve decision-making, and drive sustainable, responsible growth.

### **COMMUNITY PROSPERITY: COMMUNITY RESOURCES, HOUSING, HEALTH CARE & LAND USE**

**COMMUNITY RESOURCES:** The Metro Chamber advocates for a comprehensive and nimble system that brings forward community resilience through expanded flexibility and funding to prevent homelessness, support enhanced mental health services and meet the permanent supportive housing needs of our communities. The Chamber supports the removal of administrative burdens and enacting policies that streamline and improve coordination and accountability of resource delivery to meet the needs of our region.

**HOUSING:** The Metro Chamber advocates for housing of all types and the need to increase supply to address the demand of the growing regional population. The Metro Chamber encourages incentive-based approaches to transit-oriented development, streamlining production processes and reducing barriers through policy reform. We oppose programs that demonstrably erect barriers to housing attainability for all, including mandatory inclusionary housing, rent control, right to purchase, and fee increases that add undue pressure on the marketplace and threaten project feasibility.

**HEALTH CARE:** The Metro Chamber believes that access to quality health care is vital to all. Any reforms to health care must include regional flexibility and promote integrated delivery systems that control costs, increase efficiency, and maintain quality. Every effort should be made to maximize enrollment in existing programs, allow reasonable freedom to choose from qualified providers and incorporate reasonable copayments and deductibles.

**LAND USE:** The Metro Chamber endorses land use policies which enhance economic development, quality of life and protect the property rights of private landowners while balancing the public need. Clarity and policy consistency are imperative for land use and development. New and updated procedures for implementation must be timely and take into consideration existing regional guidance.

### **EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT: EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & LABOR, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**EDUCATION:** The Metro Chamber recognizes the critical importance of education in building a strong and vibrant economy. Businesses must be assured that all factions of the education system are committed to advancing educational access and equity that will supply them with workers who have both basic and advanced skills needed to foster innovation, competitiveness, and prosperity in the Capital Region. The Metro Chamber supports continued learning and quality education which is essential for businesses to adapt to changing market conditions, technological advancements, and evolving consumer preferences.

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:** The Metro Chamber believes that the people-first approach in workforce development fosters prosperity for individuals, communities, and businesses. The Metro Chamber encourages and supports strategic efforts and programs aimed at enhancing the skills, knowledge, and capabilities (upskilling) of the diverse local workforce to meet the current and future demands of the business community in the Capital Region with a well-equipped and qualified workforce. This includes initiatives such as training programs, educational partnerships,

job placement services, and advocacy for policies that promote a skilled and competitive workforce in the region.

Specifically, the Metro Chamber:

- Supports social support programs for at-risk populations (when they are tied to expectations or programs) that drive increased education and meaningful employment opportunities for all.

**LABOR & EMPLOYMENT:** The Metro Chamber supports employer’s rights to direct their companies’ employees in an efficient, safe, and productive manner, ensuring good management/labor relationships to support the economic well-being of the Capital Region. We support set standards of fairness and equity, competitiveness and market-based wages, flexible work arrangements, and employer privacy while upholding labor law appropriately.

### **ENVIRONMENT - AIR QUALITY, NATURAL RESOURCES & WILDFIRES**

**AIR QUALITY:** As a federal non-attainment area, the Sacramento Metro Chamber recognizes and believes that improving the air quality for the region is important to its long-term economic growth and regional prosperity. The Metro Chamber supports measures promoting and encouraging healthy air quality for the Capital Region and its economic vitality if the policies are reasonable, economically feasible, and consider compliance barriers. Proposals to enhance air quality should also be based on proven science, demonstrated effectiveness, and should seek to influence the behavior of the entities that directly affect air quality.

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** The Metro Chamber supports balanced environmental policy that works to preserve the region’s natural resources with the human environment necessary for regional prosperity. The Metro Chamber believes that plant and animal species are important to protect and maintain in their environment, with consideration given to human factors, quality of life and economic prosperity.

**WILDFIRES:** Considering the national, state, and regional wildfire crisis, the Metro Chamber advocates for policy and funding that leads to smaller, less intense fires, air quality standards that allow for prescribed fire, community resilience and preparedness, and bolstering capacity for wildfire response. These can be achieved with ecologically balanced fuel reduction and timber harvesting in forested lands, innovation, research, and investment in firefighting resources. Given the cross-jurisdictional nature of these objectives, policies and funding should be considered by the intergovernmental agencies involved.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE: FLOOD PROTECTION, TRANSPORTATION & WATER RESOURCES**

**FLOOD PROTECTION:** The Metro Chamber recognizes that the Capital Region must have essential flood protection to protect life and property and provide the foundation for economic prosperity. We advocate for:

- State and Federal cost shares to be promptly appropriated to construct Federally authorized projects for the region in the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency to ensure that flood insurance rates are fair, and that disaster assistance is available if needed.
- Smart reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program to ensure our agricultural communities can grow and thrive.

**TRANSPORTATION:** The Metro Chamber advocates for a robust transportation system that addresses the values and needs of the Capital Region’s business community. The Chamber seeks to align these priorities with residents, policymakers, and transportation stakeholders to foster the understanding that commerce and livability depend upon the timely transiting of people and goods throughout the region. Accordingly, the Chamber supports transportation policies that facilitate goods movement, provide congestion relief, connect residential and employment centers, fund transit in a manner that best leverages and attracts federal transit investments, and support local self-help transportation measures.

**WATER RESOURCES:** The Metro Chamber believes the community’s access to a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply is essential for long-term economic prosperity. The region will need to diversify its water sources, including storing water and drawing water from less environmentally sensitive locations. The Metro Chamber supports maintaining access to water supplies to support the region’s quality of life and local economy.

Specifically, the Metro Chamber:

- Supports continued State and Federal investment in the construction of facilities to diversify water supplies.
- Supports State and Federal policies that improve the water supply availability for the businesses and residents of the region.
- Supports sensible water management for the environmental health of our rivers’ ecosystem.