



2026

Business Priorities



HOUSING

Housing is vital for economic development, addressing workforce needs, and fostering diverse options like senior and workforce housing to support retention, growth, and community success.



CHILDCARE

Affordable, high-quality childcare is key to workforce participation and economic growth, supporting thriving families and reliable, productive businesses through expanded access and advocacy.



INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

Proper infrastructure planning sustains growth and well-being. Collaborative forums ensure informed input, enabling effective execution of projects like roads, utilities, and public facilities for long-term community needs.



ENERGY

ENERGY we support renewable energy initiatives, including emerging nuclear technologies, energy conservation and efficiency programs.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MINNESOTA CHAMBER FEDERATION

The Federation's agenda focuses on four core areas essential to Minnesota's competitive future:

1. Make Minnesota's tax climate more competitive by aligning with federal pro-growth tax policy.
2. Fix and implement PFML and other workplace mandates in ways that reduce burdens and ensure functionality.
3. Improve permitting efficiency to support investment and job growth.
4. Address major cost drivers that weaken business competitiveness and household affordability.

These priorities reflect clear data: Minnesota must reduce costs, improve predictability, and support private-sector growth to ensure a strong economic future.

Working to create an environment where businesses and families thrive.

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2026 PRIORITIES



We pride ourselves as a strong coalition of business leaders, entrepreneurs and community members who work together to create an environment where businesses want to build and expand, and families want to put down roots. It is imperative that we work to enact policies at all levels that encourage and allow Minnesota families and businesses to grow and expand throughout the Elk River area and the surrounding communities.

1

HOUSING is a critical factor in economic development and essential to addressing workforce needs for the region. Supporting the study of housing needs helps inform decision-making and fosters beneficial outcomes, such as providing diverse housing options that contribute to workforce retention and community growth. Addressing life-stage housing, including senior housing, strengthens the regional economy and creates opportunities for first-time homebuyers and workforce housing, positioning the community for long-term success.

2

CHILDCARE Access to affordable and high-quality childcare is essential for workforce participation and economic prosperity. The Chamber remains committed to advocating for resources and policies that expand childcare availability and affordability, ensuring families in our community can thrive while businesses benefit from a reliable and productive workforce.

3

ENERGY We support renewable energy initiatives, along with conservation and efficiency programs, as part of a balanced, affordable, and reliable energy strategy that supports economic growth and job creation. As major energy transitions occur at the Sherco site, Sherburne County has an opportunity to remain a leader in energy production while supporting long-term regional competitiveness. We support a broader conversation around clean, reliable energy solutions, including emerging nuclear technologies. Minnesota's carbon-free goals and future workforce and business needs require dependable, around-the-clock energy sources that complement renewable generation. Supporting innovation, pilot projects, and thoughtful policy discussions—while addressing safety, grid stability, land use, and cost impacts—will help ensure a stable power supply, preserve industrial and commercial zoning, and sustain the regional tax base.

4

URBAN & COUNTY SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE Proper planning and sustained investment in urban and county infrastructure are essential to economic growth, public safety, and community well-being. The Chamber supports a collaborative, transparent approach that includes informed input from businesses and residents when major infrastructure decisions are considered. Strategic reinvestment in roads, utilities, public safety facilities, and other core infrastructure ensures projects are completed efficiently and continue to meet the long-term needs of businesses, employees, and residents.