



# NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAMBER PARTNERSHIP

DULLES | LOUDOUN | RESTON

## 2023 General Assembly Session Priorities

As Northern Virginia's oldest and most respected Chamber-led business advocacy collaborative, *The Northern Virginia Chamber Partnership* represents members of the Dulles Regional, Loudoun County, and Greater Reston Chambers of Commerce. The Partnership offers a strong, unified voice for the northern Virginia business community at the state and regional level.

For the 2023 Virginia General Assembly session, the Partnership plans to provide leadership on these critical economic and quality of life issues facing our region.

### Business Climate and Economic Strength

Strengthening Virginia's business climate, and creating jobs and economic opportunities for every region of the Commonwealth is the partnership's top priority. That requires a business friendly tax and regulatory environment, support for small businesses and entrepreneurs, cross-jurisdictional economic development partnerships, and renewed emphasis on international trade and advanced manufacturing.

### Invest in Housing Affordability

The root of Virginia's success is the availability of abundant talent. That workforce must have access to safe and attainable housing options near their jobs. The Partnership supports increased funding for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund, reforms to restrictive local zoning laws that limit affordable housing options and increased emphasis on public-private solutions to address our workforce housing crisis.

### Invest in Mental Health Resources

The Partnership recognizes our business community requires a healthy workforce which means a healthy body and mind. Mental health concerns impact the worker, co-workers, family and friends. The post pandemic highlighted a significant increase in anxiety, depression, substance abuse, stress and suicide. We need to fund and support key mental health programs to ensure our community remains healthy and has access to trained mental healthcare professionals.

### Workforce and Education

The Partnership supports efforts to strengthen Virginia's education and workforce programs, including expanded public-private partnerships, enhanced work-based learning, increased opportunities for students of all ages to attain college credits and industry credentials, address affordability in higher education, reach historically underserved communities, and reform the Commonwealth's overall workforce development strategy.

