

# PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA 2016 SCORECARD



The Regional Chamber's Public Policy Agenda is a blueprint for growth and development of business in the Valley. In 2016, the Chamber staff, using the scorecard as a guide, successfully compiled the following accomplishments on behalf of Youngstown-Warren area businesses:

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The Chamber led a trade mission to Cuba in February 2016 for local business leaders to explore exporting opportunities within the approved industries of agriculture, building and construction materials, telecommunications, energy and other equipment and tools.
- The Chamber also hosted 13 site consultants for the Valley's first familiarization tour, which resulted in several leads, return visits and introductions to additional site selectors.



## EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- In accordance with the Chamber-supported HB 70, Krish Mohip was named CEO of Youngstown City Schools in the spring of 2016, and Youngstown City Schools released its Strategic Plan in September 2016.
- The Chamber launched its JobsNow Workforce Development Program and highlighted more than 30 growing and in-demand careers that are currently available in the Valley via news segments on WKBN.



## ENERGY

- The Mahoning Valley Coalition for Job Growth and Investment, created by the Chamber, helped defeat the anti-business Community Bill of Rights charter amendment in Youngstown for the sixth time.
- The Ohio General Assembly passed legislation designed to prevent similar Community Bills of Rights from being placed on ballots in the future.
- The Chamber hosted the initial "Fueling America's Future" panel discussion addressing energy and transportation infrastructure.



## HEALTH & SAFETY

- All employer protections requested by the Chamber and its Ohio Metro Chambers Coalition partners were included in the bill legalizing medical marijuana.



## INFRASTRUCTURE

- Several local projects, endorsed by the Chamber's Grow Mahoning Valley (GMV) Council, received state and federal funding including:
  - The SR164/I-680 interchange
  - Reconstruction of Meridian Road to be completed by 2019
  - Widening of Western Reserve Road
- Work continues on the widening of Rt. 80 in Mahoning and Trumbull counties.
- Congress passed the FAST Act, which authorizes spending on federal highway and public transportation programs, surface transportation safety and research activities and rail programs through September 30, 2020.



## MILITARY AFFAIRS

- The Ohio General Assembly approved the Chamber's request to re-appropriate \$250,000 in the state capital budget toward an embarkation/debarkation facility at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station (YARS).
- \$9 million in federal funds were awarded for a firing range at YARS.
- The FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act includes a directive for the Air Force to report on how it will prioritize upgrades to new C-130J aircraft for facilities that include special mission units — such as the aerial spray mission of the 910th Airlift Wing at YARS.
- A letter-writing campaign spearheaded by the Chamber and its Eastern Ohio Military Affairs Commission helped Camp Ravenna emerge as one of the final three locations to be considered for the East Coast Missile Defense site.



## TAXES

- Ohio paid off its Federal Unemployment Tax Act debt, eliminating the penalty for employers and addressing one of the primary concerns raised by the Chamber and its Ohio Metro Chamber Coalition partners.



## VOTING & ELECTIONS

- In the 2016 primary election, there were 15 competitive races in Trumbull and Mahoning counties, compared to 11 in 2012, a comparable election year. Additionally, there were 64 candidates who ran in the 2016 primary, compared to 58 in 2012. For the 2012 general election, there were 11 contested races in the two counties, while in 2016, there were 19.

