

2018 State Legislative Priority Issues:

Education

- **What we support** – *We support equitable funding for public schools so that we eliminate the need for operational referendums to maintain student programs and adjustments to the circuit breaker tax that are public school sensitive. We also support a replacement for ISTEP that informs instruction in real-time and is understandable for educators, parents and the students that take the test.*
- **Why it's important** – *Hamilton County attracts high-growth, high-performing businesses and a highly-educated workforce by offering families outstanding public education. Fueling this growth are the schools of Hamilton County. They are among the highest performing schools in the State of Indiana and it is imperative that we maintain this standard.*
- **Key points:**
 - *ILEARN – The new test would be used for the first time in 2019, ISTEP still has one more year of life. The Indiana Department of Education will be tasked with developing the new test and finding a vendor. The as yet defined test will be called ILEARN “Indiana’s Learning Evaluation Assessment Readiness Network.”*

Economic Development

- **What we support** – *We support maintaining Indiana’s attractive tax climate to increase economic growth and prosperity.*
- **Why it's important** – *Companies chose to invest in Hamilton County because of the positive business climate and people relocate because of the quality of life and jobs. In order to continue this growth we must maintain progressive incentives that encourage new growth and redevelopment of existing resources. Indiana must also maintain their economic competitiveness through the retention and responsible use of existing tax credits.*
- **Key points:**
 - *Incentives to promote entrepreneurship*

Home Rule

- **What we support** – *We support Indiana’s Home Rule Act first passed in 1980 that generally grants municipalities the power to govern themselves as they see fit. The idea, modeled off the national principle of federalism, gives more choice, options, flexibility, and freedom to local leaders.*
- **Why it's important** – *Mayors and City Councils are best suited to enact legislation that effect our communities. We believe that greater home rule provides flexibility for our locally-elected officials, the state’s “one size fits all” philosophy is not in the best interest of our members.*
- **Key points:**
 - *Airbnb*
 - *Cell phone coverage*

Healthcare

- **What we support** – **We support** legislation or initiatives that improve healthcare affordability or provides incentives for individuals to be more health conscious. We also support initiatives that address mental health issues.
- **Why it's important** – Indiana is one of the unhealthiest states in the nation, ranking 41st for overall health of its citizens. Having healthy citizens is vital to the state's economy and to our quality of life. An unhealthy work force impacts Indiana's ability to attract quality businesses and increases healthcare costs.
- **Key points:**
 - If there is a change in Obamacare what is the effect on the state level for our members.

Mass Transit

- **What we support** – **We support** placement of the referendum question on the ballot which could eventually fund the Red Line in Hamilton County. We will monitor any proposed changes to the current mass transit legislation.
- **Why it's important** – Many Hamilton County employers struggle to find employees and a consistent obstacle is reliable mass transit. A mass transit system would help by providing transportation for out of county workers and would also allow our businesses to increase their competitiveness in the region.

Regional Cooperation – Indianapolis & the Surrounding Counties

- **What we support** – **We support** policies and initiatives that provide regional cooperation, resulting in stronger economic development attraction and retention, talent attraction, and smart successful urban growth strategies.
- **Why it's important** – The founding concept of OneZone was Regional Cooperation and as Hamilton County continues to move forward we realize that we should investigate any partnership that has the ability to strengthen the region. OneZone's task is to identify, evaluate and if a potential arrangements will have a positive impact, move it forward.

Workforce Development

- **What we support** – **We support** legislation that encourages workforce initiatives in Indiana.
- **Why it's important** – Hamilton County's unemployment rate hovers around 2% which is full employment. Because of our low unemployment rate the ability of business to attract talent is difficult and job openings exist in most employment sectors. Continued strong economic development requires an available and educated workforce.

Alcohol Code Revision

- **What we support** – We will be monitoring the Alcohol Code Revision Commission as they start on their two year process of examining Indiana's Alcohol Laws.
- **Why it's important** – Indiana needs to evaluate current alcohol laws to eliminate conflicts that currently exist and to bring them up to date ensuring fairness to businesses that deal in beer, wine and alcohol.

The OneZone State Advocacy Committee is comprised of varied chamber members that meet on a monthly basis. They identify key issues, research the topics and help define policy positions, which are approved by OneZone's board of directors.