



2019 State Legislative Priority Issues:

Education

- **What we support** – *We support legislation that provides for increased student safety. We believe that this should include responsible gun ownership, mental health initiatives and funding for building safety improvements.*
- **Why it's important** – *Providing a safe environment for our students is important. With the increase in school violence we believe that the state should take all steps to address the issue.*
- **Key Points:**
 - *School safety*
 - *Adequate funding*

Economic Development

- **What we support** – *We support maintaining Indiana's attractive tax climate to increase economic growth and prosperity. TIF funding is an effective tool that should be maintained.*
- **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.*

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.*

Healthcare

- **What we support** – *We support legislation and initiatives that address mental health issues, opioid abuse and smoking secession.*
- **Why it's important** – *Indiana is one of the unhealthiest states in the nation, ranking 41st for overall health of its citizens and we have seen a steady increase in opioid abuse. 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.*

Workforce Development

- **What we support** – ***We support*** legislation that recognizes careers that are in demand and eliminates duplication of efforts. *We support technical training programs as part of the educational opportunities available to students.*
- **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.*

Technology

- **What we support** – ***We support*** legislation that promotes technology innovation and recognizes its importance for economic development.
- **Why it's important** – *Hamilton County has been successful in attracting and growing technology and innovation businesses along with an entrepreneurial spirit. As a leader in technology it is important that legislation supports new opportunities and growth.*

Alcohol Code Revision

- **What we support** – ***We support*** changes to the law which allocates the quantity of three-way liquor permits based upon population.
- **Why it's important** – *The current allocation system for three-way permits does not take into consideration population growth in fast growing communities like Carmel and Fishers. As the number of residents increase the demand for additional restaurant choices also increases. Many new restaurants require the acquisition of a 3-way permit as part of their business model and the current system limits this growth.*

Autonomous Vehicles

- **What we support** – ***OneZone supports*** legislation that would authorize the testing and operation of autonomous vehicles on state roads.
- **Why it's important** – *Self-driving cars and trucks may be years from reality but it is important that Indiana needs to act now to try to ensure that we are a part of researching and developing the technology.*

Mass Transit

- **What we support** – ***We support*** extension of the Red Line, currently under construction in Indianapolis, into Hamilton County.
- **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*** 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 them forward.*

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.