

Legal Reform

- Oppose legislation to adopt a “abuse of market share” standard for the state’s antitrust statute.
- Oppose broad, costly “wrongful death” legislation.

Miscellaneous

- Oppose legislation that places additional restrictions on employers’ participation in political advocacy.
- Support a SNAP minimum benefit program to provide a minimum amount of supplemental assistance program benefits that is higher than the amount of federal SNAP benefits.

Taxes

- Support adoption of a zero income-based tax rate for business income earned by nonincorporated manufacturers.
- Make the “pass through entity tax” more taxpayer-friendly by modifying the election deadline and allow use of allocation-based payment of estimated taxes.
- Adopt a state counterpart to the federal “Work Opportunity Tax Credit” to provide an incentive for the hiring of persons facing challenges entering the workforce.
- Oppose any increase in major tax laws and oppose creation of new taxes and assessments, including the greenhouse gas “superfund”, tax wealth taxes, capital gains surcharge, and a digital ad tax

Transportation

- Provide necessary exemptions for business transportation activities under any “congestion pricing” program.
- Begin the implementation of the Empire Corridor Improvement program which would encompass high speed rail.

Unemployment Insurance

- Provide UI tax relief to employers now paying record-high federal and state UI taxes, as our federal debt continues to exceed \$7 billion.
- Avoid imposing any increased costs on the UI system until system financial stability is restored, this includes increased maximum benefits or lower thresholds for UI benefits for striking workers.

Workforce Development/Education

- Continue to support and fund “early college in the high school” programs.
- Address the “benefit cliff” to eliminate a financial disincentive for persons’ return to the workforce.
- Support expanded access to high quality childcare to support employment and reemployment.
- Restore recent cuts to the tuition award program (TAP)



2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



The voice of business and employers in New York State.

In her 2024 State of the State message, Governor Hochul emphasized the need to make New York “more affordable and more livable.” That should be our collective goal for the state’s residents and employers alike. New York’s outmigration trends have been well documented, as people move to areas with greater economic opportunity. Jobs data illustrate the problem. By June 2023 (most recent federal QCEW data), New York had just barely recovered to pre-pandemic jobs levels. In comparison, U.S. employment grew by almost 4%, while some states (Florida up 10.4%, Texas up 9.8%) saw far greater job growth driven by pro-growth strategies. The Business Council’s 2024 advocacy agenda focuses on removing barriers to private sector investment and job growth and avoiding costly new mandates and restrictions on the private sector, with a goal of advancing our organization’s mission statement, “Advancing economic growth, creating good jobs and strong communities across New York State.”

Significant issues on our legislative advocacy for 2024 include:

Alcohol & Beverage Control Law

- Adopt key recommendations of the Governor’s ABC Revision Commission, including allowing bars and restaurants to purchase limited quantities from liquor stores, allowing an individual to hold more than one liquor store license, and modernizing some licensing procedures as part of the 2022 Budget.

Construction

- Support additional funding to offset impact of inflation on highway improvement projects and contracts.
- Increase MWBE engagement for prime contracts.

Consumer Affairs

- Support legislation to adopt more effective penalties against organized retail theft.

Contract Procurement

- Support efforts to make NYC & NYS M/WBE status reciprocal.

Economic Development

- Expand workforce development efforts to grow the manufacturing sector through training and educational partnerships.

Energy

- Oppose the HEAT act and other proposals to impose excessive restrictions on natural gas infrastructure.

Environment

- Adopt a workable, effective “expanded producer responsibility” law that focuses on improving material recovery and recycling rates. Oppose EPR legislation that imposes unnecessary bans or restrictions on use of specific materials.
- Adopt a “clean fuel standard” to provide incentives for expedited mobile source emission reductions.

Financial Services

- Oppose excessively broad compliance and enforcement standards regarding “unfair and abusive” business practices..

Health Care & Health Insurance

- Oppose new mandates, taxes, and additional unnecessary penalties that contribute to increasing health care premiums for businesses and individuals.

Hospitality/Gaming

- Support issuance of the three remaining casino gaming licenses.

Housing

- Support legislation and regulations to accommodate the deployment of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies.
- Support legislation on the development of affordable housing and extending 421-a.

Information Technology/Telecommunications

- Support legislation and regulations to accommodate the deployment of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies.
- Support a workable data privacy law that models recently enacted legislation in Connecticut.

Labor/Human Resources

- Repeal “temporary” additional paid sick leave for COVID, as state law already mandates paid sick leave for all employees.
- Eliminate application of wage theft laws to cases of violations of the “weekly pay” mandate for manual workers where full wages were paid, including retroactive elimination of the ability to seek liquidate damages, whether through legislation or case law.
- Oppose prohibitions of non-complete clauses in contracts for high-earning employees.
- Oppose additional mandates and restrictions on employers’ ability to manage their workforce, including so-called “good cause termination” legislation, broad mandates on scheduling,” and others.
- Oppose expansion of wage boards and use of wage boards to impose additional wage and benefit mandates on specific economic sectors.