



2025 Public Policy Committee Objectives

The Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce is committed to fostering a thriving, inclusive, and resilient city. Our 2025 Public Policy Priorities focus on driving economic growth, supporting equitable development, and ensuring long-term prosperity for Oakland's residents and businesses. Through responsible governance, strategic investment, and collaboration, we strive to create an environment where innovation thrives, communities are empowered, and businesses succeed.

❖ **Strengthening Public Safety**

Enhancing public safety and fostering a resilient community are central to Oakland's commitment to protecting residents and maintaining stability. These measures advance strategies to enhance public safety and foster community resilience:

- Expand and strengthen community-based policing initiatives, including Ceasefire
- Improve police recruitment, retention, and staffing levels to meet community needs
- Integrate nonviolent and inclusive strategies, such as the MACRO program and enhanced gun violence prevention efforts
- Foster greater collaboration between City and County agencies to develop comprehensive and cohesive public safety solutions
- Increase community resilience and disaster preparedness in response to climate change and other emerging threats

❖ **Promote Economic Development**

Oakland's competitiveness depends on attracting investment, supporting entrepreneurs, and fostering sustainable growth. These priorities guide efforts to make Oakland a place where businesses can start, sustain, and thrive:

- Attract and support new business ventures while fostering job creation across Oakland's diverse neighborhoods
- Establish a robust and resilient economic foundation across various industries and business sizes
- Support the expansion of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in historically underserved areas
- Enhance government efficiency to create a business-friendly and customer-oriented environment
- Ensure equitable access to capital for entrepreneurs, with a particular focus on women and people of color
- Adapt to evolving work trends by implementing strategies that bring businesses, employees, and customers back to Oakland
- Revitalize emerging and iconic key districts, such as Oakland's waterfront area of Jack London Square, to attract visitors, support local entrepreneurs, and enhance Oakland's cultural and economic vitality



❖ **Support Workforce Development**

A strong economy relies on a skilled, resilient workforce that meets the needs of Oakland's growing industries. These strategies provide access to quality jobs, strengthen career pathways, and promote equitable opportunities:

- Strengthening the connection between education and industry to better prepare students for alternative career pathways
- Expand employer engagement in workforce training and career development initiatives.
- Develop strong public-private partnerships with universities, community colleges, and training providers to revitalize local workforce pipelines.
- Increase support for workforce retraining and reentry programs in response to pandemic-related challenges.
- Deepen the establishment of a statewide coordinating body to align education, workforce development, and economic policies, ensuring cohesive strategies and efficient use of resources across sectors

❖ **Enhance Housing and Commercial Space Affordability:**

Affordable housing and commercial spaces are critical to inclusive growth and community stability. These initiatives aim to keep Oakland accessible for residents, workers, and small businesses:

- Expanding the development of diverse and affordable housing options to meet the needs of all income levels
- Streamlining and incentivizing development projects, particularly those located near transit corridors
- Promoting home ownership opportunities to build generational wealth and foster long-term community stability
- Increasing access to office and industrial spaces that support the growth and retention of new and existing businesses
- Support the modernization and sustainability initiatives at the Oakland Seaport to maintain competitiveness, improve cargo flow, and strengthen Oakland's position in regional, national, and global trade
- Support capital improvements and modernization at Oakland San Francisco Bay International Airport to enhance passenger experience, meet regional air service demand, and drive tourism and business travel

❖ **Enhancing Mobility and Infrastructure**

Robust transportation and modern infrastructure are essential to economic growth, livability, and sustainability. These actions support investment and innovation to enhance mobility and sustain economic vitality:

- Secure sustainable funding for public transportation and expand transit options throughout Oakland and the Bay Area
- Promote strategic development around transit hubs to improve accessibility and mobility for residents and businesses
- Invest in timely and impactful infrastructure projects to support economic growth and enhance quality of life
- Explore innovative mobility solutions, including bus-only lanes, commuter incentives, enhanced financial support for public transit, and emerging transportation technologies