

## 2025 North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce – GAPP Legislative Priorities

We established that all priorities fall within one of these 5 categories:

1. Infrastructure, Land Use and Housing
2. Business and Economic Development
3. Workforce Development
4. Transportation
5. Government and Legislative Engagement

### I. Infrastructure, Land Use, and Housing

- **Land Use / UGB:**

Expansion and accessibility of land use. There is a lack of industrial land for expansion and economic development — the largest available parcel is only 5 acres. We should examine Woodburn's growth as a model. Invite Dan Johnson to discuss Michael Walter in HV and the 200-acre Rock Creek Employment Center, which faces a transportation barrier (Providence will not invest until the road is fixed). Connect with Molalla and Sandy to quantify potential business expansion opportunities south of the Willamette River in Canby, outside of special interests.

- **Utilities:**

Sandy is currently without natural gas. Request Nina from NW Natural to begin a conversation about expansion. Estacada has available land but lacks infrastructure. Mention their new reservoir as part of the discussion.

### II. Business and Economic Development

- **Taxation:** Preserve and expand small business tax credits. Oppose any taxes not supported by the business community.
- **Research & Development (R&D) for Manufacturing:** Strengthen incentives and partnerships to grow manufacturing capacity.
- **Collaboration with OBI:** Continue coordination to align efforts and amplify statewide advocacy.
- **Regulation:** Support preemption of local employment regulations and foster a business-friendly regulatory climate. Oppose regulations that create disincentives for growth (e.g., excessive red tape or special taxes).
- **Liability:** Oppose efforts to increase damage awards for liability or medical lawsuits. Protect businesses from unnecessary personal liability exposure.
- **Tourism:** Support tourism initiatives that bring measurable economic impact.
  - TTL adjustment: Monitor and influence the allocation of lodging tax dollars. This remains a high-profile issue; we should remain aligned with Oregon Lodging Association on where those funds are directed.

### **III. Workforce Development**

- **Education and Training:** Prioritize funding for community colleges and trade programs. Focus on developing skills most needed by the business community in partnership with CWP.
- **Workforce Housing:**
  - **Availability and Affordability:** Address both separately. Housing expansion requires infrastructure and Urban Growth Boundary adjustments.
  - Define affordable housing at 125% of the poverty level.
  - Studio and one-bedroom apartments remain in high demand.
  - Partner with Homebuilders Associations to establish clear benchmarks for subsidized, affordable, and workforce housing. Creating standardized definitions ensures all agencies use consistent measurements.
- **Employment Regulations:** Oppose restrictions that create undue burdens on employers.
  - Monitor prevailing wage and certified payroll requirements.
  - Track rising labor and raw materials costs.

### **IV. Transportation**

- **Sunrise Corridor:**
  - Support continued action and phased approaches.
  - \$12.5 million is under consideration by Metro for funding.
  - JPAC is meeting on the 15th — encourage public engagement to advocate for these funds.
  - Coordinate with businesses and organizations across the county to design a strong strategy. Potential partners: OTA and Janna Javitz in Milwaukie.
- **ODOT Transportation Funding Package:**
  - Engage with the special session called by the Governor.
  - Advocate for funding of I-205, regional projects, maintenance of roads, and capital needs (e.g., 82nd Avenue).
- **Tolling:** Oppose tolling legislation that increases costs for businesses and commuters.
- **Carbon Tax:** Oppose carbon taxes and other legislation that creates excessive cost burdens.
  - Engage Mark from Stein Oil and Biofuels to provide insight on alternative solutions.
  - Monitor the Climate Protection Plan (cap-and-invest program).
- **Transit:** Expand transit services in underserved areas.
  - Public safety remains a major concern under current Metro rules of ridership.
  - Clackamas County remains under-represented by TriMet.
  - Advocate for express transit options and additional routes.
  - Explore expanded support for city-based systems like SMART, CAT, and SAT.

## **V. Government and Legislative Engagement**

- **Legislative Process:** Advocate for the intended use of short, long, and special sessions. Ensure public testimony opportunities remain in place for new laws and regulations.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Promote cost containment before new taxes. Push for a geographically equitable distribution of public spending. Clarify what the Chamber supports versus opposes and focus on education around key issues.
- **Campaign Finance:** Support restrictions that create a level playing field and ensure fair elections.
- **Candidate Endorsements:**
  - Endorse measures, issues, and initiatives more often than individual candidates (as supporting individuals can be more contentious).
  - When endorsing, emphasize professionalism and avoid personal conflicts.
  - Increase focus on city councils and smaller municipalities to help elect leaders who understand and support business issues.
  - Educate endorsed candidates on how their decisions directly impact business growth and retention, especially given how Oregon laws are driving businesses out of the state.
- **PAC / Funding:** Continue developing PAC funding and strategies to strengthen influence.
- **Action Step:** Request more regular meetings with all state representatives and legislators from our district.

### **Priorities Sidelined (Outside Jurisdiction / Limited Influence)**

- **SAIF Funds:** Oppose re-allocation of SAIF surplus funds. (Further research flagged.)
- **Public Safety:** Partner with local officials to improve business safety.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Support resilience planning to protect business operations during crises.
  - Explore CERT grants and FEMA funding opportunities.
  - Address risks such as cyberattacks and ransomware.
  - Partner with Tim Cook at CCC, the Attorney General, and Oregon State Police for presentations.
- **Alternative Fuels:** Support policies that retain clean and affordable alternative fuel sources.
- **Healthcare:** Monitor and engage as appropriate on affordability and accessibility issues.