



### **Purpose**

The Government Affairs Committee of the Meridian Chamber of Commerce is a committee established by the chamber board consisting of voting (8-12) and non-voting members. The purpose of the committee shall be to:

1. Provide education to committee and chamber members on national, local and statewide issues.
2. Serve as a liaison between the chamber and state and local elected officials.
3. Make recommendations and communicate legislative positions to state and local officials as directed by the Chamber board.
4. Sponsor candidate forums for national, state, and local elections as directed by the Chamber board.
5. Address other needs as directed by the Meridian Chamber board.

### **Guidelines and Procedures**

#### **Specific Timeline of Duties**

1. August of each year
  - a. Chairman-Elect of MCC selects new GAC chairman/co-chairs
  - b. GAC chairman selects voting members to sit on the committee
  - c. Voting members presented to board for approval
2. September of each year
  - a. GAC committee begins work on state and local legislative positions
  - b. Legislative positions presented to board for approval
3. January through March
  - a. GAC committee works with State legislators to keep chamber members on business issues
  - b. GAC committee works with State legislators to represent chamber based upon legislative positions approved by board.
  - c. Friday coffee sessions with legislators
  - d. GAC committee members are committed to being active communicators with legislators.
  - e. GAC members will provide feedback to the committee after contacting legislators.

4. March through May
  - a. Every two years – sponsor forums for chamber members to meet the candidates for the primary elections
  - b. Interview candidates and present endorsements for primary election to chamber board
    - i. Do not make an endorsement in non-contested races.
    - ii. May use individual interviews or submit questions for prepared answers
5. August through October
  - a. Every two years – sponsor forums for chamber members to meet the candidates for the general elections
  - b. Interview candidates and present endorsements for general election to chamber board
    - i. Do not make an endorsement in non-contested races.
    - ii. May use individual interviews or submit questions for prepared answers
  - c. Off year elections – sponsor forums for chamber members to meet the candidates for City elections
  - d. Interview candidates and present endorsements for general election to chamber board
    - i. Do not make an endorsement in non-contested races.
    - ii. May use individual interviews or submit questions for prepared answers
6. Throughout the year
  - a. Schools –
    - i. Provide endorsement or not of bond/levy elections – dates
    - ii. Provide information and encouragement of election participation
    - iii. Do not provide endorsements for individual trustee elections
  - b. City and County –
    - i. Provide information and encouragement of election participation
    - ii. Coordinate with City officials when setting legislative positions and in communicating with state legislators
7. Monthly meetings
  - a. Schedule informational meetings with state and local officials and agencies to educate committee members on relevant topics such as
    - i. Transportation
    - ii. Education
    - iii. Health care
    - iv. Taxation – sales and income
  - b. Maintain dialogue with chamber board and address issues as directed and presented

If you have any questions, please contact the Chamber at 888-2817.