



Legislative Priorities 2026

The Meridian Chamber of Commerce—representing the collective voice of the Meridian business community—advocates for policies that promote economic growth, strengthen workforce development, and enhance the overall quality of life in our community. These priorities reflect our commitment to supporting, promoting, and advocating for a strong and vibrant business climate in Meridian and across Idaho.

Transportation

Efficient transportation is vital to Idaho's economy. Delays threaten future growth and prosperity. The Meridian Chamber supports:

- Continued upgrades to Hwy 20/26 west of Eagle Rd. to reduce congestion and improve safety.
- Completion of the Hwy 16 Extension and funding for east-west connections through Meridian.
- A comprehensive study and action plan to address safety and congestion issues along Eagle Road, one of the state's busiest and most economically critical corridors.
- A multi-source funding approach including registration fees, fuel taxes, local option taxes, and user fees.
- Exploring alternative transportation funding that does not impact the General Fund.
- Development of a regional light-rail system to enhance connectivity and reduce congestion.

Economic Development

The Chamber supports legislation that creates jobs, reduces regulatory burdens, and fosters business growth.

- Explore local-based incentive tools.
- Support local option taxing authority and impact fees to fund infrastructure tied to growth.
- Improve access to and administration of state liquor licenses.
- Continue the Tax Reimbursement Incentive (TRI) to stimulate investment.

Local Government

Empowered local governments build strong communities. The Chamber supports:

- Preserving Urban Renewal and Auditorium Districts as tools to fund growth and development.
- Ensuring local governments have sufficient revenue to provide essential services.

Taxes

The Chamber favors a fair, stable tax structure that funds essential services while encouraging investment and job creation.

- Review and consider eliminating sales-tax exemptions.
- Maintain competitive state income-tax rates.
- Pursue balanced property-tax reform without shifting burden to businesses.
- Support business-friendly tax policies, including eliminating the business personal-property tax.

Education

Strong schools and workforce pipelines are essential to Idaho's economic future. The Chamber supports:

- Mechanisms ensuring new growth contributes to school facility needs.
- Reducing the bond "super-majority" threshold to 60%.
- Increasing per-student funding with local flexibility in spending.
- Expanding career-technical and STEM education at all levels.
- Increasing CTE appropriations and early-childhood education opportunities.
- Supporting public libraries as vital community education partners.

Health Care

Strong healthcare systems are fundamental to economic vitality and workforce health. The Chamber supports:

- Policies recognizing healthcare infrastructure as key to business attraction and workforce retention.
- Legislation funding healthcare education, workforce pipelines, and training to address staffing shortages and create quality local jobs.

For more information on the Government Affairs Committee of the Meridian Chamber of Commerce and the efforts to advocate and support the interest of our business community please visit

<https://meridianchamber.org/government-affairs/>

or contact

Sean Evans – President/CEO

Meridian Chamber of Commerce

ceo@meridianchamber.org or 208-577-2440