

Advocacy...

What's my Return on Investment?



Did you know...

...the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce is the only West Michigan business organization with full-time staff in Lansing, giving member businesses access to established, working relationships with state legislators?

...participation and input provided by Chamber members guides our legislative priorities? YOU have a voice in developing legislative solutions to public policy decisions affecting the business community.

...Chamber Advocacy staff and members meet on a regular basis on issues such as environment, healthcare, education and taxation?



So what's YOUR ROI?

We spend more than **6,500 hours** a year working to ensure the voice of the West Michigan business community is heard.

The dedicated time we spend encouraging pro-business policy decisions and legislation lets you take care of **more important things -- like running your business.**

The benefit of our efforts, a **\$1,200 average value**, is included in your annual membership dues.

We invest our resources in **building relationships and working with local, state and federal government officials to foster an environment for businesses to connect, grow, and succeed...an invaluable return on your investment.**

To learn more about the Chamber's Advocacy Division's initiatives, and to find out how you can participate, visit www.grandrapids.org/advocacy or call 616.771.0300.

Advocacy: helping you connect, grow & succeed.

Some examples of how the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce has saved your business time and money:

Action

Introduced SB 478, the Michigan Business Activities Tax, as the Chamber's SBT Alternative Replacement proposal.

Impact

Allowed the Chamber to actively engage in creating and shaping the state's new business tax on behalf of West Michigan employers.

Action

Opposed the Department of Environmental Quality's **request to increase fees** for program funding.

Impact

Saved businesses from 43% - 282% in permit fee increases, ultimately impacting the cost of doing business.

Action

Successfully **negotiated with the City of Grand Rapids** to lower proposed land use development fee increases for developers.

Impact

Provided developers with government services at the lowest possible price allowing continued economic investment and growth.

Action

Drafted and guided two pieces of legislation into law for Silent Observer to protect tipsters' identity and provide a mechanism to solicit funding from police agencies.

Impact

Developed a solution for stable funding to keep businesses and neighborhoods safe, creating a better environment for economic growth.

Action

Successfully **stopped legislation to mandate** behavioral health care benefit coverage.

Impact

Prevented government interference requiring employer-provided health care benefits, saving businesses time, money and onerous regulation.

Action

Supported legislation to provide retailers with increased flexibility through repeal of the item pricing law.

Impact

Relieved retailers' obligation to price each store item individually, saving time, money, resources and law compliance violation issues.