

# 2012 Chamber Government Affairs Survey



## 1. Please rate the following issues and their importance to your business.

	1 - Least Important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 - Most Important	No Opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
Management of state budget	1.0% (6)	1.0% (6)	1.3% (8)	3.1% (19)	6.4% (39)	7.6% (46)	14.6% (89)	22.0% (134)	<b>22.9%</b> (139)	17.8% (108)	2.3% (14)	7.59	608
Economic development incentives	3.0% (18)	3.6% (22)	5.1% (31)	3.8% (23)	12.2% (74)	8.6% (52)	14.3% (87)	<b>18.6%</b> (113)	14.0% (85)	14.0% (85)	3.0% (18)	6.67	608
Nation's current economic climate	0.7% (4)	1.0% (6)	0.5% (3)	0.5% (3)	3.9% (24)	5.1% (31)	11.2% (68)	19.7% (120)	25.0% (152)	<b>30.1%</b> (183)	2.3% (14)	8.19	608
Michigan's current economic climate	0.2% (1)	0.2% (1)	0.3% (2)	0.3% (2)	1.6% (10)	3.0% (18)	7.9% (48)	15.8% (96)	26.8% (163)	<b>41.6%</b> (253)	2.3% (14)	8.68	608
Cost of health care	0.7% (4)	0.3% (2)	0.7% (4)	2.1% (13)	5.1% (31)	5.3% (32)	10.9% (66)	16.4% (100)	25.2% (153)	<b>30.8%</b> (187)	2.6% (16)	8.11	608
Environmental regulations and/or fees	6.9% (42)	3.6% (22)	6.4% (39)	7.2% (44)	<b>16.1%</b> (98)	9.4% (57)	12.5% (76)	12.3% (75)	14.0% (85)	8.1% (49)	3.5% (21)	5.92	608
Education (early childhood, K-12 and post-secondary)	4.8% (29)	2.1% (13)	3.3% (20)	4.8% (29)	8.9% (54)	7.7% (47)	13.5% (82)	17.1% (104)	15.1% (92)	<b>17.9%</b> (109)	4.8% (29)	6.75	608
Increased employer cost for unemployment benefits	2.5% (15)	1.8% (11)	5.6% (34)	5.9% (36)	10.5% (64)	6.7% (41)	13.3% (81)	15.3% (93)	<b>20.1%</b> (122)	14.1% (86)	4.1% (25)	6.77	608
Cost of energy	1.3% (8)	2.8% (17)	4.9% (30)	4.9% (30)	11.3% (69)	12.5% (76)	17.9% (109)	<b>18.4%</b> (112)	13.8% (84)	8.4% (51)	3.6% (22)	6.54	608

Condition of transportation infrastructure	3.5% (21)	3.0% (18)	5.3% (32)	5.6% (34)	13.8% (84)	12.0% (73)	15.1% (92)	<b>17.9%</b> (109)	11.7% (71)	8.2% (50)	3.9% (24)	6.25	608
Regional planning and cooperation	2.5% (15)	1.8% (11)	4.9% (30)	5.1% (31)	14.1% (86)	10.4% (63)	16.4% (100)	<b>17.1%</b> (104)	14.6% (89)	7.9% (48)	5.1% (31)	6.37	608
Management of local gov't budgets	2.0% (12)	1.8% (11)	3.1% (19)	3.9% (24)	13.3% (81)	12.0% (73)	13.7% (83)	<b>19.7%</b> (120)	16.3% (99)	11.0% (67)	3.1% (19)	6.80	608
<b>answered question</b>												<b>608</b>	
<b>skipped question</b>												<b>135</b>	

**2. Environmental Issues Thinking about the West Michigan business community, to what extent do you support the following topics as priorities for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce?**

	1 - Least Important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 - Most Important	No Opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
Air quality	4.5% (27)	5.0% (30)	6.0% (36)	5.4% (32)	13.9% (83)	12.2% (73)	16.1% (96)	<b>18.6% (111)</b>	10.2% (61)	5.0% (30)	3.0% (18)	6.01	597
Support for alternative forms of fuel and/or energy	4.9% (29)	3.4% (20)	4.2% (25)	4.4% (26)	11.4% (68)	10.2% (61)	14.1% (84)	<b>15.9% (95)</b>	13.6% (81)	14.6% (87)	3.5% (21)	6.53	597
State regulations that exceed federal standards	3.4% (20)	1.5% (9)	3.4% (20)	2.3% (14)	10.2% (61)	8.2% (49)	14.7% (88)	<b>19.4% (116)</b>	16.4% (98)	15.7% (94)	4.7% (28)	6.90	597
Clean-up of contaminated property sites	2.8% (17)	4.5% (27)	5.0% (30)	4.2% (25)	14.9% (89)	14.7% (88)	12.9% (77)	<b>18.3% (109)</b>	13.4% (80)	5.9% (35)	3.4% (20)	6.22	597
Invasive species	3.0% (18)	4.0% (24)	6.2% (37)	6.5% (39)	14.4% (86)	11.6% (69)	<b>17.4% (104)</b>	13.6% (81)	11.1% (66)	7.7% (46)	4.5% (27)	6.04	597
<b>answered question</b>												<b>597</b>	
<b>skipped question</b>												<b>146</b>	

### 3. Economic/Tax Issues Thinking about the West Michigan business community, to what extent do you support the following topics as priorities for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce?

	1- Least Important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 - Most Important	No Opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
Across-the-board state spending reductions	4.4% (26)	3.5% (21)	3.4% (20)	4.1% (24)	9.8% (58)	7.1% (42)	12.8% (76)	16.6% (98)	17.2% (102)	<b>18.4% (109)</b>	2.7% (16)	6.91	592
Elimination of the Personal Property Tax	3.5% (21)	2.7% (16)	3.5% (21)	4.4% (26)	10.5% (62)	6.4% (38)	11.7% (69)	15.4% (91)	16.2% (96)	<b>18.2% (108)</b>	7.4% (44)	6.61	592
Simplifying and reducing regulations	2.0% (12)	2.4% (14)	2.5% (15)	2.0% (12)	5.1% (30)	5.7% (34)	10.1% (60)	18.1% (107)	20.9% (124)	<b>27.5% (163)</b>	3.5% (21)	7.62	592
Internet Sales Tax collection	10.0% (59)	4.9% (29)	4.6% (27)	5.7% (34)	<b>16.2% (96)</b>	9.0% (53)	14.2% (84)	12.0% (71)	9.5% (56)	7.8% (46)	6.3% (37)	5.49	592
<b>answered question</b>												<b>592</b>	
<b>skipped question</b>												<b>151</b>	

#### 4. Health Care Issues Thinking about the West Michigan business community, to what extent do you support the following topics as priorities for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce?

	1 - Least Important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 - Most Important	No Opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
Rising cost of health care insurance	0.9% (5)	0.7% (4)	0.7% (4)	1.7% (10)	3.5% (20)	4.5% (26)	9.5% (55)	19.0% (110)	24.2% (140)	<b>33.7% (195)</b>	1.7% (10)	8.28	579
Health care utilization and prevention	0.7% (4)	0.7% (4)	0.7% (4)	1.6% (9)	7.6% (44)	7.3% (42)	15.2% (88)	20.9% (121)	<b>21.9% (127)</b>	20.9% (121)	2.6% (15)	7.72	579
Medicaid/Medicare reform	1.9% (11)	1.2% (7)	1.9% (11)	3.3% (19)	11.1% (64)	9.7% (56)	12.3% (71)	19.0% (110)	<b>19.7% (114)</b>	17.4% (101)	2.6% (15)	7.26	579
Access to health care	1.0% (6)	1.2% (7)	2.4% (14)	1.9% (11)	11.6% (67)	9.3% (54)	14.0% (81)	16.6% (96)	17.3% (100)	<b>22.8% (132)</b>	1.9% (11)	7.46	579
Individual responsibility for health and behavior	2.4% (14)	1.6% (9)	1.4% (8)	1.0% (6)	7.4% (43)	7.4% (43)	12.6% (73)	18.0% (104)	19.7% (114)	<b>26.3% (152)</b>	2.2% (13)	7.67	579
Incentives for primary care physicians	2.4% (14)	2.2% (13)	2.9% (17)	2.6% (15)	13.6% (79)	9.0% (52)	<b>16.4% (95)</b>	15.2% (88)	16.1% (93)	13.1% (76)	6.4% (37)	6.60	579
Federal health care reform	5.0% (29)	2.8% (16)	1.7% (10)	3.6% (21)	7.6% (44)	7.1% (41)	10.4% (60)	14.2% (82)	16.2% (94)	<b>29.2% (169)</b>	2.2% (13)	7.35	579
<b>answered question</b>												<b>579</b>	
<b>skipped question</b>												<b>164</b>	

**5. Education and Workforce Development Issues Thinking about the West Michigan business community, to what extent do you think these topics should be a priority for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce?**

	1 - Least Important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 - Most Important	No Opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
Investment in early childhood education	2.4% (14)	2.1% (12)	2.6% (15)	3.3% (19)	7.5% (43)	10.1% (58)	12.2% (70)	15.9% (91)	19.9% (114)	<b>21.6% (124)</b>	2.3% (13)	7.34	573
Aligning curriculum with needs of emerging industries	0.7% (4)	1.2% (7)	1.4% (8)	1.2% (7)	6.8% (39)	8.2% (47)	15.2% (87)	<b>23.9% (137)</b>	18.8% (108)	21.3% (122)	1.2% (7)	7.76	573
Adequate funding of public schools	2.1% (12)	1.2% (7)	1.2% (7)	3.1% (18)	9.8% (56)	8.7% (50)	15.2% (87)	16.6% (95)	16.8% (96)	<b>24.1% (138)</b>	1.2% (7)	7.53	573
Merit-based pay for educators	1.9% (11)	1.7% (10)	3.7% (21)	2.8% (16)	8.4% (48)	8.7% (50)	13.1% (75)	15.4% (88)	19.5% (112)	<b>20.6% (118)</b>	4.2% (24)	7.18	573
Consolidation of school administrative functions	1.7% (10)	0.9% (5)	2.6% (15)	2.4% (14)	8.6% (49)	8.2% (47)	14.1% (81)	<b>20.8% (119)</b>	19.5% (112)	18.5% (106)	2.6% (15)	7.39	573
Retraining for dislocated or transitional workers	1.2% (7)	1.6% (9)	3.0% (17)	1.7% (10)	7.5% (43)	12.4% (71)	17.1% (98)	<b>19.9% (114)</b>	17.1% (98)	15.7% (90)	2.8% (16)	7.22	573
												<b>answered question</b>	<b>573</b>
												<b>skipped question</b>	<b>170</b>

**6. Transportation and Infrastructure Issues Thinking about the West Michigan business community, to what extent do you think these topics should be a priority for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce?**

	1 - Least Important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 - Most Important	No Opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
Transportation regulation on the trucking industry	5.8% (33)	4.8% (27)	6.0% (34)	6.5% (37)	<b>17.6%</b> (100)	13.2% (75)	14.8% (84)	9.9% (56)	7.1% (40)	4.9% (28)	9.3% (53)	5.23	567
Projects that reduce congestion and delays	1.8% (10)	1.2% (7)	1.8% (10)	3.5% (20)	8.3% (47)	16.3% (93)	19.0% (108)	<b>23.2%</b> (132)	14.6% (83)	6.9% (39)	3.5% (20)	6.81	569
Support for mass transit	4.7% (27)	2.5% (14)	3.7% (21)	4.0% (23)	12.0% (68)	11.1% (63)	12.8% (73)	15.3% (87)	13.4% (76)	<b>17.9%</b> (102)	2.6% (15)	6.75	569
Reforms that promote best value for dollar spent on transportation	0.9% (5)	0.4% (2)	0.9% (5)	2.1% (12)	6.2% (35)	8.7% (49)	16.6% (94)	<b>23.1%</b> (131)	18.2% (103)	18.9% (107)	4.1% (23)	7.50	566
Adequate funding that keeps infrastructure in "good" or "fair" condition	0.4% (2)	0.5% (3)	0.4% (2)	1.2% (7)	6.0% (34)	7.2% (41)	18.5% (105)	<b>24.8%</b> (141)	19.9% (113)	19.0% (108)	2.3% (13)	7.76	569
<b>answered question</b>												<b>569</b>	
<b>skipped question</b>												<b>174</b>	

**7. General Policy Issues Thinking about the West Michigan business community, to what extent do you support the following topics as priorities for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce?**

	1 - Least Important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 - Most Important	No Opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
Elimination or extension of term limits	7.1% (40)	3.9% (22)	4.4% (25)	3.7% (21)	11.9% (67)	9.6% (54)	13.3% (75)	<b>13.9% (78)</b>	12.5% (70)	13.5% (76)	6.0% (34)	6.12	562
Part-time state legislature	9.3% (52)	4.6% (26)	4.4% (25)	4.1% (23)	12.3% (69)	8.5% (48)	11.2% (63)	13.0% (73)	11.2% (63)	<b>13.7% (77)</b>	7.7% (43)	5.81	562
Removing barriers to government service consolidation/collaboration	1.6% (9)	0.9% (5)	1.2% (7)	1.8% (10)	10.7% (60)	6.9% (39)	13.3% (75)	18.7% (105)	18.9% (106)	<b>21.0% (118)</b>	5.0% (28)	7.32	562
Right-to-work zones	7.7% (43)	3.0% (17)	3.0% (17)	2.7% (15)	11.2% (63)	6.9% (39)	11.4% (64)	12.3% (69)	12.3% (69)	<b>20.5% (115)</b>	9.1% (51)	6.24	562
Tourism and economic promotion	1.4% (8)	0.5% (3)	1.2% (7)	1.2% (7)	6.2% (35)	6.2% (35)	15.5% (87)	19.4% (109)	22.2% (125)	<b>23.1% (130)</b>	2.8% (16)	7.75	562
Corrections system cost reductions	2.1% (12)	2.0% (11)	3.0% (17)	5.3% (30)	14.2% (80)	10.7% (60)	<b>19.0% (107)</b>	16.0% (90)	13.3% (75)	9.1% (51)	5.2% (29)	6.44	562
Local gov't budget reform	1.4% (8)	1.8% (10)	1.6% (9)	2.8% (16)	10.3% (58)	10.5% (59)	14.8% (83)	<b>20.5% (115)</b>	16.5% (93)	16.0% (90)	3.7% (21)	7.12	562
Local gov't fees and regulations	1.4% (8)	2.0% (11)	2.3% (13)	3.0% (17)	9.1% (51)	8.2% (46)	16.5% (93)	<b>18.9% (106)</b>	18.0% (101)	16.9% (95)	3.7% (21)	7.16	562
Broadband access	3.2% (18)	3.2% (18)	3.7% (21)	4.1% (23)	14.8% (83)	7.7% (43)	14.6% (82)	<b>18.1% (102)</b>	11.9% (67)	13.5% (76)	5.2% (29)	6.47	562
Federal spending	3.4% (19)	2.7% (15)	2.3% (13)	2.5% (14)	11.9% (67)	6.6% (37)	12.3% (69)	17.8% (100)	15.1% (85)	<b>22.1% (124)</b>	3.4% (19)	7.10	562

Ease of doing business	0.5% (3)	0.7% (4)	0.5% (3)	1.6% (9)	5.3% (30)	4.3% (24)	10.5% (59)	18.5% (104)	25.4% (143)	<b>29.7% (167)</b>	2.8% (16)	8.10	562
												<b>answered question</b>	<b>562</b>
												<b>skipped question</b>	<b>181</b>