



# » 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## 1 Let's Keep Minnesota Competitive

Facing a \$2 billion budget deficit, the 2025 legislature must pass a balanced budget to avoid a government shutdown. The state's \$18 billion surplus in 2024 was spent on new programs, leaving little flexibility for current challenges. Recent spending increases have made Minnesota a cost outlier, putting small businesses at a disadvantage. Twenty-seven other states have reduced tax burdens. Minnesota must do the same.

## 2 Fix the Broken Permitting Process

Getting an environmental permit shouldn't take longer than completing an actual project. Businesses looking to grow in Minnesota face frustrating and costly delays. Review times are 1.5 to 6 times longer than neighboring states, and only 20% of permits meet 150-day goals. These delays cost over \$900 million annually in lost economic activity. Minnesota can streamline processes and still protect our natural resources.

## 3 Reduce the Burden of Paid Leave Mandates

Small businesses continue to struggle with workforce shortages. While well-intentioned, new mandates like Earned Sick & Safe Time and Paid Family & Medical Leave (PFML) only turned up the pressure. Most employers find themselves unprepared for increased absences, costs and compliance challenges. We support delaying PFML by a year, simplifying the rules, and adding penalties to deter fraud.

## 4 Build a Stronger Workforce

Workforce shortages remain a top challenge for Minnesota businesses. We support expanding training opportunities, connecting high school students to local career paths, and promoting affordable housing and childcare solutions as bipartisan bills are proposed.

## 5 Invest in High-Impact Projects

The National Loon Center and WonderTrek Children's Museum are poised to deliver year-round tourism and economic growth. These shovel-ready projects have secured millions in private funding, but state bonding funds are still needed. Supporting these initiatives will attract visitors, educate families, and enhance the Lakes Area's quality of life.

*Developed in partnership with the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, the first four priorities are endorsed by more than 50 local Chambers that represent more than 21,000 businesses across the state.*