



2018 Policy Priorities

The following priorities represent a series of policy issues that are of interest to Greater Mankato Growth’s members and our regional marketplace. Each priority is assigned to one of three categories of advocacy that GMG is currently pursuing on that issue as follows:

- **Advocate** – GMG supports the issue and will take a leading and active role in advancing and securing a favorable outcome.
- **Support** – GMG supports the issue and will take action to advance it, such as writing a letter or testifying, but is not actively leading advocacy efforts.
- **Member Education & Engagement** – GMG is providing its members and the community with the information and tools they need to become engaged on issues that are of importance to them.

ADVOCATE

State/Federal Issues	Regional/Local Issues
<p><u>Transportation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for completion of U.S. Highway 14 as a consistent four-lane corridor from Rochester to New Ulm. <p><u>Agriculture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for a GreenSeam initiative to secure legislative support to conduct an economic development study and develop a policy proposal for a pilot project in south central Minnesota that would leverage private and public investment in agriculture and associated agribusiness to revitalize the rural economy. 	<p><u>Economic Development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the development of regional recreation facilities and critical public infrastructure projects by supporting Mankato and North Mankato as well as the Mankato Sports Commission in their efforts to coordinate and advance projects.

SUPPORT

State/Federal Issues	Regional/Local Issues
<p><u>Transportation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support continued investment in statewide comprehensive transportation funding that meets the future needs of our regional transportation system - including significant and ongoing funding for Corridors of Commerce. • Support the legislative priorities of the US Highway 14 Partnership and the US Highway 169 Coalition. <p><u>Business Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce’s Federation Priorities • Support selected priorities of the US Chamber of Commerce. • Support continued efforts to strengthen the Americans With Disabilities Act and Minnesota Human Rights Act to prevent abusive lawsuits. <p><u>Economic Development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the legislative agenda of the Greater Minnesota Partnership. • Support the proposed water quality bonding proposal by the City of Mankato. <p><u>Education / Workforce Development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the proposed capital improvements by Minnesota State University, Mankato for Clinical Sciences Phase II renovations. 	<p><u>Transportation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support construction of the trail between Mankato and St. Peter. • Explore potential for including expansions to North/South highway corridors (Hwy 22 & 169) in future regional transportation plans.

MEMBER EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

State/Federal Issues	Regional/Local Issues
<p data-bbox="203 327 397 359"><u>Business Issues</u></p> <ul data-bbox="203 373 755 447" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="203 373 755 447">• Educate and engage members on state & federal tax reform issues.	<p data-bbox="787 327 982 359"><u>Business Issues</u></p> <ul data-bbox="787 373 1339 888" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="787 373 1339 625">• Educate and engage members on challenges relating to child care access and affordability and report any potential local policy solutions for consideration by the Public Affairs Steering Committee.<li data-bbox="787 636 1339 888">• Educate and engage members on challenges relating to affordable & workforce housing and report any potential local policy solutions for consideration by the Public Affairs Steering Committee. <p data-bbox="787 898 933 930"><u>Agriculture</u></p> <ul data-bbox="787 945 1274 1102" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="787 945 1274 1102">• Increase awareness within our organization as well as that of our members of key agriculture issues impacting our region.