



**GREATER
MANKATO
GROWTH**

2025 POLICY PRIORITIES



GREATER MANKATO GROWTH

is the chamber of commerce and economic development organization for the Greater Mankato region, with a mission to support and promote the economic growth and vitality of our members and the regional marketplace. Our membership includes more than 900 businesses, nonprofit organizations, and public institutions.

2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

REDUCE TAX BURDEN

BUSINESS CLIMATE

WORKPLACE MANDATES

WORKFORCE HOUSING

COST OF HEALTHCARE

CHILDCARE

REDUCE TAX BURDEN

Minnesota remains one of the most heavily taxed states, and reducing this burden is a top priority for Greater Mankato Growth members. High taxes hinder innovation, investment, entrepreneurship, and talent attraction. Lawmakers must adopt pro-growth tax policies to boost competitiveness and unlock economic potential.

BUSINESS CLIMATE

High taxes, government spending, and elected leaders all contribute to the challenging business climate in Minnesota, which must be improved. The vast majority of businesses believe our state is heading in the wrong direction and that the difficult business climate prevents our economic growth from reaching its fullest potential. Policymakers must advance pro-business policies to promote stability and help businesses feel confident when making investment decisions.

WORKPLACE MANDATES

New workplace mandates, restrictions, and taxes have raised business costs in Minnesota, pushing many to consider investing elsewhere. Fewer than 1 in 5 GMG members see legislation passed in the 2023-2024 session as beneficial, while most believe it will hurt their business. With talent demand rising, businesses need flexibility to create tailored workplace policies, not one-size-fits-all solutions.

WORKFORCE HOUSING

Housing is the biggest barrier to workforce growth, according to GMG members. The current housing marketplace does not meet regional needs. Policies should reduce regulation, streamline permitting, and lower the cost of private development to increase housing supply.

GREENSEAM works to elevate our region in southern Minnesota as a world-class food and agribusiness epicenter with focus areas of business attraction, talent development, and regional awareness. The Minnesota Legislature should continue to financially support GreenSeam. Continued support and awareness of GreenSeam will celebrate the agricultural tradition of Minnesota and position us for success long into the future.



2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND COST

Access to high quality, affordable healthcare should not depend on location. Greater Minnesota faces higher costs and barriers that affect health outcomes. Minnesota should reduce costs by limiting new insurance coverage requirements and maintain stability in the individual marketplace through reinsurance.

CHILDCARE

Access to affordable childcare is a major barrier to workforce participation. Investments are urgently needed to increase slots, support childcare as a sustainable business, remove barriers, update regulations, and create incentives for businesses to support new childcare facilities and operations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Minnesota's difficult tax environment requires incentives and other economic development programs that help drive investments. Additional resources should support programs through the Department of Employment and Economic Development and other agencies promoting private sector investment.

REGULATIONS

Excessive regulation constrains the economic growth of our state. We support reforms that will streamline inefficient regulations and adopt the least restrictive regulations at all levels of government needed to ensure the health and safety of workers, consumers, and our environment.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Capital investments are critical to the economic vitality of the greater Mankato region. The Minnesota Legislature should invest at least 50% of state bond funds in greater Minnesota, focusing on critical infrastructure such as roads and bridges, wastewater, higher education, and regional recreation facilities.

TRANSPORTATION

We support the continued investment in critical transportation projects that drive the economic prosperity throughout the greater Minnesota region, including key arteries like Highway 169 and Highway 14. Sustainable, equitable funding and public-private partnerships for EV infrastructure should be considered in the current tax environment.

COMMON GROUND

The success of our state relies on community and political leaders coming together to find common ground on issues that impact the daily lives of residents and businesses. When partisanship gets in the way of progress, everybody loses. We encourage public officials at all levels to work to overcome partisanship in order to pass effective legislation that helps support and promote the economic vitality of greater Mankato.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Federation*
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce*
- Highway 14 Partnership*
- Highway 169 Corridor Coalition*
- Greater Minnesota Partnership*
- AgriGrowth*
- Minnesota Tourism Growth Coalition*
- Minnesota Association of Convention & Visitor Bureaus*

CONTACT



ANDY WILKE

Executive Vice President,
Greater Mankato Growth
awilke@greatermankato.com
D: 507.385.6649 | C: 507.382.8917
GREATERMANKATO.COM