

LEGISLATIVE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENDA – 2024

The Barry County Chamber and Economic Development Alliance will not endorse individual candidates running for public office but will advocate for legislation that affects the Barry County business community based on the 5 elements of a vibrant economy:

THE 5 ELEMENTS OF A VIBRANT ECONOMY

1. A competitive business climate:
 - ✓ A place to do business that is affordable, predictable, and provides incentives for growth
 - ✓ A place where small businesses are encouraged to start, thrive, and grow
 - ✓ A smart regulatory approach that balances the need for regulation and the need for private sector job growth
2. A robust private sector environment that works in partnership with the public sector to spur innovation and produce collective problem-solving.
3. Strategic process for recruiting new employers to locate in Barry County and strengthening existing businesses.
4. Enhanced global-trade opportunities.
5. Up-to-date transportation, public services, and communications infrastructure.

CREATING A VIBRANT AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

BCCEDA will support both the Executive and Legislative branches of County and State Government in creating a vibrant economy.

- ✓ **Support** adequate resources for the economic development efforts in the County including:
 - Creating a strategy to attract new business sectors and direct investment in those businesses.
 - Defining success in Economic Development through agreed upon federal data and metrics.
 - Aggregating accurate data.
- ✓ **Support** legislation to lower the costs associated with doing business in Barry County and in Michigan.
- ✓ **Support** legislation to reduce the tax burden on businesses, particularly small and startup businesses.
- ✓ **Support** legislation creating strategic tax credit programs for high-tech, cutting edge, high-wage, and other industries which the State is looking to attract.
- ✓ **Support** initiatives geared towards attracting and training the next generation of the workforce to Barry County.
- ✓ **Oppose** legislation and policies that will constrict private sector growth and development.

SPECIFIC LEGISLATIVE GOALS FOR 2024:

Education

- ✓ **Support** workforce development efforts to maintain and enhance the pipeline of highly trained, skilled workers in Barry County by supporting education programs and facilities in the County.

Land Use

- ✓ **Support** implementation of the **Hastings Master Plan**, the **Nashville Master Plan**, the **Middleville Master Plan**, the **Delton Master Plan**, The **Barry County Master Plan**, and the **Barry County Parks and Rec Master Plan**.

Infrastructure

- ✓ **Support** increased capacity on M-37.
- ✓ **Support** a State-County partnership to fund infrastructure and roadways.
- ✓ **Support** trail system improvements.
- ✓ **Support** initiatives aimed at significantly accelerating adoption of internet broadband access by customers, businesses, schools, and government enterprises.

Health and Well-being

- ✓ **Support** initiatives that expand access to insurance and care in Michigan.
- ✓ **Support** initiatives that align with the Blue Zones mission in promoting healthier communities.

The BCCEDA looks forward to being part of the partnership between the private and public sector in implementing these suggested changes and finding common ground to create a vibrant and sustainable economy in Barry County, Michigan.