

# Public Policy Principles

## Purpose

The Public Policy Principles provide the framework to judge when and how GSI should engage on a policy issue. The principles have internal and external components meant to provide certainty to stakeholders about guideposts being used to justify GSI's engagement, provide flexibility to staff, and help narrow the focus of advocacy efforts. While most policy issues GSI engages on will satisfy most of these principles, the guidance is, in the end, subjective. It will be the work of GSI's member and staff leadership to frame the conversation around the principles, determine the degree to which policy action adheres to the principles, and at which point they need to be reevaluated.

## Overview

Greater Spokane, in its combined role as regional chamber *and* economic development council, has the most power when it finds consensus around policy that is good for area employers, the economy, and the community. Because our employers thrive when the community thrives, the Public Policy Principles center the employer focus of GSI while creating space for employers to weigh-in on issues facing the community. Ultimately, the principles work to focus GSI on areas where these interests intersect to maximize impact and efficiently engage the resources of the public policy department.



## Principles

GSI Believes that:

1. Public policy should make Spokane a better place to live, work, and raise a family.
2. When our community thrives, business thrives; policy should build employers, the economy, and the community.
3. The important policy work for our region is forward thinking, proactive, and aspirational for our economic future.
4. The employer community should proactively engage with policymakers when the issue brings political or social opportunity to take timely action on ripe issues.
5. Education, outreach, and incentivization are greater tools than regulation; regulatory structures, when implemented, should impact businesses of all shapes and sizes equally.
6. Policy should be developed in a collaborative, nonpartisan process with the opportunity for participation of GSI's membership, board, and community partners.
7. The development of our regional workforce is a critical component to uplifting the entire community; employment opportunities and growth should be available to all.
8. Spokane employers should lead our community on policy that would otherwise fail in our absence; as the foremost regional business development organization, GSI has a unique perspective to bring to local, state, and federal policy.