

2024 Advocacy Agenda

The Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce, a nonprofit member organization of some 300 businesses and non-profit organizations, is committed to furthering a vibrant and diversified local economy in which its members, and all businesses, can grow and prosper. The Chamber seeks to foster the growth of existing businesses, encourage new business creation, improve competitiveness in the region, maintain, and enhance property values, and promote consumer and investor interest and confidence in the greater Silver Spring area.

Each year, GSSCC identifies anticipated critical issues and sets legislative priorities for the upcoming General Assembly session and for the Montgomery County Council. These priorities will guide our advocacy efforts and serve as the tool to address the challenges faced by our member businesses. Our goal is to help members of the General Assembly and County Council members to understand and appreciate the needs and concerns of employers so that we can work collaboratively toward solutions that make our community a better place to live, work, and operate a business.

Our Mission

To enhance the economic prosperity of greater Silver Spring through robust promotion of our member businesses and unrelenting advocacy on their behalf.

Our Vision

A healthy business community that contributes to a vibrant greater Silver Spring and provides:

- More opportunity for all by increasing the number of private sector jobs and businesses.
- A broader tax base to support necessary public services.
- Increased prosperity for all.

The Chamber advocates for:

- Policies and practices that ensure employers, employees, residents, visitors, and customers are **safe and secure**.
- Enhanced focus on the **growth of Silver Spring's main street economy and office market** to serve the community and make Silver Spring a desired destination.
- Policies that **support employers**, especially small businesses, and stimulate growth and entrepreneurship.
- **Removing regulatory barriers** to business success and supporting an environment that encourages economic vitality.
- Providing and maintaining a **transportation infrastructure** that offers a strategic balance of public transportation, roads, and parking.
- Preserving an **employer's ability to manage its workforce** to best suit its business needs by maintaining control over wages, scheduling, benefits, and leave policies.
- Enhancing **workforce development** programs, including investment in community college facilities and operations, that provide employees the skills needed in today's economy.
- Ensuring, through legislation, accountability in Montgomery County's public school system that **links spending to results** and assures graduates who are equipped to enter the workforce.
- Government incentives that attract and retain employees, including support for accessible and **affordable childcare**.