

# 2022 GSBA Legislative Priorities



## MISSION

To combine business development, leadership, and social action to expand economic opportunities for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community and those who support equality for all.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Advance economic and educational equity, access and opportunity for the LGBTQ+ community and all historically disenfranchised communities.

Center racial equity in our decision making, with a focus on LGBTQ+ Black, Indigenous, and people of color; and equity for the trans and nonbinary communities.

Expand, protect and promote equality, equity and civil rights for all.

Promote the vitality and development of small businesses

Foster active and informed civic engagement

## TIER 1- LEAD

These are GSBA's highest priority issues, where LGBTQ+ civil rights and economic prosperity intersect and where our expertise is strongest. These are active areas where the organization is a leader, doing significant organizing work, direct lobbying efforts, where we have a particularly valuable voice, and which speak to our core as an LGBTQ+ business organization.

- Ensure inclusive pandemic relief and recovery efforts are tailored to the small businesses and communities who need it most, and that they reach those who need it most.
- Ensure economic inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community in public studies, demographic collection, and disparity studies.
- Support recognition of LGBTBE certification and inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in supplier diversity efforts at all levels.

## TIER 2 - ADVOCATE

Issues where GSBA, as an LGBTQ+ chamber of commerce, has a strong interest in the outcome. GSBA would likely follow the lead of another organization, but still do active work to help advance the topic, gather testimony, and show up in support. Actions include participating in coalition work, testifying, and signing amicus briefs.

- End discrimination against and actively promote full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people and other historically disenfranchised communities to ensure opportunity and access to housing, education, health care, lending and accommodations.
  - Pass strong federal LGBTQ+ nondiscrimination protections
  - Support efforts to protect transgender and nonbinary people in high-risk environments
  - Oppose broad religious exemptions laws used as a pretext for discrimination

- Oppose religious hospital mergers without strong safeguards for LGBTQ+ people, reproductive care, and Death with Dignity
  - Oppose public dollars for providers that discriminate against LGBTQ+ people
- Focus economic resiliency on small businesses and historically disenfranchised communities, and ensure that they are accessible to those communities
  - Support access to quality child care, including preschool and daycare
  - Overturning Initiative 200 and supporting affirmative action
  - Insist that impact studies on small business be included in regulatory legislation
- Work to streamline permitting processes and decrease wait times for small businesses
- Address systemic racism and white supremacy in the criminal justice system
  - Support efforts addressing systemic racism in policing and justice systems
  - Support investments in the most effective community responses that do not require armed police intervention
  - Remove police accountability from the collective bargaining process
  - End qualified immunity that shields police from liability for misconduct
- Support efforts towards attaining equity in education opportunities and expanding career pathways to family wage jobs
  - Support access to, promotion of, and expansion of apprenticeships and the trades
  - Support efforts to end high taxation of scholarship dollars
- Encourage collaborative approaches to the housing crisis that address the needs of small business and people experiencing homelessness

### **TIER 3 - SUPPORT**

These are issues that GSBA supports, but where we are not a lead organization or where we do not have particular expertise on the issue. Actions include signing letters of support.

- Defend the right to an individual's reproductive health choice, including the constitutional right to abortion
- Increase funding and support of LGBTQ populations who are particularly underserved, including seniors, homeless youth, and people with HIV
- Encourage public support for critical sectors (tourism, filmmaking) that bring in out-of-state money and create important jobs across Washington
- Support gun control efforts at all scale
- Support comprehensive immigration reform, including a pathway to citizenship for all immigrants
- Support efforts to reform tax structures that are more fairly balanced for small businesses and low-income people; oppose efforts for new revenue that disproportionately target small businesses
- Support public mass transit
- Ensure that workplaces are free of violence, harassment, and intimidation
- Support efforts to increase equitable access to the internet and expansion of broadband as a matter of economic and educational equity
- Support efforts to make our region a more affordable home for both residents and small businesses