



CITY COMMISSION CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT

In an effort to identify candidates who are supportive of business and business issues, the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce offers candidates an opportunity to review the Chamber's top business positions and determine if they would support them. With a candidate's agreement to sign on to support these core positions after a personal interview with the Chamber, the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce will in turn determine an endorsement of them as business advocate supporters. There may be multiple endorsements.

CORE HELENA CHAMBER POSITIONS:

1. The chamber supports free enterprise.
2. The Chamber will work to ensure that the regulations on business and the taxes and fees collected for services are not excessive or prohibitive to a positive business climate within our communities.
3. The Chamber supports economic development initiatives that will make Helena area businesses stronger, healthier and more prosperous.
4. The Helena Area Chamber recognizes and supports the need for reasonable environmental laws and regulations at all levels. The Chamber stresses that there needs to be a well-reasoned and objective balance between the estimated public gain of implementing new environmental requirements and the real cost to business and society in complying with them.
5. The Helena Area Chamber of Commerce supports efforts to strengthen our community's infrastructure. This will enhance our ability to attract and retain quality businesses. Ultimately, this will lead to improved job opportunities, wages, and quality of life in the Greater Helena Area.
6. Recognizing the importance of a quality and economical transportation system is vital to business in the Helena area, whether surface or air. The Chamber will support efforts to maintain and improve transportation into, out of, and within the area.
7. The Chamber believes in the ability of market forces to set wages and benefit levels. We encourage workers to further job skill levels to increase value in the workplace and increase their salary levels. We oppose mandated increases to the minimum wage level or the creation of livable wage legislation.
8. The Chamber supports Tax Abatements for local businesses who are expanding their business or are new to our area whereas that growth will add new higher paying jobs and eventually new tax dollars that support the tax base. Determination of support by the chamber will be made on an individual basis and on the total impact of that business' projected expansion and growth.



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9. The Chamber supports the building industry, the jobs this industry creates and the housing this industry provides to the Helena Area. The Chambers support streamlining governmental review of subdivisions and permitting to enable the private sector to continue to provide safe and affordable workforce housing

10. The Chamber supports using the most efficient and effective means of providing government services. The Chamber supports streamlining governmental services, privatizing services when beneficial and consolidation of government units whenever effective. Government should not have an unfair advantage when providing the same service as a for-profit corporation.

I am a current candidate for the Helena City Commission. My signature below indicates that I have read the above positions and agree with all ten positions. I understand that with my indication of support for these positions and a successful interview with the Helena Chamber, they will be releasing a statement to their membership and to the community that identifies me as a "pro-business" candidate.

Candidate Name (Print)

Date

Signature: _____

As a candidate, if you do not feel comfortable agreeing with all ten statements, we would welcome you to write your thoughts as to why you feel one or more of the statements do not match your views. As a chamber of commerce that wants to know all viewpoints of positions or issues, we would appreciate hearing your thoughts.

Thank you.

Candidate Name (who is not signing document in agreement with the Chamber's positions)
