



## **Advocacy Committee Legislative Agenda**

The mission of the EGF Advocacy Committee is to involve our members in helping to advocate for economic opportunity and workforce development in Fond du Lac County and the State of Wisconsin.

### **To accomplish this, the Advocacy Committee will:**

- Educate and inform the business community about relevant county, state and federal policy issues.
- Review county, state and federal legislation and regulations to assess potential impacts on the business community.
- Serve as a resource for information and clearinghouse for the business community and governmental leaders.
- Leverage public policy issues and legislation to promote business growth and support the competitive business environment.
- Recommend positions on certain policy matters pertinent to Envision's mission and vision to the Envision Board of Directors for review and ultimate decision.

### **In addition, the Advocacy Committee will *not*:**

- Endorse either individual candidates for public office or the platforms of political parties.

### **Our Legislative Priorities:**

#### **Transportation & Infrastructure**

- Support state and local policies that reduce barriers and create clear, predictable permitting and rights of way processes to accelerate private investment in broadband infrastructure across our region.
- Enhance Fond du Lac County's rail network.
- Support continued improvement of our region's transportation system, for efficient and safe transport of goods and people.
- Oppose the creation of local "transportation utility" fees.

## **Tax Reform**

- Preserve the state Manufacturing and Agriculture Tax Credit.
- Modernize Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) law to allow more flexibility for local governments to address their most pressing economic challenges.
- Lower the state income tax rate to remain competitive with other Midwest states, promoting economic growth and opportunity.
- Prioritize economic development programs which impact business retention and expansion, innovation and capital investment, rather than focusing primarily on job creation requirements.
- Make the state Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credit fully refundable.
- Oppose unclear, costly, burdensome or complex regulations and policies that degrade Wisconsin's business climate.

## **Health Care**

- Support initiatives that make employee-sponsored health care more affordable for small businesses, without creating unnecessary burden on health care providers.

## **Talent Attraction & Retention**

- Support statewide initiatives for recruiting talent to Wisconsin to fill our critical workforce needs.
- Expand child care capacity and access by incentivizing private industry to create solutions.

## **Education**

- Support the expansion of dual enrollment between high schools and technical colleges.
- Support opportunities for apprenticeships, internships, and hands-on career exposure.

## **Housing**

- Improve and support affordable housing initiatives through WHEDA.
- Encourage local public/private partnership for critical housing development projects.

- Broaden the limits of Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) to be used by local governments to address housing needs.

## **Energy**

- Strengthen the energy infrastructure in Wisconsin and our region, streamlining critical investments for in-demand industrial developments.

## **Local Government**

- Support local decision making and protect municipalities from unfunded mandates and preemption of local authority.
- Support local responsibility for property taxation decisions.
- Support responsible use of Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) to incentivize investment and development.
- Oppose legislation that impairs the flexibility of local government to utilize all economic development tools currently available.
- Support the enhancement of public safety and security of constituents.

## **Immigration Reform**

- Support smart and practical immigration reform that begins with securing our border, but also allows ample opportunities for the best and brightest who want to come to our country to work and be productive.