

## AMES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The **Ames Chamber of Commerce** consists of more than 700 businesses representing 33,000+ individuals in Ames and the surrounding area. The state legislative priorities listed in this document come from membership surveys, Ames Chamber Board of Director discussions and like-minded partner organizations in our community, state and nation.

The mission of the **Ames Chamber** is to provide our members with services that *enhance the quality of life* in our community and *strengthen the economic vitality* in Ames. We believe that educating our members about elections and candidates, encouraging participation in the voting process, and providing information about issues affecting the business climate essential to fulfilling that mission.

The **Ames Chamber** supports legislation that furthers business and economic development. These priorities help set the direction for our advocacy efforts for the 2010 Session of the Iowa State Legislature.

### 2010 Government Affairs Events:

Legislative Luncheons (all beginning at 12 noon):

- Friday, January 26
- Friday, February 26
- Friday, March 26 (Story Co Supervisors)
- Friday, April 30

For locations and registration, visit [www.ameschamber.com](http://www.ameschamber.com)

Ames Chamber Day at the Capitol:

- Tuesday, February 9

### CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Representative Dave Deyoe**

(District 10)

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IOWA LEGISLATURE

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[www.legis.state.ia.us](http://www.legis.state.ia.us)

# Ames Chamber of Commerce

## 2010 State Legislative Priorities

*The Ames Chamber of Commerce provides its members services that strengthen the economic vitality in Ames and enhance the quality of life in our community.*



AMES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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# AMES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2010 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## BUSINESS CLIMATE

**Economic Growth:** *To both maintain and enhance our attractiveness to current and potential businesses, it is essential that Iowa does what is possible to lower costs to businesses and employees.*

- Support the state's right-to-work law and oppose any legislation that would negatively impact those laws.
- Oppose adding items that can be negotiated to Iowa's public employee collective bargaining
- Encourage growth and development by providing incentives for companies that create high paying jobs

**Income Tax:** *If the state flattens and adjusts the current income tax structure to a two-tiered system, Iowa could maintain its income tax revenue stream while eliminating the confusion in marketing our state.*

- Simplify the income tax system
- Restructure Iowa's corporate tax system

**Property Tax Reform:** *Iowa's urban commercial property tax rates are the fifth highest in the nation, rural commercial rates in the top ten highest, and industrial rates rank 15<sup>th</sup> highest. Neighboring states (MN, SD, NE) enjoy more competitive commercial and industrial property tax rates.*

- Reform property taxes to make a more equitable distribution of property taxes between classes (commercial, industrial, agricultural and residential) of property

**Entrepreneurship & Business Growth:** *To accelerate business growth and vigorously participate in the global economy, Iowa's leaders must nurture entrepreneurial talent and venture capital.*

- Continue funding for research parks and regional business accelerators
- Provide increased funding for ISU's economic development programs such as IPRT, ISU Research Park, and the Small Business Development Center
- Restore Venture Capital, and Research & Development tax credits

## **Workforce Development**

*Iowa's workforce needs must be addressed with long-term, multi-faceted policies including education, training, retention and recruitment. Students need measurable learning opportunities that meet the needs of today's world marketplace, including disciplines in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Generating interest among teachers and students for STEM-oriented curricula and related careers in Iowa is critically important.*

- Implement 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning skills by setting statewide standards

## GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

- Improve governmental efficiency through consolidation of government units
- Practice long-term (multi-year) state budgeting process

## K-12 EDUCATION

*The Ames Chamber will continue to support legislation that provides resources that reflect the actual cost of school funding.*

- Preserve the statewide penny sales tax for school infrastructure.
- Support rigorous content standards consistent with the Iowa Core Curriculum. This sets high expectations for student learning while supporting local school districts with the delivery of those expectations.
- Oppose changes to labor and employment laws unless those changes are proven to positively impact student learning and achievement.

## IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

*The Ames Chamber continues to be a partner in promoting the concerns and needs of the institution. We support the following ISU initiatives:*

- Complete the ISU biorenewables complex, which will provide new facilities for the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department.
- Correct and repair environmental and fire safety deficiencies, along with deferred maintenance, at the five Regent institutions (\$50 million).
- Improve the field of Electrical and Computer Engineering by continuing to remodel Coover Hall.