



BROOKLYN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2019





WHAT WE DO

- MEMBER ADVOCACY
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- HEALTH CARE ENROLLMENT
- PROMOTION AND MARKETING
- BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
- M/WBE CERTIFICATION
- FINANCING
- BROOKLYN-MADE BRANDING
- WORKFORCE AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
- TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY
- NEIGHBORHOOD RETAIL SUPPORT
- ON-THE-JOB TRAINING
- LABOR MARKET RESEARCH
- CHAMBER ON-THE-GO
- TRADE SHOWS
- IMPORT/EXPORT ASSISTANCE
- NETWORKING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Dear Friends of the Brooklyn Chamber,

We are very proud to present the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce 2019 New York State Legislative Agenda. Please note that this document is not all-inclusive -- we expect additional bills and issues to arise as the NY State Legislative Session continues. We hope you will continue to engage with us throughout the year as they come to your attention. The advocacy work we do in Albany would not be possible without the support and feedback of our members and our Brooklyn Delegation.

While we're excited about what lies ahead, we're also proud of our 100 years of past excellence. We have a strong foundation to build on, and we promise that the Chamber's best days are ahead. We remain busy positioning the Chamber as the leading economic development organization in the borough, ensuring that our members' interests are being heard and addressed.

This year's legislative agenda would not be possible without the work of our Board of Directors, Government Affairs Committee and over 2,000 businesses that are members of the Brooklyn Chamber.

Thank you for your support and here's to another year of successful business in Brooklyn!

Sincerely,



Hector Batista
President and CEO



Ana Oliveira
Chair, Board of Directors

WHERE WE STAND

HEALTHCARE

- ALLOW BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS TO PROVIDE HEALTH PLANS TO THEIR MEMBERS – **SUPPORT**
- SINGLE-PAYER HEALTHCARE – **UNDER REVIEW**

The high and continually increasing cost of providing healthcare to employees puts a huge strain on businesses in Brooklyn. The Brooklyn Chamber and its members care deeply about individuals having access to healthcare. We must provide businesses with employee healthcare options that are high-quality and reasonably priced. However, New York State currently prohibits association healthcare plans. We will be pushing for these plans to be permitted in the state so that small businesses can offer good health insurance at an affordable price. In addition, we are reviewing the proposed single-payer healthcare plan and its impact on small businesses, which is not yet clear.

SMALL BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

- REAUTHORIZE M/WBE PROGRAM LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE ALL STATE-FUNDED CONTRACTS ISSUED BY LOCALITIES – **SUPPORT**
- A.2987 (BICHOTTE) REMOVE \$3.5 MILLION CAP FOR M/WBE PARTICIPATION – **SUPPORT**
- INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERAN, IMMIGRANT, AND MINORITY & WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES IN STATE CONTRACTS – **SUPPORT**
- CREATE UNIFORMITY IN THE APPLICATION AND CERTIFICATION PROCESS FOR M/WBES IN BOTH THE CITY AND THE STATE SYSTEM – **SUPPORT**

The Brooklyn Chamber will be closely monitoring all State legislation to ensure that small businesses can remain competitive in an increasingly complex and expensive business climate. The Chamber and its members believe that a diverse and inclusive business environment fosters a robust and vibrant marketplace. Thus, it is critical that opportunities for M/WBES be increased, and that the certification process be made uniform for city and state applications.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- BROOKLYN-QUEENS CONNECTOR (BQX) – **SUPPORT**
- EXTEND TRAIN SERVICE TO RED HOOK – **SUPPORT**
- TRI-BOROUGH EXPRESS LINE (X-LINE) – **SUPPORT**
- CONGESTION PRICING – **UNDER REVIEW**
- INCREASE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, CLEAN BURNING NATURAL GAS – **SUPPORT**
- RIGHT OF WAY FEES ON BROADBAND – **OPPOSE**

The Brooklyn Chamber strongly supports the need for improved infrastructure in the outer boroughs, particularly to parts of Brooklyn that are underserved by transit so that our communities are connected to the jobs of today. It is imperative that major infrastructure projects and initiatives, like the rebuilding of the BQE cantilever and the congestion pricing proposal, take into account their impact on businesses in the immediate and surrounding areas. Additionally, we must increase energy infrastructure in the region with environmentally sustainable solutions to promote future economic growth.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INDUSTRIAL POLICY, & TOURISM

- REVITALIZATION OF BROADWAY JUNCTION – SUPPORT
- A.130 (CAHILL) ESTABLISH THE NEW YORK CRAFT BEVERAGE COUNCIL – SUPPORT
- SKILLED WORKFORCE AND SECTOR-BASED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES – SUPPORT
- BROOKLYN-MADE CERTIFICATION AND BRANDING – SUPPORT

Brooklyn is full of rich cultural attractions and tourism, including arts and culture, that drive economic development throughout the entire borough. We must incentivize tourism development to drive people – both locals and tourists – to our fascinating and unique neighborhoods. We must also support new manufacturing and the proliferation of Brooklyn makers that are driving our economic growth through programs that help them train skilled workers, scale their production, and widen distribution.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, ON-THE-JOB TRAINING & HIGHER EDUCATION

- EXAMINE ELIMINATING THE MINIMUM WAGE TIP CREDIT – UNDER REVIEW
- INCENTIVES FUNDING FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING – SUPPORT
- REINTRODUCE THE EMPIRE STATE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM – SUPPORT
- INCREASE THE MAXIMUM INCOME ELIGIBILITY OF THE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – SUPPORT

Brooklyn is fortunate to have so many excellent colleges and universities. The Brooklyn Chamber is a huge proponent of continuing to build a pipeline between our students and small businesses. Increasing TAP eligibility, as well as the creation of programs like the Empire State Apprenticeship Program, give small businesses access to qualified local employees. On-the-job training is crucial to ensure that New York's workforce remains competitive, diverse and relevant.

BROOKLYN DELEGATION

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