

Member FAQ and Advocacy Guidelines

• What is the purpose of the Advocacy Committee?

The Advocacy Committee helps guide the Chamber's voice on local and regional issues that impact the business community. We focus on city policies, economic development, and community-wide topics that affect multiple businesses or industry sectors.

Do I need to be a Chamber member to serve on the committee?

Yes. All voting members must be current Chamber members to ensure alignment with the Chamber's mission and to represent its broader membership.

What kinds of issues does the committee address?

Local and regional policy changes (e.g., zoning, permitting, signage, infrastructure)

- City and regional initiatives like the Comprehensive Plan, LRC, EVC, NWCA
- Economic development projects
- Topics that affect multiple businesses or sectors, not just one company

What if a single business asks the Chamber to speak on their behalf?

The committee will consider individual business concerns only when they highlight a broader issue that could impact multiple members or industries. These are reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine if they align with the committee's advocacy mission.

How does the committee decide when to take a public position?

- The issue must be relevant to multiple Chamber members or key economic priorities
- A motion must pass with a majority vote of voting members
- The recommendation must be approved by the Chamber Board before any public statement is made

Who communicates Chamber advocacy positions publicly?

Typically, the Chair or Executive Director will serve as the Chamber's spokesperson for approved positions. No member should speak on behalf of the committee unless specifically designated.

How do I get a topic on the meeting agenda?

Email the Chair or Executive Director at least 7–10 days before the meeting. Items requiring speakers or extra preparation should be submitted earlier.

Can non-members attend meetings?

Yes, invited guests and subject matter experts may attend in a non-voting capacity.

What is expected of committee members?

- Attend at least 75% of meetings
- Review materials in advance
- Represent your sector, not just your business
- Engage respectfully and constructively

- Help identify issues and opportunities to support the business community

Can a member be removed from the committee?

Yes, but only when necessary. The Chair and Executive Director may recommend removal to the Chamber Board if a member is not participating or acting in line with the committee's goals. Members will always have a chance to share their perspective first.