



# 2018 Federal Public Policy Platform

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# 2018 FEDERAL PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM

## HENDERSON BUSINESS COMMUNITY

What happens in Henderson City Hall, Carson City, or in Washington D.C. can have an immediate impact on the Henderson Chamber of Commerce (HCC) and on our business economy. As the business voice for Nevada's second largest and one of the nation's fastest growing cities, the HCC advocates on behalf of its business members for policies that foster economic growth, jobs, and new opportunities, which ultimately continues to create the diverse and dynamic community we love.

For more than 75 years, the HCC has maintained its commitment to its business community by advancing the commercial, industrial, civic, and general interests of its members while also promoting and advocating for a positive economic environment for business and responsive government. The HCC provides sales, marketing, educational, and advocacy programming to assist its members and support its local business community via the following avenues:



The Henderson Chamber of Commerce is a private, non-profit, voluntary organization dedicated to the growth and progress of the business community. It provides businesses with legislative representation, marketing and networking opportunities, support resources, and business development training. HCC members are focused on promoting the civic, commercial, and industrial development of Southern Nevada.



As the economic development arm of the HCC, the Henderson Development Association (HDA) is committed to growing the primary job base in Henderson by attracting, retaining, expanding, and diversifying the business community.



The Henderson Chamber of Commerce Foundation (HCCF) is a non-profit corporation organized to manage and distribute funds and resources to further the development of the community through activities that are exclusively charitable, scientific, or educational. The Foundation is responsible for the creation and success of the Henderson Business Resource Center (a business incubator), Co-Operate on Water (a co-working space) and the Leadership Henderson program.

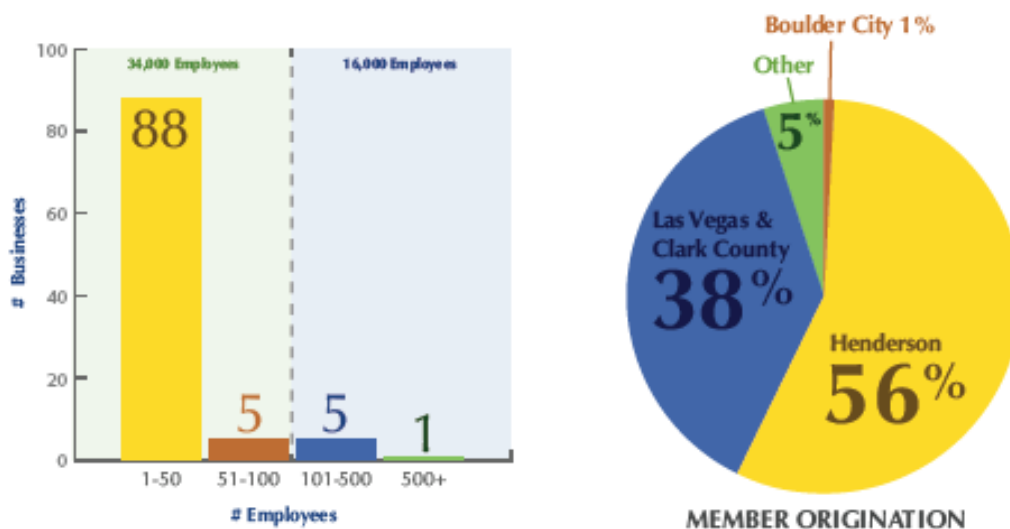


The Issues Mobilization Political Action Committee (IMPAC) is a bipartisan group that makes direct contributions to candidates who promote and vote for an agenda of a favorable business climate. IMPAC operates separately from the HCC by independent HCC volunteer members and follows the mission of the HCC and its member businesses.

## MEMBER ORIGATION

Currently, the HCC represents 1,300 member businesses throughout Clark County, Nevada’s most populated county. Approximately 58% of these member businesses have a physical presence within the City of Henderson, while 42% are located throughout the Las Vegas metropolitan area, which includes the city proper and unincorporated areas of Clark County.

Because of HCC’s varied membership, it represents businesses of all sizes, industries, and stages. The HCC proudly represents the nation’s small business economic backbone as approximately 85% of the membership is comprised of businesses employing between 1-50 employees, which collectively employ approximately 34,000 workers within its community. Altogether, the HCC supports businesses that employ more than 50,000 employees within Southern Nevada.



### HCC Member Business Employment

The largest business sectors include:

- Real Estate
- Insurance
- Consulting Services
- Restaurants
- Financial Planning
- Education
- Non-profit
- Manufacturing
- Gaming
- Business Services

## THE PROCESS & FOCUS AREAS

The HCC achieves its goals through its advocacy process, which includes developing a business-driven, public policy agenda. Input from our members is imperative in formulating that agenda.

Within the HCC's umbrella is its Issues Committee (Committee), which is the federal and local advocacy arm of the organization. The Committee works to survey and meet with the business community as well as identify and act on policies as the advocacy voice of the HCC that will assist economic growth in Henderson and the surrounding areas. Its focus on economic development is a catalyst for an overall successful community, whereby business growth and diversity allow for a quality of life that generates monies that are reinvested back into the community.

Through its work, the HCC focuses on the following federal areas that promote economic growth through the support of business:

1. Infrastructure & Developable Lands
2. Workforce Readiness
3. Healthcare
4. Taxes & Regulations

The Committee and HCC staff communicate policy priorities to elected officials in a variety of ways, including: personal contact, legislative receptions, and/or fly-ins to conduct meetings and briefing sessions on behalf of our members.

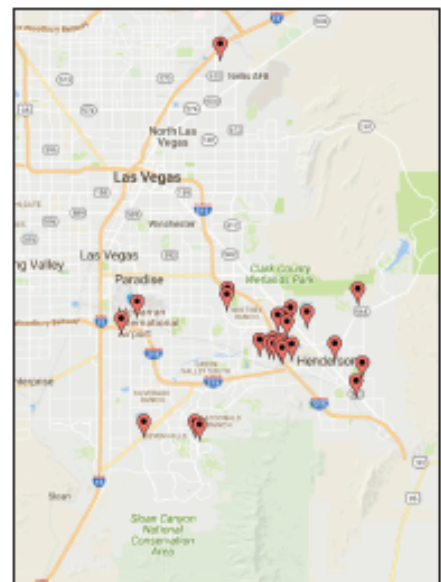
# AGENDA FOR A HEALTHY BUSINESS ECONOMY

## INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPABLE LANDS

The HCC supports economic growth through diversification, workforce development, access to capital, public-private collaboration, and proper land-use policies to support a vibrant economy and ability to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for businesses. The HCC supports projects and policies that develop and improve infrastructure in the areas of communication, energy, water, and transportation as critical public assets that benefit all businesses and promote job growth and livability in Henderson.

### Federal Policy Focus:

- Support for expedited funding and completion of Interstate 11 and improved Interstate 15 connectivity to Southern California and surrounding states. (Connectivity to support/expand business region.)
  - Enhance connectivity between major metropolitan markets through movement of goods and services.
  - International and national manufacturing and distribution businesses have already begun to make major, multi-million-dollar investments in relocation and/or expansion efforts near Interstate 515 and Interstate 95 because of the anticipated final project's alignment through the Las Vegas valley.
  - Multi-state and international connectivity to increase business, aiding in job growth, economic diversification, and increased property and sales tax base to benefit local jurisdiction.
  - Henderson is one of the fastest growing cities in the U.S. and as such, requires long-range transportation planning efforts in order to keep up and meet infrastructure needs. Long term plans (20-year plus) and funding mechanisms, including via the Federal Highway Administration's Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs), are critical to meet these increasing needs.
  - As Interstate 11 is more than 80% federally funded, we encourage ongoing federal investment via the Federal Highway Administration through mechanisms such as FAST Act, MAP-21, and its Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects' FASTLANE Grants program, to which the Arizona Department of Transportation Interstate 11 project has benefited from as well.



HCC member manufacturing and distribution facility locations.

- Encourage land appropriations that support business and community expansion opportunities in Henderson. (Developable lands for expanding/relocating businesses.)
  - Enhance outreach to private sector community when generating public lands plans in and around the Las Vegas Metropolitan area, including areas such as Ivanpah, Nevada. Members of the private sector are willing to work together to minimize environmental impacts of developed lands while not imposing challenging development restrictions on lands and/or selling land/parcels that tax the development community too much and, therefore, are not desirable. International and national manufacturing and distribution businesses have already begun to make major, multi-million-dollar investments in relocation and/or expansion efforts near Interstate 515 and Interstate 95 because of the anticipated final project's alignment through the Las Vegas valley.
  - Henderson's developable lands are increasingly land-locked by BLM-owned lands. We encourage policies to enable responsible development with strong involvement by the state, local municipalities, and private sector community as all organizations are impacted by these measures.
  - The current policies impede the community's ability to attract new industry due to lack of contiguous parcels large enough to attract large businesses needing space.
  - Without connecting infrastructure, development of land is too costly to businesses that are considering relocations or expansions to Southern Nevada. This has caused delays in development.
- Enhance policies and funding allocations that support greater energy production and viability. (Enhance competitiveness for existing, relocating, and expanding businesses.)
- Encourage funding allocations that support clean-up and development of toxic sites, thereby addressing undevelopable land, and benefit blighted and underserved areas in need of redevelopment.
  - As a community born because of World War II, Henderson's manufacturing history propelled the city into existence while also contaminating surrounding land.
  - The current policies impede the community's ability to attract new industry due to lack of contiguous parcels large enough to attract large businesses needing space.
  - Brownfield Grants is an example of legislation that encourages clean-up processes aimed at helping communities remediate and redevelop contaminated property. They provide an opportunity for local jurisdictions to work with the private sector to remediate land that can then be developed and used by the community.



As a long-time developer in Southern Nevada, I know the critical importance of continually building, updating, and improving our community's infrastructure, while also providing for an abundant supply of developable land for future growth. Infrastructure links people to economic development: jobs, education, and the social fiber that binds us together.



- Rick Smith, President/CEO of RDS Associates

## WORKFORCE READINESS

The HCC encourages enhanced education and skilled workforce efforts that aim to produce a well-educated, well-trained Nevada workforce for tomorrow's business needs while also supporting education measures that appeal to existing, expanding, and relocating businesses.

Business owners and executives of the HCC continue to project revenue growth and expect to hire in the months and years to come despite a need for workforce development programs. Workforce needs grow as the cost of skilled, certified, and qualified labor and the adequacy of working skills remain in increasing demand, all while the number of business projects continue to skyrocket within Southern Nevada.

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**In October 2017, local plant managers from a variety of manufacturing operations in Henderson were asked during a panel discussion what their greatest business challenge was for growth. They unanimously cited the small pool of qualified workers in Southern Nevada as a primary challenge in recruiting new employees, bringing diverse businesses to the market, and added that the K-12 education system was problematic for recruiting out-of-market employees to Nevada.**

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### Federal Policy Focus:

- Increased funding for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) curriculum, vocational training and apprenticeships.
  - The development of the Southern Nevada community relies on the development of tomorrow's workforce. Investments supporting STEM promote opportunity for not only youth moving toward employment, but adults already in the workforce who seek to, and often must, transition their skills to meet the ever-changing needs of employers and technology used in varying business sectors.
  - The HCC encourages federal funding and support for states to build gateway program to STEM careers, and enhance the capacity to development STEM talent at institutions.
  - The HCC supports federal funding and support for states to provide apprenticeship program as employers who utilize apprentices report higher productivity, higher retention rates and a substantial return on investment. As the economy continues to grow, business leaders across all industries are in the best position to tell their success stories: that apprenticeships fulfill their need to create a pipeline of skilled workers to help them take their companies to the next level.
- Increased federal funding and incentives that expand physician and healthcare professional's education and training, including residency programs and fellowships, especially in primary care specialties.
  - Over the past several years, Henderson healthcare businesses and education institutions have worked hard to establish their institutions in anticipation of the future healthcare needs to support continued residential growth and well-recognized aging population throughout Southern Nevada.

- The HCC has and continues to support those efforts, which ultimately enhance the business community's quality of life and aid in overall economic development for the state: College of Southern Nevada, Nevada State College, Roseman University, Touro University, Dignity Health - St. Rose Dominican, and Henderson Hospital.
- With more than two million residents living within Clark County, Henderson is poised to become the next medical service and education "hub" of Southern Nevada as healthcare employment continues to grow and education services are available.
  - o Noteworthy, national and innovative, projects such as \$1.2 billion, 170-acre master planned, full-service medical community called Union Village, continue to position Henderson as a major medical "hub" for the Southwestern U.S.
- Support for Graduate Medical Education (GME) ensures that newly minted doctors receive the much-needed on-the-job training, following their in-market studies, so they may apply, diverse healthcare experience in order to best serve the needs of our community for years to come.



## HEALTHCARE

The HCC supports meaningful healthcare reform and education curricula support aimed at addressing better health outcomes, enhancing individual experience of care, reducing per capita cost of care, and supporting quality of life measures that appeal to existing, expanding, and relocating businesses.

As the HCC largely represents small businesses, most between 1-50 employees, these businesses are not required to offer insurance under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). However, many do as they believe it is the right thing for helping them compete for and retain top employees.

According to the HCC's annual member business survey, year-over-year healthcare costs rank as the second largest expense in conducting their business. To that end, uncertainty about escalating healthcare costs saddles small businesses with unexpected expenses that cut profits and prevent small businesses from growing.

### Federal Policy Focus:

- Healthcare reform to increase both interstate competition and statewide health insurance providers, decreasing costs to small businesses. (Addressing care choices and overall costs).
- Support for employer-sponsored healthcare system. (Addressing care choices and overall costs to employers and their employees.)
  - Encourage support of changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) through the Department of Labor's proposed rule on Association Health Plans, thereby allowing for association plans.
- Advancing successful ideas from the private sector that reduce costs, advance quality, and improve health.
- Promoting reforms that provide relief to employers and employees as the ACA is implemented, including reducing the harm of the employer mandate by restoring the 40-hour work week.
- Addressing taxes that increase premiums and cost jobs such as the 40% excise tax, medical device tax, and the health insurance tax.
- Improving flexibility for tax-preferred accounts that encourage careful healthcare spending like FSAs, HSAs, and HRAs.
- Raising awareness about the positive effects of wellness and chronic disease management programs in the workplace.
- Expanding access to coverage and services by strengthening the employer-sponsored system and supporting interstate competition with health insurance plans.



I'm proud to own a business where my employees are like family. That is why it's important to me to provide them with a solid healthcare plan. To do so I must be able to rely on reasonable and stable pricing for long periods of time for my small business to carry the cost.

– **Tim Brooks, Owner of Emerald Island Casino**



Having affordable, high-quality healthcare is, and will always be, a high priority for Nevadans. For those small businesses trying to do the right thing for their employees by offering ample health insurance at a reasonable cost, it's incredibly important for them to know from year to year how stable pricing is going to be. And to protect the viability of that affordable, high-quality healthcare that health systems like Dignity Health-St. Rose Dominican provide, we need to make sure that all Nevadans have access to the best insurance coverage they and their employers can afford.

– **Gene Bassett, SVP of Operations, Dignity Health Nevada**

## TAXES & REGULATIONS

The HCC supports tax policies that stimulate growth, innovation, and job creation and support regulations that provide businesses with certainty and flexibility.

Entrepreneurs play a critical role in creating jobs and expanding the economy. According to the Small Business Administration, small businesses represent 99% of all employer firms and employ more than half of all private sector employees. Supporting HCC businesses, by streamlining or removing complicated or duplicative regulations as well as ensuring a market whereby entrepreneurs can access capital, is important to sustaining the economy. These efforts allow businesses to focus on their day-to-day business, competitiveness, profitability and ability to invest in future growth rather than attempting to understand complicated tax structures and regulations.

### Federal Policy Focus:

- Tax reform that lowers the tax and regulatory burdens on member companies. (Opportunities to advance small business and entrepreneurship).
  - Continue to support lower corporate and flow-through entities' tax rates for businesses to free up capital to allow expansion, wage growth, and dividend opportunities.
    - o Address tax rates imposed on C-Corporations and flow-through entities' profits, such as Proprietorships, LLCs, Partnerships, S-Corps.
  - Continue to support regulatory changes that promote a competitive domestic and global marketplace for business by allowing for an even playing field among competitors between tax jurisdictions.
- Funding, grants, and tax incentives that promote small business development and technology start-ups. (Advance high-growth, diverse business sector.)
  - Incentivize small businesses to make capital investments into businesses and reduce taxes in the periods the capital is committed.
- Minimum wage and overtime rule policies that minimize impact to member businesses. (Opportunities to advance small business and entrepreneurship.)



A fair and competitive business environment is critical to Mars' growth. For instance, recent federal corporate tax reforms provided this and will help Mars continue to reinvest in our Associates and our facilities. Maintaining a stable regulatory environment will also help foster the certainty needed for sustainable business growth.

– Oren Young, General Manager, Mars Retail Group/Ethel M. Chocolates



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