

CORE POLICY STATEMENT

The mission of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce is to develop and promote the economic growth and quality of life in the Abilene area. The Abilene Chamber and its 1,200 members believe free enterprise and job creation are the solution for creating a higher quality of life for Abilene residents.

The Abilene Chamber, on behalf of its members and affiliates, will pursue a pro-growth agenda that creates an environment that encourages job growth, population growth and entrepreneurship.

The Chamber's core policy beliefs are (*in no particular order*) :

- Abilene must continue to be a leader in the State of Texas in developing the key infrastructure to attract, grow and retain quality jobs. This requires maintaining the financial resources to be competitive in the global environment through the Development Corporation of Abilene and its partnering agencies as well as the Texas Enterprise Fund and other state incentive programs.
- Abilene must continue to be a leader in the United States in its support of the military. The Abilene Chamber supports continued local funding of mission support and will continue to provide support for local troops and their families. Additionally, the Abilene Chamber will support its military affairs committee in all federal, state and local initiatives to protect and enhance and expand missions for Dyess Air Force Base.
- Access to reliable water resources will be a key issue for many U.S. communities to maintain job and population growth. Abilene must continue to develop long-term and short-term strategies for securing resources.
- The Abilene Chamber believes government at all levels should be efficient. However, government organizations are also responsible for developing strategies to accommodate growth and stability. Government organizations should not pass along deferred costs to future generations. Additionally, government organizations should be transparent in their development of budgetary practices.
- The Abilene Chamber will be a leader in working with both K-12 and higher education partners to encourage the development of curriculum that trains students for current and future workforce needs and puts Abilene in a competitive position to attract and retain talent for 21st century jobs.
- Abilene is a leader in the attraction of tourism and the development of the arts. Tourism is a key economic development program and the arts and other quality of life enhancements are becoming increasingly important in the retention and attraction of people to the community. As such, the Abilene Chamber will encourage the development and improvement of facilities that enhance the city's efforts to expand these efforts as an effective economic development strategy.
- The Abilene Chamber of Commerce will work to ensure transportation strategies and investments provide for business growth and livability.
- Any regulatory change that adversely impacts business should be pursued only as a last resort after all free market solutions have been tried and only after a reasonable cost/benefit analysis shows economic growth will not be adversely affected.