



2021 Legislative Agenda

CITY OF CHICAGO & COOK COUNTY:

● BUSINESS CLIMATE

- Advocate for resources and guidance from city, state and federal government for Chicago's economy to safely reopen
- Support liability protections for businesses and employers from COVID related litigation
- Support open-source data for government and business transparency
- Support programs that spur economic growth through collective leveraging of funds through public / private partnerships
- Support recognition, promotion and incentives for Cultural Institutions including museums, theatres, music venues, galleries and more
- Support needs of members to operate effectively through necessary and appropriate zoning changes, liquor licensing and other operational requirements controlled through government
- Support legislation that eliminates restrictions that prevent entrepreneurial residents from starting and operating home-based businesses
- Support Choose Chicago efforts to drive traffic to Chicago's iconic neighborhoods and institutions
- Continue to work with the Vacancy Tax Relief Coalition in partnership with World Business Chicago to oppose laws and policies that incentivize property owners to keep commercial property vacant
- Support the Small Business Advocacy Council's efforts to cut unnecessary and burdensome red tape to help Chicago's small and local businesses recover from the pandemic. These initiatives include:
 - Eliminate the requirement that simple signs protruding over the public way by less than one inch (1") be voted on and approved by the Chicago City Council;
 - Eliminate the requirement that awnings, canopies and other structures on the public way be voted on and approved by the Chicago City Council;
 - Eliminate the requirement that business owners attend hearings with attorneys for minor ordinance violations which do not impact the health, safety and welfare of the public. These should be paid by willing business owners without requiring a hearing;
 - Legalize A-frame/sandwich signs placed safely in front of small and local businesses to help them bring back their customers.



- **TRANSPORTATION**

- Oppose 24-hour Residential Permit Parking and/or its expansion into unregulated areas or the lengthening of restricted hours in existing zones
- Support reinstating Sunday parking meter fees to encourage turnover at local businesses
- Support and advocate for enacting a Business Permit Parking license
- Support comprehensive planning for transportation, parking and traffic initiatives
- Support and advocate for upgrades to and expansion of infrastructure in regard to the Lincoln Yards Development
- Support promotion of pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly planning and policy solutions
- Support public transportation, pedestrian, and bicycle-friendly environments in regards to the North Lake Shore Drive Reconstruction project

- **ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT**

- Monitor and stay involved in the implementation and development of the Lincoln Yards development
- Monitor proposals for zoning changes in business corridors in Lincoln Park to ensure business input is considered
- Monitor proposals for new residential construction / conversions and support proposals that will be helpful to local businesses
- Monitor proposals for liquor license moratoriums and applications
- Support transit-oriented development within TOD zones to add residents and discourage automobile ownership

- **TAX REVENUE & BUDGET MANAGEMENT**

- Encourage and support analysis and planning for the Chicago pension challenges
- Encourage and support analysis and planning for fair property tax assessments
- Oppose new taxes on businesses to balance other budgetary needs
- Monitor effect of property tax increases on small businesses

STATE OF ILLINOIS:

- **BUSINESS CLIMATE**

- Support an improved and transparent business grant program to help Lincoln Park's small and independent businesses recover
- Support the Small Business Advocacy Council's Recovery Initiative to Support Employment (R.I.S.E. Act) which provides businesses with a tax credit for retraining and hiring individuals who have lost their jobs or businesses
- Support job creation and education programming to encourage positive economic growth and an expanded workforce



- **TRANSPORTATION**

- Support efforts by the Regional Transportation Authority to develop long-term funding solutions
- Support development and funding for mass transit solutions that support Lincoln Park residents and the neighborhood's reputation as a destination for tourists

- **ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT**

- Oppose legislation that restricts positive economic development initiatives through Eminent Domain
- Support legislation that encourages transparent government

- **TAX REVENUE & BUDGET MANAGEMENT**

- Oppose legislation that unduly shifts State tax burdens to small businesses