

NEWS RELEASE

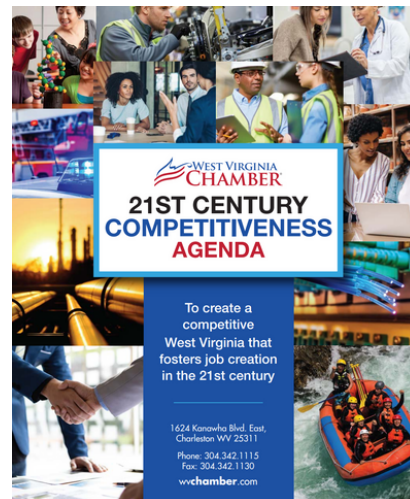
Roadmap For West Virginia's Success: West Virginia Chamber Launches *21st Century Competitiveness Agenda*

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the launch of its *21st Century Competitiveness Agenda*, a comprehensive roadmap designed to address the state's most pressing challenges and harness its unique strengths. This initiative focuses on key areas essential for the state's success and aims to create a thriving environment for businesses while ensuring that all West Virginians have access to quality education, health care and economic opportunities.

"The 21st Century Competitiveness Agenda is not just a plan; it's a vision for the future of West Virginia," Steve Roberts, president of the West Virginia Chamber, said. "Our initiatives are driven by the needs of our members, who consistently identify these areas as critical for the state's prosperity."

Key Focus Areas of the Agenda:

1. Excellence in K-12 Education
2. Build a Strong Workforce & Talent Pipeline
3. Competitive Business Climate
4. Support Manufacturers' Needs
5. Enhance Health & Wellness
6. Fair Legal Landscape & Judiciary System
7. Promote Quality of Life & Public Safety
8. Support Economic Development
9. "All-of-the-above" Energy Approach
10. Advance Small Business Opportunities
11. Foster Technological Advancement
12. Leverage Travel & Tourism Assets



The development of this agenda is rooted in a decade-long exploration of competitive strategies employed by successful states. The Chamber's approach has been informed by feedback from members and insights from national experts who provided data-driven strategies that have guided this initiative.

"We are proud to be recognized as the voice of business in West Virginia for nearly 90 years. Our 21st Century Competitiveness Agenda is the latest example of the investment from the business community in the future prosperity of West Virginia," Roberts said. "We are already beginning to see the results of business-friendly policies in the announcements that have come from companies like Nucor, Procter & Gamble, Chemours, BHE Renewables, Form Energy and so many other world-renowned companies that are looking at West Virginia."

The *21st Century Competitiveness Agenda* can be found on wvchamber.com

Members of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce are your small business neighbors. Chamber members employ over half of our state's workforce and are found across our state. More information on the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce can be found at www.wvchamber.com.