During the 2020 session of the Maryland General Assembly, the GBC will support policies that increase the state’s competitiveness for economic growth and job creation by:

Advocating for inclusive policies and programs that strengthen economic competitiveness and job creation.
The creation of a strong and competitive business climate is among the most important roles of government. It is critical that government leadership unites with business as a partner. Job creation, a key outcome of a strong business climate, not only provides additional tax revenue, but new opportunities for citizens at all levels of the employment ladder. It is paramount that Maryland’s elected leaders make a competitive business climate part of a comprehensive policy approach.

Improving public safety through enhanced coordination among criminal justice agencies and implementation of comprehensive violence reduction strategies.
Violent crime and public safety concerns threaten the health, well-being, and economic prosperity of our communities. Persistent violent crime rates in Baltimore City require strategic action by state and city officials. Policymakers must join together in a coordinated approach that reduces violent crime while simultaneously addressing the root causes of crime, such as poverty, joblessness and a lack of education or workforce training.

Strengthening education and workforce systems to prioritize equity, accountability, and alignment with Maryland’s high-growth industry sectors.
Preparing the workforce to be successful in tomorrow’s economy requires innovative thinking, industry-specific training programs, and career pathways. Policymakers should enact legislation that ensures the state’s workforce has well-trained workers at all skill levels.

Advocating for a balanced transportation policy and funding priorities that create interconnected, multimodal transportation networks and promote equitable investment in systems across regions, modes, and communities.
Policymakers should strategically invest in interconnected multimodal transportation networks that actively contribute to economic growth, connect workers to employment, and move people and goods safely and efficiently. Transportation investments should be allocated equitably across geographic regions and modes.
Core Pillars for a Competitive Business Environment and Job Creation

- **Government leadership** that unites with business as a partner
- **Workforce** that is highly educated and meets Maryland’s business needs
- **Regulatory policies** that are streamlined, stable, and predictable
- **Tax structure** that is fair and competitive
- **Competitive costs of doing business**
- **Superior transportation infrastructure** with reliable funding mechanisms
- **Strategic and effective state investments** in business growth
- **Business marketing strategy** that is aggressive, coordinated, long-term, and well-funded

**SOURCE:** GBC Report, Gaining a Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland

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