



2018 GSBA Legislative Agenda

MISSION: To combine business development, leadership and social action to expand economic opportunities for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community and those who support equality for all.

VISION: A vibrant global economy strengthened through the full participation of diverse local communities.

The GSBA Board of Directors gave final approval of the 2018 Legislative Agenda at the December 6, 2017 Board meeting. The Legislative Agenda will serve as a guideline for the organization’s policy and advocacy work. Bills and issues approved in this Legislative Agenda will be seen as pre-approved by the Board, allowing the advocacy work of GSBA to be conducted in a timely manner. The Policy Council and Public Policy Task Force will confirm that proposed bills conform to the approved Legislative Agenda. Issues not covered by the Legislative Agenda will be evaluated through the Board-approved vetting process.

Civil Rights

Equality and access under the law for all persons.

- * Ban conversion therapy / reparative therapy
- * Defend existing civil rights laws and oppose religious exemptions laws that would weaken them
 - o Support the federal Do No Harm Act
 - o Oppose the First Amendment Defense Act
- * Invest in the economic development of LGBT communities, focusing especially on transgender people, people of color, and homeless youth
- * Support the full recognition and inclusion of all LGBTQ people in all aspect of society, including in government identification documents, parental rights, healthcare, and public accommodations.
 - o Support revisions to Uniform Parentage Act to fully integrate same-sex couples and ensure equal treatment
 - o Support expanding healthcare access through WA Apple Health to all medically necessary transition-related care
 - o Support updates by Dept. of Health and Dept. of Licensing to include non-binary gender makers
 - o Support the federal Equality Act and all other non-discrimination acts
- Count LGBTQ people in order to track health and economic disparities and effectiveness of programs
- Increase funding and support for LGBTQ seniors, particularly around housing needs.
- Defend the right of all people to have control over their own bodies, including a woman’s right to choose.
- Support gun control efforts as both an LGBTQ and business issue
- Support I-940 and related efforts of the De-Escalate WA Coalition

Economic Prosperity

A vibrant economy strengthened through the full participation and collaboration of diverse local communities.

- * Recognize LGBTBE certification in supplier diversity efforts and expand contracting opportunities for all minority communities
 - o Repeal or amend Initiative 200 to allow for more effective government contracting with minority communities
- * Increase state support for tourism, particularly for LGBTQ tourism and for the WA Tourism Alliance’s self-assessment
- * Strengthen the voice of small businesses in the policymaking process at all levels
 - o Support creation of Seattle Small Business Council
- Increase support for small business development, education, and technical support at all levels
- Oppose a jobs tax on Seattle businesses
- Coordinate and streamline regulations across scales
- Enact systemic, progressive tax reform at the state level to address chronic underfunding of critical services, including a reform of the B&O tax on gross receipts
- Support efforts to make our region a more affordable place to live for both residents and small businesses

Education for All

Invest in future leaders.

- LGBTQ curriculum inclusion efforts
- Support efforts making schools safe for LGBTQ students (Tyler Clementi Higher Ed. Anti-Harassment Act, Student Non-Discrimination Act)
- Preserving DACA and opening federal student aid to DREAMers
- Support increased funding for certificate, credential, and post-secondary degree programs

