



# West Virginia Business & Industry Council

## 2018 Legislative Agenda

The West Virginia Business & Industry Council is proud of the incredibly policy gains West Virginia has made in the last few years. From sweeping civil justice reforms to passage of “right to work” legislation, West Virginia’s business climate is undergoing an encouraging transformation that is beginning to show real results. But much work remains, and that sets the basis for the following policy areas that will be BIC’s focus in the 2018 session:

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Civil Justice Reform</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support creation of an Intermediate Appellate Court with automatic right to appeal</li> <li>• “Loser pays” reform to discourage meritless lawsuits</li> </ul> |
| <b>Education</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocational/technical education reform to allow for degree/certificate attainment on graduation from high school</li> </ul>                                    |
| <b>Taxation</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elimination of personal property tax on inventory, machinery and equipment</li> <li>• Energy tax reform</li> </ul>                                            |
| <b>Energy/Regulatory</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “No stricter than” regulatory reform</li> <li>• Market competitiveness issues</li> </ul>                                                                      |
| <b>Opioid Epidemic</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support efforts to fight the epidemic and explore effective treatment options</li> </ul>                                                                      |
| <b>Power Rates</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve access to low-cost, reliable electric power for homes and businesses</li> </ul>                                                                      |
| <b>Government Efficiency</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage efforts to shrink state government and improve efficiency</li> </ul>                                                                                |