



Driving Growth IN THE Keystone State

2019-2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



GROWPA





Grow PA is a statewide initiative
that convenes people and organizations
throughout Pennsylvania to advance
a modern growth agenda.



The Issue

Over the last few decades, Pennsylvania has been on the decline. With a shrinking workforce, stagnant population, and underperforming economy, the Keystone State is failing to keep pace with the rest of the nation.

These trends are shaping our state's future. Without growth in population and jobs, this downward course will continue to impact Pennsylvania's long-term vitality.

Economy

Real GDP Growth ¹

PA

2.2%

U.S.

2.2%

PA RANKED

20th

IN U.S. FOR
GDP GROWTH

Population

Population Growth Rate ²

PA

0.7%

U.S.

5.3%

PA RANKED

45th

IN U.S. FOR
POPULATION
GROWTH

Jobs

Annual Jobs Growth ³

PA

3.1%

U.S.

6.7%

PA RANKED

34th

IN U.S. JOB
GROWTH



The Movement

In response to this decline, chambers of commerce, trade associations, and business and civic leaders from across the state have been working together on an initiative to reverse our trajectory and advance the Commonwealth — called Grow PA.

Grow PA began in the fall of 2017 as a virtual discussion among stakeholders from various sectors of our business and civic community through a digital forum to share stories of innovation from around the state.

Over the past year, Grow PA has evolved into a movement focused around three pillars working to modernize all facets of our infrastructure, accelerate health care innovation, and transform post-secondary education.



1
modernize all facets
of our **infrastructure**

2
accelerate innovation
in **health care**

3
transform post-
secondary **education**



Legislative Priorities

Grow PA has gathered thousands of advocates and collected hundreds of ‘big ideas’ focused on advancing each of these pillars and ensuring long-term growth for the Commonwealth. From this list of ideas, Grow PA advocates have selected a series of priority recommendations that fall within each of these three pillars and form the **Grow PA 2019-2020 Legislative Priorities**.

This list of legislative priorities focuses on advancing the most critical assets of our economy — infrastructure, health care, and post-secondary education. For a full list of Grow PA’s big ideas beyond these legislative priorities visit Grow-PA.com.

Priorities to modernize all facets of our infrastructure

Promote private investment in 21st century broadband networks to support industries and economic development. For rural areas, target funding to unserved locations where the market has not supplied adequate broadband. Utilize competitive funding processes to **deploy technology** and consider ways to coordinate state and federal funding to have the most impact.

Expand public-private partnerships to **modernize infrastructure** to support a range of statewide improvements including water, wastewater, roads and bridges, transit, utilities, and fiber networks.

Build a network of **clean energy infrastructure** that includes electric vehicle charging stations and CNG and LNG fueling stations statewide.

Improve energy resiliency with increased microgrids helping rural areas meet their energy demands.

Advance implementation of a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) program and/or special fee to capture costs of hybrid and electric vehicles and establish a **stable source of funding** for transportation.

Expand natural gas infrastructure and technology to enable **access to low-cost energy** for residents and businesses across the state.

Invest in parks, forests, and land to **restore deteriorating infrastructure** and promote place-making.



Priorities to accelerate health care innovation

Expand **access to telemedicine services** with particular focus on rural areas in conjunction with broadband development.

Modernize public sector services, while **promoting innovation and growth** of private sector employer-sponsored health care.



Promote job apprenticeships, or employer-sponsored programs that include **mentored, on-the-job learning**, resulting in an industry-recognized credential for semi-skilled workers in health care.

Establish a Pennsylvania Enterprise Fund (PEF) that awards grants to companies in health care and research to incentivize those creating jobs and driving innovation to **locate in Pennsylvania.**



Enact statewide Centers for Excellence that **address the needs of the state's aging population.**

Incentivize new graduates who enter into the health care sector to remain in Pennsylvania.

Priorities to transform post-secondary education

Connect high school students to **post-secondary alternatives** such as technical schools—and provide incentives to pursue those alternatives.

Support career readiness and understand employers' needs by providing projections and real-time job market analysis to educate students and post-secondary institutions.

Develop a **student-loan forgiveness** program for students who remain in the state and pursue careers in high-growth industries.

Implement strategies to **support immigrant and first-generation students** to succeed in post-secondary education.

Enhance **college affordability** programs.

Issue an **innovation bond** to fund investments in Pennsylvania's educational and medical research facilities.

Modernize the structure of the State System of Higher Education to ensure a sustainable future in support of the Commonwealth's workforce needs.

Provide incentives for students pursuing disciplines in **information technology**.

Foster entrepreneurship through universities.





Reforming for Growth

In addition to our three pillars, Grow PA supports efforts to reform our state's tax system to promote growth in jobs and population and jump-start our languishing economy.

Some Pro-Growth reforms include:

- Reducing the Corporate Net Income Tax
- Changing Net Operating Loss
- Streamlining the regulatory review process and providing consistency of business regulations
- Modifying business tax credits



Join the Movement

Become an advocate for our Pro-Growth initiative.
Learn more at Grow-PA.com.



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Grow PA is a statewide initiative organized by the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia that convenes people and organizations throughout Pennsylvania to advance a modern growth agenda.

Sources

^{1, 2} U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Division, 2017 Detailed State and County Population Estimates; The Pennsylvania State Data Center

³ 2007-2017 Non-Farm Employment Growth, Center for Workforce Information & Analysis, 2016-2017 Ranking, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Grow PA Champions

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