

Racial Equity Agenda

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Building an inclusive economy with equal opportunity for all hinges on advancing racial equity in all aspects of society and addressing the damage caused by systemic racism. As the chamber of commerce for the Greater Louisville region, GLI will continue to advocate for public policies that will move our community closer to achieving racial equity in key focus areas such as law enforcement and criminal justice, barriers to work, education, health care, and economic development and land development.

GLI's members lead the organization's approach to taking positions on public policy issues and setting the chamber's legislative priorities. Hundreds of business leaders from Greater Louisville volunteer on issue advisory committees, task forces, the Public Policy Council, and the GLI Board of Directors to discuss and vet key issues and determine GLI's public policy positions and priorities.

GLI is committed to advocating for public policies to advance racial equity at the local, state, and federal levels.

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

- Rebuild trust between law enforcement and local communities through improved transparency and accountability measures.
- Reexamine Louisville Metro's collective bargaining agreement with local law enforcement to support a robust discussion of changes to local policing and increase accountability and civilian oversight.
- Increase and support implicit racial bias training for law enforcement.
- Utilize alternative sentencing and restorative justice practices for offenders more frequently and equitably.
- Reform Kentucky's cash-bail system.
- Improve access to expungement by reducing waiting periods, lowering costs, and making more records eligible for automatic expungement.
- Consider legislative solutions to allow Kentuckians with felony records to regain their right to vote.

Barriers to Work, Education, and Healthcare

- Provide increased educational and training programs for incarcerated individuals
- Remove barriers to higher education funding and scholarships for incarcerated individuals and individuals with felony records.
- Further streamline and expand expungement laws in Kentucky and Indiana.
- Reward education, training, treatment, and employment in probation and parole systems.
- Promote successful re-entry practices and second-chance employment.
- Examine benefits cliff to ensure a smooth transition and continued employment for those easing off of public assistance benefits.
- Oppose legislation that would discourage diverse talent from relocating to our region.
- Invest in workforce training and re-training initiatives and ensure these programs are connected and accessible to all community members.
- Invest in child care, full-day kindergarten, and early childhood success through state and federal programs.
- Fully fund public education and higher education.
- Dedicate resources to removing barriers to education for students and families, including support for Family Resource and Youth Services Centers.
- Develop employment and training opportunities tailored to the unique needs of homeless populations.
- Fund homeless shelters and access to social workers, mental health services, and substance use disorder treatment.
- Prioritize state and federal funding for public transportation to ensure access to employment, food, health care, education, and housing for all.
- Eliminate health disparities through policies that support positive health outcomes and access to quality care in marginalized communities.
- Support the development of digital infrastructure in underserved areas of Greater Louisville.
- Attract and retain diverse teaching talent in our K-12 schools.

Economic Development, Business Support, and Land Development

- Establish partnerships with underrepresented business owners to increase access to public contracts, procurement opportunities, and other business opportunities with governments and corporate agencies.
- Work to close the gap in access to capital by working with partners to deploy investment and financial assistance including the development of targeted micro-loans and grants along with access to public contracts and procurement opportunities.
- Remove barriers to the development of affordable housing in all parts of our community and support developers pursuing these types of projects.
- Establish a state-level affordable housing tax credit program, expand the federal New Markets Tax Credit, and support business development in Opportunity Zones.
- Continue funding state and federal brownfield remediation programs to support land redevelopment in underserved community areas and support developers pursuing these types of projects.