

mission statement

The Roundtable's mission is to inform the Commonwealth's elected and appointed leaders by applying the knowledge, experience, insight and unique managerial perspective of its membership toward the resolution of complex public policy issues. Through research, evaluation and communication, the Massachusetts Business Roundtable strives to influence the state's public policy agenda by developing and articulating long-term views, programs and policies that promote the social and economic vitality of Massachusetts.

2009 Strategic Areas of Focus

MBR is a member-driven organization. As such, our legislative and policy agenda is developed based upon the interests, ideas and passions of our members and driven through the work of our task forces. The Task Forces have identified MBR's strategic areas of focus for 2009, as follows:

Health Care Task Force

- Develop "synthesis" among the business community by convening stakeholders to develop a "yes" platform that advances the goals of health care reform while focusing on cost reduction.
- Convene a Task Force meeting that explores various innovative payment models currently being implemented, and monitor the state's Payment Review Commission, to ensure that a coordinated business voice is heard in the debate over payment reform.
- Monitor federal health care reform efforts.

Corporate Social Responsibility Task Force

- Complete and release the updated "Primer for Strategic Corporate Philanthropy," which compiles innovative models and current best practices of how corporations are using philanthropy and CSR to both recruit and retain employees.
- Investigate the issue of CSR as a strategy during difficult economic times: Will employers retract out of fiscal concerns, or increase investment as a way to combat poor corporate image? Similarly, can CSR be used as a strategy to improve or maintain employee morale in tough economic times?
- Expand best practices report to include a review of other states' and nations' best practices.

Education and Workforce Development Task Force

- Ensure educator quality, particularly in the areas of math and science, by supporting legislative efforts to professionalize teaching in a comprehensive, systemic approach.
- Advocate for innovative school models, such as charter school and Readiness schools.
- Support restructuring and regionalization of delivery systems, and invest any savings realized back into education initiatives.
- Support STEM teaching and learning. MBR is leading an effort to convene the state's leading business associations to develop a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) agenda to both maintain and improve the state's global competitiveness. This initiative is modeled after the national Business Roundtable's Tapping America's Potential report.
- MBR is participating in the development of a coordinated business education agenda with other business organizations to highlight priorities that we believe will yield the greatest benefits and meet the objective of preparing all students for college, career and citizenship.

Transportation and Infrastructure Task Force

- Support a centralized governance structure for the state's transportation system that is organized and funded consistent with its mission.
- Address underlying management and structural issues as defined by the Transportation Finance Commission.
- Support increase in gasoline tax in the short-term, and longer-term innovations such as user fees and open road tolling, to ensure the maintenance of the state's transportation infrastructure and the economic activity that relies upon it.
- Advocate for the long-term use of technology as a way to reduce costs while increasing services and productivity.