

## **Chamber Values Intrinsic to Policy Development**

- Chamber policy reflects member interests rather than those of non-members
- The intrinsic benefits of a market economy are recognized, valued and employed in building of pertinent public policy
- Competition be fair and provide the means to drive innovation, productivity and better economic value for all
- Whenever possible, private enterprise rather than government does the job
- Any decision by government balances the interests of all citizens while at the same time avoids domination by certain special interest groups
- Change is inevitable, needed, and welcomed
- The Chamber supports additional investment in government when government demonstrates responsible spending

## **2009 Policy Priorities**

1. Support transportation infrastructure improvements. A good multimodal transportation system allows our goods and services to be more competitive.
2. Retiree healthcare: The city should analyze and complete the actions suggested by then City Councilor Ness to solve the Retiree Health Care problem.
3. Support the city in adopting flexible work rules. Overtime and inflexibility drive costs higher. Cross training, employee education and training, and incentives would help the city reduce costs while improving service.
4. Support state K-12 funding. Good schools attract families and employers.
5. Evaluate all Enterprise Funds including the gas department, recreational facilities and others. Make sure they fit their original mission or eliminate them.
6. Evaluate all city property. Sell off unsustainable properties and invest in those properties that are essential. This includes police stations, fire halls, community centers, parks, public lands and even City Hall.
7. Solicit statewide policy maker support for business attraction.
8. Employ meaningful analysis to reduce Worker Compensation rates for the business and healthcare community.
9. Support reform of state healthcare reimbursements.
10. Adopt fire department reform. The city should hire an independent consultant to help determine the best model of public safety and make the department more effective.