

# PROGRAM OF WORK 2026

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# Board of Directors

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**Tim Thornell**

*Cheyenne Regional Medical Center*



**Steve Prescott**

*RE/MAX Capitol Properties*



**Alexis Garrett**

*Alexis Drake*



**Aaron Courtney**

*Jonah Bank of Wyoming*



**David Pope**

*DAPCPA*



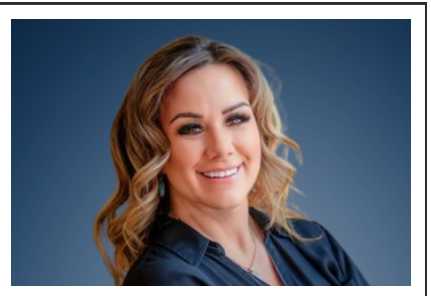
**David Cook**

*First National Bank of Omaha*



**Cailey Garrett**

*Reiman Corp.*



**Tracy Wilson**

*Century 21 Bell Real Estate*



**Joe Schaffer**

*Laramie County Community College*



**Sam Kidd**

*Holland & Hart*



**Katy Ames**

*Woodhouse, Roden, Ames & Brennan*



**Jason Stephen**

*Gateway Construction*



**Nick Dodgeson**

*Cheyenne Motorsports*



**Pat Ashworth**

*Express Employment Professionals*



**Jeff Siebert**

*TBC Mfg. Inc.*



**Bryan Pederson**

*RBC Wealth Management*



**Diane Gore**

*Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming*



**Amber Kester**

*Beach Please Drink Co.*



**Dallas Tyrrell**

*Tyrrell Auto Centers*



**Meagan Herrington**

*Black Cat*

# Executive Board of Directors

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**Tim Thornell**

*Chair*



**Steve Prescott**

*Incoming Chair*



**Alexis Garrett**

*Outgoing Chair*



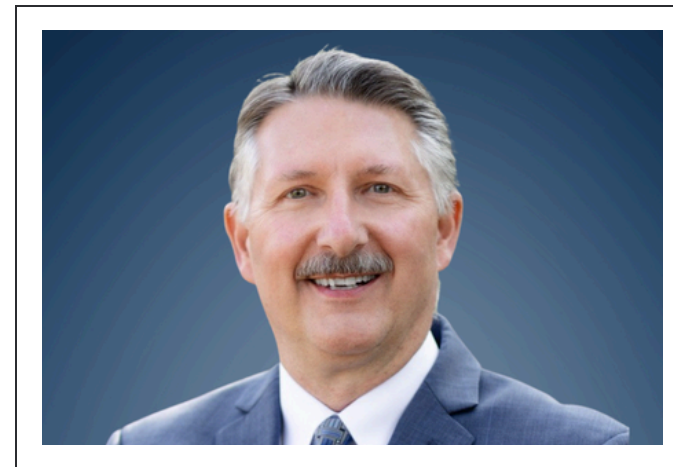
**Aaron Courtney**

*Vice Chair of Membership*



**David Pope**

*Vice Chair of Finance &  
Administration*



**David Cook**

*Vice Chair of Economic  
Development*



**Cailey Garrett**

*Vice Chair of Community  
Development*



**Tracy Wilson**

*Vice Chair of Talent  
Development*

# **Our Mission**

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To make the greater Cheyenne area a more prosperous and quality community.

# **Our Vision**

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To be your business destination.

# Influence

Influence is our Chamber's greatest superpower, and it must guide everything we do as conveners working to counter division rather than deepen it. Our influence should position us as a unifying voice in the community, grounded firmly in the values of free enterprise.

To lead effectively, our work must be driven by data. Economic development is essential to the health of our community, and public policy can either accelerate progress or hold it back. That's why we must remain a trusted source of clear, accurate economic insight, and hold government bodies at all levels accountable to the facts. When we build consensus around data, we strengthen free enterprise at the local, state, and national level.

Avoiding difficult conversations is not an option. A sustainable, effective Chamber leans in, convenes discussions, and serves as the rational, steady voice of free enterprise, all in service to the prosperity of our investors and the future of our community.



# Focus of Strategic Influence

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## Connect People to Place

We strengthen community identity by connecting people to one another and by connecting people to place. These relationships anchor long-term economic vitality.

## Welcome Uncomfortable Conversations

We lean into the tough issues. Guided by our business principles and reliable data, we ensure discussions are informed, constructive, and focused on solutions.

## Tell the Story of the Chamber

Influence grows when people understand our work. We must clearly communicate the Chamber's value and the impact of a strong free enterprise system on our region's future.

## Communicate Our "Why"

Our mission matters. We must articulate it in actionable, meaningful ways so businesses, investors, and community partners can see, and feel, our impact.

## Refocus from Relevant to Essential

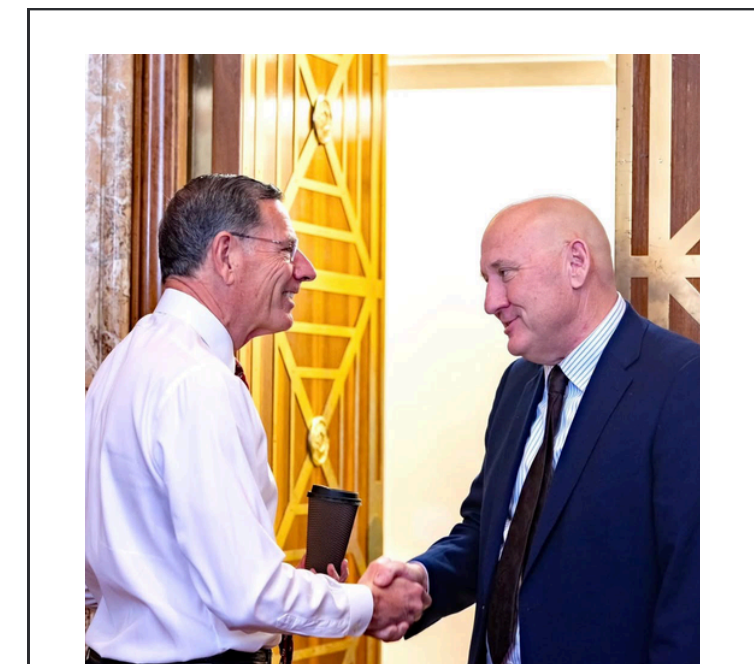
We move from "nice to have" to "must have." Our initiatives build systems, not temporary programs, reinforcing the truth that strong communities and strong businesses rise together.

## Shift Our View

We shift from "Me Work" to "We Work," advancing shared solutions that benefit the entire business ecosystem and the community it supports.

## Strengthen Our Community

Our collaborations prioritize prosperity, resilience, and success for businesses, families, and all who call Laramie County home.



# Areas of Strategic Influence

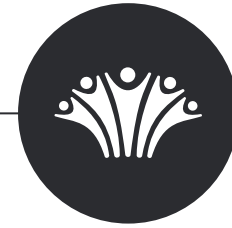
There are four core areas of strategic influence that guide our work on behalf of our investors: advocacy, economic development, community advancement, and talent development. While not exhaustive, these pillars represent the issues most critical to strengthening Wyoming's free enterprise system and ensuring the long-term success and competitiveness of the businesses we serve.



Relentless  
Advocacy



Exceptional  
Economic  
Development



Transformative  
Community  
Development



Innovative  
Talent  
Development



# Relentless Advocacy

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## Federal Level

### Military Funding

- Maintain a strong and constant federal presence to ensure Wyoming's military priorities are represented nationally.
- Influence full funding for the Sentinel program to support complete development and deployment.
- Advocate for full appropriation for the C130-J beddown to strengthen the Wyoming Air National Guard's mission.
- Advance growth of the military industrial complex in Wyoming and nationally to increase defense-related opportunities and support mission-critical capabilities.
- Support USAF and WNG readiness by championing investments that improve operational health, quality of life, and the ability to serve.

### Infrastructure Funding

- Advance funding for Front Range Rail to ensure Wyoming's inclusion and regional connectivity.
- Advocate for investment in ground transportation infrastructure and pursue opportunities to enhance existing infrastructure.
- Strengthen Wyoming's air service by maintaining and enhancing airport infrastructure and connectivity.

### Business Regulatory Environment

- Maintain the Chamber's opt-out policy for U.S. Chamber letters and national initiatives to ensure alignment with Wyoming's business priorities.
- Support national legal action on key business issues by joining relevant coalition and participating in amicus briefs when appropriate.
- Advocate for permitting relief through the SPEED Act and similar legislation to streamline projects and reduce regulatory barriers.

## State Level

### Business & Policy Leadership

- Continue purposeful development of State Chamber Coalition to strengthen statewide advocacy and collective influence.
- Advance credit-card fairness by supporting Swipe legislation.
- Advance "all-in" energy policies that support Wyoming's full energy portfolio and protect core industries.
- Fully implement Policy Engage including regulation tracking and legislative grade cards.
- Continue facilitating coordinated engagement with elected officials across Wyoming to elevate business priorities.

### Economic Competitiveness

- Promote pro-growth tax principles and encourage statewide implementation of competitive tax policies.
- Support key military priorities that strengthen missions, readiness, and federal investment in Wyoming.
- Strengthen efforts to combat retail crime through advocacy, partnerships, and statewide coalition work.



## Local Level

### Policy Engagement & Strategy

- Advance policy priorities outlined in the approved Policy Position paper.
- Support efforts to reduce residential development costs to improve affordability and spur growth.
- Develop a strategic plan for PAC engagement at both the local and state levels to advance pro-business candidates.
- Identify measurable influence metrics to track impact at the local, state, and federal levels.



# Economic Development

## 25 in 25

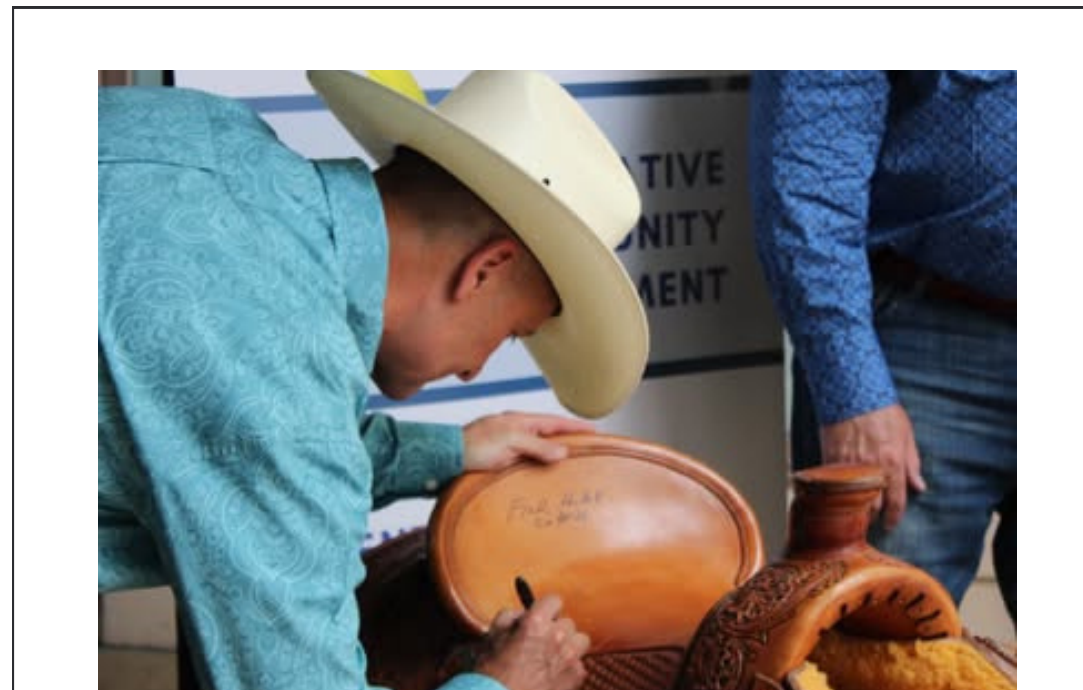
### Advance efforts to move Wyoming into the top half of business-friendly states with the next 25 years (2050)

- Continue data-driven analysis to identify the key issues holding back Wyoming's business competitiveness.
- Document actionable solutions based on findings from the analysis.
- Organize public input meetings to gather community perspectives and build consensus in priority issues.

## Strategic Growth & Expansion

### Industrial & Defense Driven Growth

- Leverage military and industrial base expansion to maximize economic and community benefits.
- Capitalize on opportunities tied to Sentinel deployment to strengthen local infrastructure and long-term growth.
- Support development of data centers and other large industrial projects that drive improvements in power, water, and transportation systems.
- Support efforts to improve housing affordability and access to meet workforce needs created by growing industries and military expansion.



# Community Development

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## Military Affairs

### Strengthen Local Support

- Reinvent Military Affairs programming in a way that deepens community-driven engagement.
- Build stronger military-community connections that reinforce mission readiness.

## Quality of Life

### Enhance the Overall Well-Being & Vibrancy

- Promote initiatives that improve community vitality and workforce retention.
- Identify and champion trajectory changing projects that advance societal goals and free enterprise.

## Leadership Development

### Develop Leaders Shaping the Future

- Expand Leadership Cheyenne to grow a stronger leadership bench.

## Downtown Prosperity

### Support Vibrant & Thriving Downtown

- Advocate for downtown organization's priorities and drive long-term downtown growth.



# Talent Development

## Education

### Student & Workforce Development

- Maximize opportunities for all students to build essential skills and knowledge needed to be successful in current workforce environment.
- Pursue College Board and U.S. Chamber priorities that advance entrepreneurship and workforce readiness.

### Academic Excellence & Civic Engagement

- Support state and local participation in the National Civics Bee.
- Support State Chamber efforts to advance AP Business Principles and Personal Finance course in Wyoming.

## Entrepreneurship

### Identify Barriers to Business Growth

- Catalog barriers to business startup and prosperity.
- Identify particular threats to small business.

### Develop Solutions & Resources

- Document and pursue solutions to identified barriers.
- Promote entrepreneurship to encourage new business creation and innovation.
- Explore opportunities to provide resources and guidance to small business owners and entrepreneurs.

## Skills Gap

### Address Challenges & Implement Strategies

- Identify cause of outmigration of young adults and pursue solutions to keep talent in-state.
- Support State Chamber's efforts in advancing the EPIC program across Wyoming to strengthen soft skills and workforce readiness.

