



2010 Legislative Position Paper

The Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce is an organization that reflects the voices of more than 550 businesses in northeastern Connecticut. For ten consecutive years, we have conducted an annual Business Outlook Survey and Position Paper designed to gauge and subsequently reflect the sentiments of our business members. This year's Position Paper seeks not to paraphrase those sentiments, but rather provide the factual results as reflected by our survey results. There was a 26% response rate to the survey, with 89% of the businesses employing fewer than 50 employees.

And the survey said:

Business Climate

- 64% of the respondents said their greatest challenge is the cost of doing business in the State of Connecticut.
- 71% indicated that health care premiums place a significant burden on their business-more than double any other issue.
- 67% said the price of energy and 72% said the State fiscal conditions will have the greatest impact over the next 12 months.
- 35% of the respondents have reduced their workforce.
- 27% have reduced their benefits.

Economic Conditions

- 62% say we have a two (2) year economic recovery period, while 33% projected economic recovery will not take place within the next three (3) years.

Government Performance

- 75% ranked State Legislators' performance as "fair to poor". Of the 75%, 51% rated it as "poor".
- 42% said the budget delays had a negative impact on their business.
- 75% said the actions/inactions of the State Legislators had a negative impact on their business
- 64% said actions/inactions of Congress had a negative impact on their business
- 49% said actions/inactions of President Obama had a negative impact on their business

Infrastructure

- 72% believe that electric deregulation is a failure and resulting prices are no different.

Frankly, the sentiment of the business community is that nothing has changed in the last three years. In as much as we are aware of the harsh realities of our existing state and national economic conditions, we would like to know, once again, what has been done to address these issues and what can our business community do to assist legislators to make the necessary changes.