

State Tax Principles



seattle metropolitan chamber of commerce

ACCOUNTABILITY

Revenue generated by new and existing business taxes must be managed efficiently and transparently. An ongoing analysis of economic and community impact, audits, legislative review, and a strong accountability/oversight role for taxpayers are required.

COMPETITIVENESS

Washington State's economic vibrancy depends on our ability to develop, attract, and retain a diverse community of businesses from all sectors and of all sizes. Tax policy must not hinder investment and entrepreneurship in our state nor disproportionately negatively impact specific sectors or businesses. Tax policy must help keep Washington globally competitive.

CONSISTENCY

Volatile state policy and overreliance on a patchwork of local taxes creates an unstable and burdensome environment for taxpayers. State tax policy should prioritize long-term sustainability and resilience and minimize the need for additional taxes at the local level.

SIMPLICITY

Taxes should be simple to calculate and pay. Wherever possible, remittance of local and state taxes should be consolidated to reduce administrative burden on taxpayers.

STABILITY

Taxpayers deserve a clear, predictable tax playing field. Clearly defined and limited tax authority for local governments and other taxing entities allows businesses and individuals to better assess potential tax risk and avoid volatile and destabilizing local tax policies.

TRANSPARENCY

Changes to tax policy must be developed collaboratively and transparently with taxpayers at the table.