



## 2021 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

- For the safety of all Marion County residents, the *MCCC* encourages everyone to get the **COVID-19 vaccine** when available. Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools we have available and this vaccine will help reduce spread of the disease in Marion County.
- The *MCCC* will continue to be a **voice for the small business community** and serve as its' community advocate. We must all recognize the importance of small businesses and sole providers to the growth of Marion County. We will continue to provide information and assistance for their success.
- The *MCCC* is the organizer of a new county wide initiative called **Marion Remote**. With partners from the City of Fairmont, High Technology Foundation, County Commission, CVB, and the business community, Marion Remote will be unveiling a new social media campaign to attract remote workers to Marion County. We ask that our legislators support this program and assist with funding requests from the state.
- Our elected officials must ensure that the best opportunities are provided for students in both **higher education and the Pre-K-12 system**. We support the following:
  - a. Marion County is fortunate to have both **Fairmont State University and Pierpont Community & Technical College**, and we must continue our support for the growth of both institutions as they move forward providing the highest level of education & training for students throughout the region.
  - b. The *MCCC* requests that continue support for **public education** be given with adequate funding to ensure the continuity of quality education in the Pre-K-12 system. The WV State Aid Formula **must** be addressed ensuring counties the proper funding for all staff. In addition, there must be ongoing legislation regarding sustainability of PEIA as it relates to providers, payors, and members.
  - c. The *MCCC* highly encourages the Marion County Board of Education to put a major emphasis on **technical education**. Numerous opportunities are continuing to open for our students to go into workforce careers rather than higher education. We must promote the prospects that North Central WV has to offer. The *MCCC* supports the addition of a technical center in the Fairmont area that can utilize the programs at the Advanced Technology Center in the I-79 Technology Park.
  - d. The *MCCC* supports the **North Central WV Airport (CKB)** as our regional asset with a goal to double the economic impact to \$2.2 billion. This includes but is not limited to supporting continued development of the Aerotech Park and new terminal so existing employers can be helped to expand and create jobs, support for aviation and aerospace training & education initiatives to ensure a constant skilled labor pool including supporting K-12 and higher-ed STEM aviation curriculum & programs
- The Marion County **I-79 Technology Park** is leading the state in economic growth. The infrastructure of the Park is vital to its continued growth and the state must provide funding and make it a priority for the progress to continue. To attract new, highly skilled employees to WV, we must offer the opportunities for them to succeed. It is vital for both workforce and economic growth.
- We must ensure the future of **healthcare delivery** in rural and metropolitan areas within Marion county, the applicability of certificate of need for new and existing development, and state and federal support for front-line staff.