

A grayscale photograph of the Illinois State Capitol building, featuring a large central dome and classical architectural details, surrounded by trees.

**NFIB Illinois**

# **Mainstreet Agenda 2026**

- The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) represents over 10,000 small and independent business owners throughout Illinois.
- NFIB members reflect the diversity of Illinois' small-business community, including small businesses in retail, construction, transportation, hospitality, automotive repair, professional services, manufacturing, and agriculture.
- These independently owned small businesses create jobs, provide services, and serve communities across Illinois.

## 01 Oppose Costly Tax Increases

After years of inflation, rising costs, and regulatory mandates, Illinois small businesses are struggling. They cannot afford higher taxes to fund increased government spending. NFIB will oppose efforts to increase taxes on Illinois' small business community, such as job taxes, service (or labor) taxes, vehicle-miles-traveled taxes, higher income taxes, retail delivery taxes, etc.

## 02 Support Workforce Development

NFIB members consistently rank a lack of qualified workers as one of their top issues. NFIB will support legislation that removes barriers to worker entry and hiring and/or promotes workforce development. NFIB also supports greater transparency in the use of existing workforce development funds.

## 03 Oppose Job-Killing Mandates

Broad and complex mandates and regulations hit small businesses particularly hard. Without legal teams, HR professionals, or regulatory compliance experts, Main Street businesses struggle to comply with the administrative and paperwork requirements of bureaucratic mandates. NFIB will engage the legislative and bureaucratic process to prevent and alleviate these costly and job-killing burdens on Illinois' small business community. NFIB will also oppose measures, mandates, and energy policies that increase the cost of doing business in Illinois.

## 04 Support Small Business Tax Relief

NFIB will support tax credits, deductions, and other forms of tax relief for small businesses to even the playing field and encourage Main Street investment and hiring. Examples of such tax relief include: • Elimination of the estate/death tax • Extension of tax credits to offset the cost of the state's paid-leave mandate • Creation of small business savings accounts to grant small business owners more flexibility in making investment decisions

## 05 Oppose Expanded Civil Liability

Small businesses lack the resources to defend themselves against frivolous lawsuits, especially those brought by well-financed activist legal groups. NFIB will oppose attempts to grant new "rights" to sue small businesses, especially when those "rights" are given to activist groups with no previous legal standing to interfere.