

Chamber Gets a Big Win in Restarted Election Season

The 2020 primary season is back in full swing after several states delayed election dates in light of the pandemic.

The Chamber's external political activity also resumed last month with our first round of public endorsements since February. Three of them, Randy Feenstra (R-IA-04), Matt Rosendale (R-MT-AL), and Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD-Sen) all had their primary contests, each winning decisive victories on June 2nd.

Feenstra's primary challenge versus nine-term incumbent Steve King in Iowa's Fourth Congressional District was a marquee contest for our team. It's rare for the Chamber to engage in an interparty primary against an incumbent. It was a terrific win for the business community with Feenstra receiving a resounding 45.7% at the ballot box. The Chamber is proud to have taken the early lead in endorsing his candidacy.

Overall, our endorsement process is based on a set of clear, well-established guidelines that allows our team to make recommendations for election engagement when appropriate for the business community and the Chamber's membership.

Incumbents are measured by the Chamber's "[How They Voted](#)" scorecard, that includes a cumulative and annual percentage granted to each member of Congress based on the previous year's legislative activity. This year's updated "How They Voted" is expected to be released in the second half of June and will include a first round of scores for the freshman classes in both the Senate and House.

The decision to endorse in an open or challenger race is a bit more complicated and involves the combination of analyzing candidate responses to a policy questionnaire and the support of our federation partners (state and local Chambers) along with measuring the viability of the candidate. The threshold is high to receive the Chamber's endorsement.

Our entire political team, along with our partners throughout the Chamber and our extended federation allies, take the endorsement process seriously and work collaboratively to ensure we are endorsing men and women who will advocate for the business community and on behalf of the free enterprise system.

—Scott Reed, Senior Political Strategist and Ashlee Rich Stephenson, National Political Director, U.S. Chamber of Commerce