

**Twin Cities**  
**METRO** **iBA**  
Independent Business Alliance



Policy Caucus 2016

Sept. 27, 2015 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm

Social Time begins at 5:00pm

# *Thank you to our event sponsors*



Hellmuth & Johnson, PLLC



Butter Bakery Cafe



Eastside Food Co-op

# Caucus Agenda

⦿ Social Time - 5:00 to 6:00

⦿ Introduction - 6:00 to 6:15

Welcome - Earl Cohen, Partner, H & J

Introduction - Molly Glasgow, Board President

Evening Agenda - Deanna Wiener, owner Cardinal Realty

⦿ Breakout Session 1 - 6:20 to 6:40

⦿ Breakout Session 2 - 6:45 to 7:05

⦿ Breakout Session 3 - 7:10 to 7:30

⦿ Group Discussion/Next Steps 7:40 to 8:00

⦿ Closing - 8:05 - 8:15

# Making The Case For Public Policy Advocacy Work in support of local businesses

Stacy Mitchell, Senior Researcher  
Institute For Local Self Reliance

ILSR.org

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwmYRwWRAOo>

*Filmed at CommonBound in Buffalo NY as part of the  
New Economy Coalition (NEC)*

# MetrolBA Platform- Guiding Principles

- **Keeping the American Dream alive.** For generations, starting a small business has been a means by which families have pulled themselves out of low-wage jobs and into the middle class.
- **Building strong communities.** Studies show that small businesses contribute more of their revenue to charitable causes than big businesses. In addition, the care they demonstrate for their employees often exceeds the basic requirements of government regulation.
- **Strengthening local economies.** Local businesses re-spend a [much larger share](#) of their revenue within the local economy compared to national chains, creating more jobs and opportunities.
- **Protecting consumer interests.** A marketplace of tens of thousands of locally-owned independent businesses is the best way to ensure innovation, broad product choices, and competitive prices over the long-term.
- **Ensuring long-term economic stability.** Communities with many small businesses and a large degree of self-reliance are more diversified and stable than those dependent on a few large firms, and less vulnerable to distant economic forces.

# MetroIBA Platform

- **Health Care** - *Support reforms that will deliver affordable, quality health care to all citizens that is portable for employees and will ease the burden on small businesses.*
- **Income Tax** - *Promote tax policies that are simple in administration and compliance, and that encourage economic growth fairness between large and small businesses.*
- **Local Authority** - *Reject any international trade treaty that prohibits cities and states from favoring local businesses in government contracts and purchases and give preference to locally-owned business in awarding contracts.*
- **Regional Cooperation** - *Provide incentives to encourage neighboring communities to collaborate on land use planning; to develop a joint process for reviewing developments of regional impact, including large-scale retail projects; and to implement tax-base sharing.*
- **Sales Tax** - *Support state and federal legislation requiring all businesses to comply with state and local sales tax regulations in a manner that eases compliance burdens on small business.*
- **Zoning and Planning Policy** - *Support planning and zoning policies that support downtowns and community based business districts, encourage the proliferation of small-scale independent businesses, and discourage or limit big-box sprawl.*

# Breakout Group State Issues-

Deanna Wiener & Brett Buckner

## Suggested Topics:

- **MnSure Policy**
- **Next Generation Main Street Act**
- **GMO Labeling**
- **Minimum Wage**

# Breakout Group Local Issues

Pat Gebes & Marshall Tanick

## Suggested Topics:

- Family Leave
- Local Procurement Policy
- Tax Increment Financing
- Development Subsidies
- Zoning and Planning Policy



# Caucus Discussion and Conclusion

Deanna Wiener

- Group Comments on Issue Priority
- Next Steps
- Caucus Evaluation
- Closing Comments