



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Janelle Smith, IOM
President, Howell Area Chamber of Commerce
jsmith@howell.org
517-546-3920

Media Contact:

Will Burns, Vice President, Communications & Networks
Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives
703-998-3571 | wburns@acce.org

HOWELL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NAMED FINALIST FOR PRESTIGIOUS CHAMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Howell, MI (June 4, 2026) — The Howell Area Chamber of Commerce has been named a finalist for the 2026 Chamber of the Year award, presented by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE). ACCE is an association based in Alexandria, Va., with over 1,600 chambers of commerce and related business and economic development organizations as members, representing more than 9,000 professionals in the industry.

The award, sponsored by GrowthZone, is the most prestigious and competitive award in the chamber industry, recognizing excellence in operations, member service and community leadership. Those honored with the Chamber of the Year designation have demonstrated organizational strength and impacted key community priorities, such as education, transportation, economic prosperity and quality of life.

"Being named a Chamber of the Year finalist is a powerful reflection of leadership, innovation and measurable impact," said ACCE President & CEO Sheree Anne Kelly. "We congratulate these outstanding chambers on this well-deserved recognition. They are not only serving their members, they are shaping stronger economies, building more resilient communities and setting a high standard for the chamber profession."

Chamber of the Year winners will be announced on Tuesday, July 21, during the Awards Show at ACCE's Annual Convention in New Orleans.

"Being named a finalist for ACCE's Chamber of the Year Award is an incredible honor and a reflection of the strength, innovation, and collaboration that define our business community. This recognition belongs not only to our Chamber team, but to our members, investors, volunteers, partners, and community leaders who continually step forward to build a stronger Livingston County.

Over the past several years, we have challenged ourselves to think beyond traditional chamber work. We have built pathways for entrepreneurs, developed workforce solutions, driven economic development, and positioned the Chamber as a true catalyst for community impact. To be recognized among the nation's leading chambers affirms that when a community comes together around a shared vision, extraordinary things are possible.

We are proud to represent Livingston County on a national stage and grateful to everyone who has played a role in this achievement."

— Janelle Smith, IOM, President, Howell Area Chamber of Commerce

Chambers of commerce interested in competing for the award must first qualify by participating in a vigorous multi-stage process. Organizations entering the Chamber of the Year competition must meet minimum thresholds in at least three of five key performance areas in ACCE's Annual Chamber Operations Survey, including net revenue and assets, membership account retention and membership dollar retention.

Qualifying chambers enter the competition with a written application addressing all aspects of organizational operation and programmatic work. Applications are scored by peer chamber executives to determine finalists. The finalists then move on to an interview before a panel of experienced chamber professionals.

To ensure the fairest competition, applicants are grouped into four budget categories. A strong conflict of interest policy signed by all volunteer judges, ensures a competitive and fair playing field for all applicants.

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About the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives

Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) is the professional society supporting the women and men who lead local, regional, statewide and international chambers of commerce and related business and economic development organizations. Our membership includes more than 1,600 business/civic organizations worldwide. We provide our members with information resources, thought leadership, education programs, original research, benchmarking, retirement security, and access to a network of peers.

About the award sponsor GrowthZone

At GrowthZone, *Your Mission is Our Mission*. As a leading provider of association and chamber management software, we do more than deliver technology - we serve as your trusted technology partner and an extension of your staff. Our team works alongside you to simplify operations, strengthen engagement, and help your organization deliver exceptional value to the members and communities you serve.

Trusted by thousands of organizations, including many of the most influential associations and chambers in the industry, GrowthZone is the partner of choice for organizations seeking

mission-aligned solutions, exceptional value, and measurable results. Discover more at growthzone.com.

Howell.org | (517) 546-3920 | 123 E Washington St, Howell, MI 48843