



## **Why Support Locally Owned Businesses?**

### **Local Character and Prosperity**

In an increasingly homogenized world, communities that preserve their one-of-a-kind businesses and distinctive character have an economic advantage.

### **Community Well-Being**

Locally owned businesses build strong communities by sustaining vibrant town centers, linking neighbors in web of economic and social relationships, and contributing to local causes.

### **Local Decision-Making**

Local ownership ensures that important decisions are made locally by people who live in the community and who will feel the impacts of those decisions.

### **Keeping Dollars in the Local Economy**

Compared to chain stores, locally owned businesses recycle a much larger share of their revenue back into the local economy, enriching the whole community.

### **Job and Wages**

Locally-owned businesses create more jobs locally and, in some sectors, provide better wages and benefits than chains do.

### **Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurship fuels America's economic innovation and prosperity, and serves as a key means for families to move out of low-wage jobs and into the middle class.

### **Public Benefits and Costs**

Local stores in town centers require comparatively little infrastructure and make more efficient use of public services relative to big box store and strip shopping malls.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Local stores help to sustain vibrant, compact, walkable town centers-which in turn are essential to reducing sprawl, automobile use, habitat loss, and air and water pollution.

### **Competition**

A marketplace of tens of thousands of small businesses is the best way to ensure innovation and low prices over the long-term.

### **Product Diversity**

A multitude of small businesses, each selecting products based, not on a national sales plan, but on their own interests and the needs of their local customers, guarantees a much broader range of products choices.

*Contact us about becoming a member of Springfield's Best, we're Springfield, Missouri's most prominent advocate for local free enterprise. (theresa@springfieldsbest.com)*