

# A STRONG VOICE FOR BUSINESS...

A BUSINESS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA BASED ON INPUT FROM MEMBERS OF THE COASTAL ALABAMA BUSINESS CHAMBER: ONE OF THE LARGEST VOICES OF BUSINESS IN THE STATE



# 2017 BUSINESS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



2017 Business Legislative Agenda  
Coastal Alabama Business Chamber  
[www.mygulfcoastchamber.com](http://www.mygulfcoastchamber.com)



# BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Business development is the primary focus of our organizations and critical to the successful fulfillment of our missions. The Coastal Alabama Business Chamber is keenly interested in initiatives that will fit within our strategy of supporting existing

business and recruiting new business. Our strong alliances with our cities and our strategic partners throughout the region – are designed to complement and not duplicate each other’s efforts. We support legislation that would positively impact local, regional and state efforts aimed at job creation and tax base expansion.

## PRIORITIES

- Enhancement of Gulf State park and other recreational facilities
- Development of a public mass transportation system interconnecting our tri-city area
- Advancement of both the Jack Edwards National Airport in Gulf Shores and the Foley Municipal Airport.



# EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



More than ever, these issues are a priority for our business members. We continue to support an education system focused on education, training, recruiting, and maintaining a competitive

workforce. Our education efforts not only help us meet our current needs, but also help us plan for our future needs in the areas of workforce development.

Our Chamber has continued to develop and expand programs aimed at improving education at all levels, including educational enrichment, scholarship opportunities, entrepreneur education, youth leadership, and more. We will continue to make education a focal point of our agenda.

## PRIORITIES

- Ensure long-term adequate funding to the Baldwin County Board of Education that was lost in last year's election.
- Workforce training in industries such as aerospace, construction, and tourism.
- Quality customer service training for both front-line and supervisory level employees.
- Development of programs and legislation aimed at maintaining our competitive workforce, to include providing reasonable housing availability in our region.

# IN CONCLUSION...

OUR CHAMBER REPRESENTS OVER 1,000 BUSINESSES WHO EMPLOY OVER 25,000 RESIDENTS IN OUR REGION. WE HAVE WORK TO DO AND WE HAVE GOALS TO ACCOMPLISH.... TOGETHER.

**The membership the Coastal Baldwin Business Chamber represents one the largest voices of business in Baldwin County and one of the largest in the state!**

Our organization exists to serve business – and to make sure that your concerns are known by our elected and appointed officials at all levels of government.

We developed and designed this Business Legislative Agenda to serve as a statement of overall philosophies on the issues that affect us. It is neither designed to be a “support” list or “kill” list for specific pieces of legislation. Rather, it is designed to outline the areas of major consensus within – and among – the members of our organization.

Finally, it’s important to note that the Chamber is a membership-based advocacy organization. We are not a political action committee and we neither support nor oppose candidates for public office. Further, we believe that legislative success for our region depends on cooperation and collaboration with our strategic partnering organizations in the region. To that end, we seek to work with organizations like GUMBO (Gulf United Metro Business Organization), Coastal Alabama Partnership, Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance, Gulf Shores-Orange Beach Tourism, and other chambers and business associations both regionally and at the state level.

## 2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA COMMITTEE

**Jimmy Conyers**, 2016 Vice Chair, Civic & Governmental Affairs  
Coastal Alabama Business Chamber

**Bill Tunnell**, 2017 Vice Chair, Civic & Governmental Affairs  
Coastal Alabama Business Chamber

**Ginny Barnas**, 2016 Chairman  
Coastal Alabama Business Chamber

**Todd Edwards**, 2017 Chairman  
Coastal Alabama Business Chamber

**Ed Rodriguez**, President & CEO  
Coastal Alabama Business Chamber