

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



2018 BUSINESS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



COASTAL ALABAMA
BUSINESS
CHAMBER

Coastal Alabama Business Chamber
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WHAT MATTERS TO US...

OUR CHAMBER EXISTS TO PRESERVE, ENHANCE AND EXPAND THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN COASTAL ALABAMA.

QUALITY OF LIFE

These issues continue to rank as leading in importance for our membership. While business development is our primary objective within the business community and for our chamber, it is generally agreed that growth and development must not come at the detriment of the quality of life we all enjoy.

PRIORITIES

- Continue support for clean beach programs within our community and expand these efforts to include our waterways and public and commercial use spaces further inland.
- Support and encourage the creation of more bike and pedestrian pathways.
- Support and encourage the establishment of more open green spaces and public parks.
- Continue efforts to ensuring an adequate and appropriate length for red snapper season is established, if supported by accurate data and research.

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

- Support enhancements to the Gulf State Park and other recreational and tourist facilities in our region.
- Continue efforts to improve our transportation and transit systems interconnecting our tri-city area and our region.
- Support commercial and business advancements of both the Jack Edwards National Airport in Gulf Shores and the Foley Municipal Airport.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure is a critical component of our future to the members of our chamber. Developing and maintaining an effective system to move residents, workers, and visitors through our community will continue to be of pivotal importance to the success of everything we do.

We will support legislation aimed at increased improvement of our local and regional infrastructure and public roadways to provide solutions to transportation and traffic needs.

PRIORITIES

- Support the extension of the Baldwin Beach Express from I-10 to I-65.
- Support efforts of our cities to expand and provide additional accesses to our island community, including support for efforts aimed at establishing the creation of local bridge and road authorities.
- Support efforts to secure funding to build the I-10 Mobile River Bridge.
- Continue to support the establishment of a direct route from the Baldwin Beach Express to Highway 182 and support increased capacity and traffic flow improvements to the existing routes on the island.
- Encourage and support the creation of additional east-west and north-south corridors and access into and between our communities.

EDUCATION

We continue to support education systems focused on improving primary and secondary education for residents in our community. 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

- Support new and existing legislation that ensures adequate long-term funding for the Baldwin County Board of Education.
- Support efforts aimed at ensuring a smooth transition from a single school system run at the county level to two separate school systems running on both the county and city levels on the island.
- Support efforts aimed at proper funding for both of our public school systems on the island.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

More than ever, finding a solution to these issues is a priority for our businesses. In addition to supporting improvements to our primary and secondary education systems, we also support training, recruiting, and maintaining a competitive workforce. In order to meet our growing needs, our Chamber is committed to finding and supporting solutions that will develop and provide stability for our hospitality and skilled trades industries and

PRIORITIES

- Workforce training and development in the hospitality industry.
- Workforce training and development in skilled trade industries within our community such as aerospace and construction.
- Quality customer service skills training for all levels of employment.
- Development of programs and legislation aimed at improving and stabilizing our competitive workforce.
- Development of affordable housing and transportation options within 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 their 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.

2018 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA COMMITTEE