



2016 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

(Reviewed & Presented by GSCC Governmental Affairs Work Group -- 10/22/15)

(Reviewed & Approved by GSCC Executive Committee – 11/18/15)

(Reviewed & Approved by GSCC Board of Directors – 12/16/15)

Economic Development

Beautification

The Chamber recognizes the importance of all efforts to make Shelby County attractive to potential new businesses to our community. To that end, the Chamber encourages all businesses and industry to create an aesthetically pleasing “store front” and “curb appeal”.

The Chamber supports cooperative efforts between area beautification groups, business and industry to promote county-wide beautification efforts and clean-up campaigns.

Business Development

The Chamber supports:

- the Shelby County Economic & Industrial Development Authority and all other municipal economic development organizations in their efforts to attract new industry to Shelby County,
- the use of tax abatements and incentives when accompanied with job creation, job preservation, revenue generation and economic development in all Shelby County municipalities and the County.

The Chamber encourages:

- companies and developers receiving tax abatements and incentives to continue re-investment in the local community and the County by utilizing local businesses and professional services.
- companies to seek to fill their employment needs with the talented workforce here in Shelby County.
- whenever possible that local businesses and professional services be utilized for any projects of agencies receiving municipal and/ or county funding.

Community Development

The Chamber supports all efforts to assist the area’s municipalities with funding opportunities (i.e. grants) for projects vital to their continued growth.

Labor Relations

The Chamber supports and encourages any and all efforts that enhance interaction between management and the workforce, thus improving communication, morale, productivity and product quality.

The Chamber supports legislation and activity that would ensure the continuation of Right-To-Work statutes and opposes any attempt to weaken or destroy the proven fair and democratic process of secret ballot voting in union elections.

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Small Business

The Chamber supports protecting our small businesses against unnecessary governmental regulations.

Tourism & Recreation

The Chamber recognizes tourism as a vibrant industry throughout Shelby County and urges support from all Shelby County municipalities and the County for tourism product promotion and development.

The Chamber supports:

- the continued development of parks and sporting venues that will bring events and tournament opportunities to our municipalities and the County which increase lodging tax collections,
- projects which promote and recognize the artistic, cultural and historical resources of our municipalities and the County,
- facilities, trails, exhibitions and special events that celebrate area heritage and culture as important aspects of tourism development,
- the creation of tax incentives for tourism “product development”, which is any facility or attraction that is used for tourism or travel purposes.

The Chamber encourages support from all businesses, events and agencies to encourage the use of Shelby County hotels, campgrounds, parks, bed & breakfasts and other participating lodging facilities during our visitors’ stay in our communities.

Workforce Development

The Chamber supports:

- all efforts designed to develop a strong, qualified workforce able to meet the current and future employment needs of Shelby County business and industry,
- community involvement between local business, industry and schools,
- the achievements of students and teachers throughout Shelby County,
- the promotion of student career awareness and marketplace opportunities.

The Chamber supports all area schools *and* colleges in their commitment to:

- providing students with the necessary skills for future employment,
- providing programs that are enhancing and creating job opportunities,
- providing learning environments that are student centered, innovative, engaging and supportive,
- providing teaching excellence that inspires a quest for lifelong learning,
- respecting uniqueness and valuing diversity.

The Chamber supports efforts to ensure that all Shelby County students are adequately prepared in our K-12 classrooms to succeed in their pursuit of higher education and/ or to enter our modern workforce through Alabama’s College and Career Ready Standards.

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The Chamber supports the concept that the best and brightest ideas come from the state and local level, and the State Board of Education’s efforts in making sure local school systems here in Shelby County maintain control of the development of curriculum, textbooks and other instructional materials.

Finance and Taxation

The Chamber supports:

- a fair and equitable tax structure in the state.
- appraisals of property in Alabama to be conducted every four years.
- advancing the debate on federal income tax reform with an eye towards simplicity, stability and the elimination of multiple taxation.
- ensuring that business license fees in all Shelby County municipalities do not impede economic growth.
- working with all Shelby County municipalities to improve communication between public and private sectors to pro-actively address tax issues.

Transportation/ Infrastructure

The Chamber supports transportation projects that facilitate travel and commerce in our County and our respective communities.

The Chamber supports decision-making about the building and improvement of our transportation infrastructure that is driven by need, including the promotion of safety and the facilitation of economic development.

Quality of Life

The Chamber recognizes that “quality of life” projects are a major factor in the economic development of any community.

The Chamber supports funding for projects, initiatives, programs and agencies engaged in the arts, entertainment, parks and recreation, senior centers and community-service that enhance the quality of life for residents of our municipalities and all of Shelby County.

The Chamber will actively support programs, activities, events and legislation that promote healthy lifestyles through wellness and prevention, as well as, access to affordable, quality healthcare for the workforce and citizenry of Shelby County.

Safe Dams

Given that the State of Alabama is the only nation without one, The Chamber supports efforts to investigate the establishment of a safe dam program based upon public safety, quality of life matters and a reasonable appeals process for dam owners.

State Constitution

The Chamber supports constitutional reform efforts for the Alabama Constitution, which in its current form is 40 times longer than the United States Constitution and 12 times longer than the average state constitution.