

**BUSINESS
ADVOCACY**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

THE FOLLOWING ARE STANDING POSITIONS TAKEN THROUGH THE CHAMBER'S BUSINESS ADVOCACY PROCESS. ALL POSITIONS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE CHAMBER'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.



**Charleston Metro
Chamber of Commerce**

Driving growth. Defining tomorrow.

Business Creation, Recruitment, Retention and Expansion

Support legislation that will help the region to attract quality business, industry and jobs to the area and to expand existing business and industry.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Advocate for improvements and maintenance of modern, up-to-date infrastructure for the region to effectively compete in the global marketplace. Without the ability to move goods and services to customers, businesses cannot compete and succeed.

Healthcare

Work to reduce healthcare costs for business, as rising costs directly impact operating budgets.

Immigration Reform

Support comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level to ensure a uniform approach.

Education and Workforce Development

Advocate the changes necessary in early childhood, K-12 and higher education to prepare all students for the careers of the future and to provide a skilled workforce to support the region's employers.

Regulatory

Advocate for a business climate that is conducive to business expansion. The regulatory environment of the state must be balanced and not burdensome for business.

Regional Land Use Planning / Workforce Housing

Continue to promote our Sustainable Growth Ethic which involves building on prosperity through the principles of Choice, Balance and Stewardship. Our vision is to grow in a manner that improves the quality of life for all citizens in the metro area, including those yet to be born or those who move here.

Military and Federal Facilities Retention and Expansion

Through the Military Policy Council, continue to work closely with the entire South Carolina congressional delegation on retaining the 22,000 jobs associated with the region's military facilities, and expanding the region's \$11 billion military/federal presence by seeking additional missions and expansion opportunities.

Hospitality

Work to continue the vitality of the visitor industry, which is critical to support the thousands of hospitality-based businesses operating in the region

Port Development

Support the continued growth and expansion of South Carolina's port.

Comprehensive Tax Reform

Advocate for comprehensive state-wide tax reform measures that ensure fairness, stability, predictability, accountability and compliance while equitably balancing income, property and sales tax levies based proportionally on necessary services and the ability to pay.

Environment and Energy

Work to ensure that environmental legislation regulation does not unnecessarily increase administrative burden, resulting in unnecessary regulations, project delays or cost prohibitiveness to businesses.