

2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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#CHSADVOCACY



**Charleston Metro
Chamber of Commerce**

Driving growth. Defining tomorrow.

FEDERAL PRIORITIES

Economic Development

- Support restoring the U.S. Export-Import Bank's ability to finance projects over \$10 million.

Military Base Retention and Expansion

- Lobby the Department of Defense to re-evaluate its decision on the location of Africa Command to Joint Base Charleston.

Regulatory

- Advocate against an over burdensome regulatory environment for business from such agencies and organizations as the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Labor Relations Board.
- Support legislation that limits overreach of the Clean Water Act.

Talent

- Lobby Congress for comprehensive immigration reform.

Transportation and Infrastructure

- Continue to support the funding for the Post 45 Charleston Harbor Deepening Project.



Issues on the 2017 State and Federal Agendas are focused on legislation/action that could be addressed in the next session of the South Carolina General Assembly or at the Congressional level.

STATE PRIORITIES

Infrastructure

- Successfully lobby the state legislature for a comprehensive long-term recurring funding source to address the \$42 billion funding need for South Carolina's infrastructure.

Talent

- Urge the General Assembly to fully fund the Education Finance Act (EFA), which is required by state law. This year an additional \$547 million is needed for the EFA to be fully funded.
- Support of a bond bill for South Carolina colleges and universities to make critical capital and technology improvements.
- Secure \$25.6 million for the renovation of Trident Technical College's Berkeley Campus for advanced manufacturing and increasing the flexible classroom spaces, as well as \$21 million for a new Dorchester County campus.

Military Base Retention and Expansion

- Support the full exemption of military retirement income benefits from state income tax.
- Support the statewide military retention plan being created by the South Carolina Military Base Task Force and the funding for its implementation.

Taxes and Regulation

- Support expanding the state's incentive programs to attract high-impact jobs that do not need or meet current incentive programs. Reward Tech, R&D and non-manufacturing companies.
- Support the streamlining of the business license fee system and make the process more uniform between municipalities while having as little fiscal impact to municipalities as possible.
- Reauthorization of the Angel Investor Tax Credit program.

LOCAL PRIORITIES

Transportation and Infrastructure

- Advance the Chamber's infrastructure priorities for our region as outlined in the Infrastructure White Paper including:
 - Completion of the Mark Clark Expressway
 - Glenn McConnell Extension
- Support expansion projects for the Port of Charleston including the completion of the cruise terminal and Post 45 Harbor Deepening.
- Support the development of Bus Rapid Transit for our region.

Regulatory

- Work with local municipalities to streamline the development process, reducing the time and costs to the developer and consumers.
- Advocate for local governments to honor their zoning and development regulations in considering and siting new residential, commercial, office and industrial development projects.

Talent

- Support the Tri-County Cradle-to-Career Initiative linking high school and college readiness.
- Support the continued development and expansion of Career Academies in all area public high schools.
- Increase both the number and enrollment in High School Youth Apprenticeships/Workforce Academies.
- Implement a regional Career Awareness Campaign to showcase high demand occupations to build the needed talent pipeline to support future growth.
- Launch a college intern portal and engage businesses with local college career offices to work to retain local college graduates in the region.

Entrepreneurs / Small Business / Innovation

- Build regional seed/early stage funding sources.
- Ensure the region's regulatory environment supports business growth.