



*Actively representing our businesses & community with action,
advocacy & education through a strong united voice.*

2019 Business Advocacy Agenda

Public Policy Council Mission

To serve as a unifying voice for our business membership and community by proactively advocating for our common interests to expand our regional economy and to enhance the quality of life for all.

Our organization exists to serve area businesses and one of the ways we do that is by helping to make sure their concerns are known by our elected and appointed officials at all levels of government. While the natural resources in our region are foundational to the success of many of our area businesses and contribute to the economic health of our state, we know that the quality of life we all desire can only be achieved by continuing to address key issues like:

- Providing Support for New and Existing Business
- Improving Education and Workforce Development
- Expanding and Improving Infrastructure and Transportation
- Improving Access to Quality Healthcare and Affordable Health Insurance
- Restoring and Protecting Our Natural Resources

All of these issues are local issues; however, some extend beyond local policy as important state and/or federal policy issues.










Issues that extend beyond local policy matters as important state issues are marked with a picture of the Alabama State Flag.







Issues that extend beyond local and state policy matters as important federal issues are marked with a picture of the US Congress Building.

Disclaimer: The Coastal Alabama Business Chamber's membership is comprised of many and diverse businesses representing many areas within our regional economy. The interests of our businesses are just as many and diverse, so we recognize that there is no right way to advocate for all interests. The only wrong way is to skip or ignore public policy and government relations altogether. If you are interested in actively participating in our organizations public policy efforts or voicing your opinion about our business advocacy agenda and other initiatives, please join us at our next Public Policy Council meeting.




Providing Support for New and Existing Business















- Foster and support the expansion of workforce training and development.
- Continue to support the development of initiatives that recruit new businesses.
-  • Support the establishment of a sustainable eco-tourism industry to our region.
-   • Continue support for the development of affordable housing and transportation options within our region.
-   • Continue efforts to support both commercial and recreational fishing, such as ensuring an adequate and appropriate length for red snapper season is established and supported by accurate data and research.
-   • Continue support of legislation that would positively impact local, regional, and state efforts aimed at job creation and tax base expansion.

Improving Education and Workforce Development





- Support youth apprenticeship programs to enhance the opportunity for local students to gain valuable job skills while furthering their education & providing a long-term workforce pipeline for local employers.
- Joining and supporting the conversation on the 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 the development of higher education opportunities to our region.
-  • Support the establishment of workforce training and development in skilled trades within our community such as aerospace, automotive and construction.
-  • Support new and existing legislation that ensures adequate long-term funding for our local and county school systems.
-   • Development of programs and legislation aimed at improving and stabilizing our competitive workforce.

Expanding and Improving Infrastructure and Transportation





- Continue efforts to improve our transportation and transit systems interconnecting our tri-city area and our region.
-  • Continue supporting increased capacity and traffic flow improvements to the existing routes in South Baldwin County.
-  • Support efforts of our cities to expand and provide additional accesses to our island community by building additional capacity across the intracoastal waterway and a new bridge across Wolf Bay to enhance economic development & provide an additional hurricane evacuation route.
-  • Continue to support the development and construction of an additional major north-south route to connecting the Foley Beach Express to State Highway 182.

-   • Encourage and support the creation of additional east-west and north-south secondary roads that improve access into and between our communities.
-   • Support the establishment of high-speed communications infrastructure to attract new businesses, including advocating for federal legislation and regulatory action to streamline and reduce regulatory barriers to communications infrastructure.
-   • Fix infrastructure funding at both the state and federal level.
-   • Support the enhancement of the Jack Edwards National Airport to include infrastructure improvements, building a traffic control tower and recruitment of future commercial flights to serve as a gateway for tourists, future residents and business owners to our area.
-   • Support the extension of the Baldwin Beach Express from I-10 to I-65 to provide increased access to our coastal communities, alleviate the congestion of tourist traffic on neighboring communities, and improve capacity for hurricane evacuation.
-   • Support efforts to secure funding to build the I-10 Mobile River Bridge.
-   • Support the expansion of the Mobile Ship Channel for the continued growth and economic health of Coastal Alabama.

Improving Access to Quality Healthcare and Affordable Health Insurance

- Support the expansion of regional and other healthcare service providers to our members and our community.
-   • Suspend or repeal all or portions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that have raised healthcare costs for our businesses and their employees.
-   • Support the formation of an Association Health Plan (AHP) for our membership to help our small business and self-employed members obtain sustainable healthcare coverage options.

Restoring and Protecting Our Natural Resources

- 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 and connected bicycle and pedestrian pathways.
- Support and encourage the establishment of more open green spaces and public parks.
-   • Support the establishment of more educational facilities and programs focused on our environment.
-   • Support and encourage the continued creation of additional access to our natural resources.