

2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

BEAUFORT REGIONAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OUR PRIORITY IS YOU.

We work, every day, to promote a viable and healthy business climate within our region, advocating for pro-business legislation on a local, state, and national level.

Our guiding principles on policy decisions:

Maintaining and growing opportunities for Beaufort County businesses

Reducing the cost of doing business

Managing growth & supporting infrastructure improvements to preserve area marketability

Increasing the qualified workforce

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW THE CHAMBER FIGHTS FOR BEAUFORT COUNTY BUSINESSES AT [BEAUFORTCHAMBER.ORG/ADVOCACY](https://www.beaufortchamber.org/advocacy)

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BEAUFORT, SC
REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Beaufort County needs a more diversified economy. The Chamber supports initiatives that help the region create, attract, retain and expand businesses and industries that generate quality jobs. The Chamber advocates for streamlining the permitting process to reduce the costs of doing business and to eliminate uncertainty that stifles business growth and development. We support utility, internet and infrastructure improvements to attract new investment and ensure economic development sites are prepared for new business.

TAX REFORM

As legislators approach comprehensive tax reform, the Chamber will actively participate with the larger business community in support of a structure that will provide a fair, equitable and competitive solution to our taxation challenges. The Chamber supports reform and streamlining of the business license tax structure to eliminate double-taxation and the creation of a single payment processor to reduce burdensome compliance costs.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

The Beaufort Region's businesses need a quality and effective workforce to sustain and enhance business growth and improve the quality of life in our community. The Chamber supports education reform initiatives to include:

- Increased funding for higher education, including the use of lottery dollars for technical college education;
- Increased teacher pay;
- Ensuring that every student who graduates from high school is prepared for the next step – whether college, technical training or career;
- Supporting employer-led “earn and learn” opportunities, including apprenticeships;
- Incentivizing more effective and efficient partnerships between education and workforce systems.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Continue to streamline the permitting process. Provide meaningful input in support of favorable outcomes from the newly established SC Floodwater Commission and the expansion of stormwater infrastructure projects that support local efforts to control flooding and storm water problems. Advocate for implementation of traffic flow improvements on Lady's Island and the creation of the Jasper Ocean Terminal.

MILITARY

Expand the Tri-Command's \$2.4 billion economic impact by lobbying to maintain and grow our military installations and protect them from encroachment. Work closely with local, state and federal leaders to retain jobs associated with the region's military installations and to support military families in our community. Support legislation to exempt military retirement pay in South Carolina.