

Georgia Chamber of Commerce

The Georgia Chamber of Commerce is the unified voice of the business community, aggressively advocating the business viewpoint in the shaping of public policy, encouraging ethical business practices and ensuring the state's future as economically prosperous, educationally competitive and environmentally responsible.

Georgia Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Council

The Government Affairs Council is made up of over 450 government affairs professionals who represent over 4,000 business members. The GAC has eleven standing committees and committee chairs, which work much the same way as committees in the State Legislature. As issues arise, they are assigned to committee for study and subsequent recommendation to the full GAC. Guided by the Georgia Chamber's adopted policy positions, a recommendation to support or oppose is then made to the Board of Directors.

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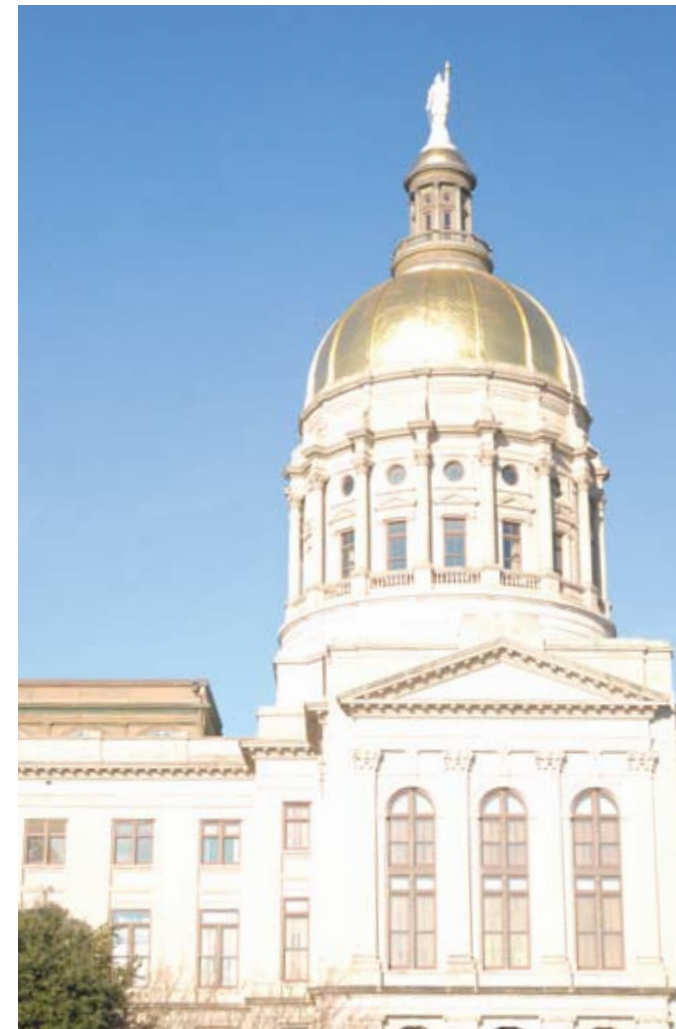
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GEORGIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2009



Education & Workforce Development

The Georgia Chamber supports improvement strategies that link education and workforce development in a seamless manner, preparing a student for whatever future they might choose and ensuring the long-term viability of the state's economy. The Chamber also supports efforts to guarantee sound governance within each of the state's school systems.

Environment & Energy

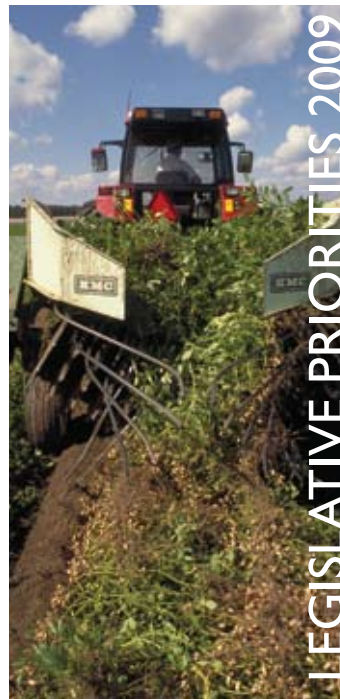
The Georgia Chamber supports the implementation and full funding of a statewide water plan that manages resources in a sustainable manner, supports the state's economy and protects public health. The Chamber also supports the development and implementation of a statewide energy plan that encourages conservation while guaranteeing access to reliable, affordable energy supplies into the future.

Health Care

The Georgia Chamber supports health care solutions that take into account the needs of both employers and employees and opposes legislative fees or mandates that would increase costs. The Chamber also supports the identification of sustainable funding for a statewide trauma care network as well as programs to reduce the number of underinsured and uninsured in Georgia.

Existing Business & Industry

The Georgia Chamber remains strongly committed to the maintenance of Georgia's status as a "right to work" state and opposes the passage of the Federal Employee Free Choice Act. The Chamber also supports the creation of policies that encourage broad-based economic growth and the expansion of a competitive environment that allows market-force principles to work without unfairly favoring any one business sector.



International Development

The Georgia Chamber supports efforts to raise Georgia's profile as the nation's preferred east coast gateway for commerce including the deepening of the Savannah harbor and the creation of a dedicated logistics corridor between the Port of Savannah, Macon and Atlanta.

Law & Judiciary

The Georgia Chamber supports efforts to ensure a fair and impartial judiciary for all parties including the creation of business courts, modernization of rules of evidence, and revision of certain employment laws. The Chamber strongly opposes any efforts to change or weaken civil justice reforms passed in 2005 as part of Senate Bill 3.

Taxation

The Georgia Chamber supports tax policy that is balanced and draws revenue from a broad base without discouraging economic development or relying unfairly on business contributions. We believe that a stable, predictable and competitively-neutral revenue system will encourage economic growth and is critical to Georgia's ability to attract new investment and expand existing industry.

Tourism

The Georgia Chamber supports the creation of economic incentives targeted toward making Georgia a more attractive destination for travelers and businesses as well as increased funding for marketing programs that promote Georgia attractions.

Transportation

The Georgia Chamber supports the establishment of a statewide, multimodal transportation system that will reduce congestion and ensure that both people and freight can reach their destination in a timely and efficient manner. The Chamber also supports the creation of a sustainable funding source that is sufficient to meet the construction, maintenance and operations needs of a statewide system.
