

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 representing companies throughout our state. 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.

Georgia Chamber Government Affairs Staff

JOE FLEMING

Senior Vice President, Government Affairs

LAUREN WILKES

Senior Director, Government Affairs

BEN FOREHAND

Director, Government Affairs

SALLY CLARK

Manager, Government Affairs

233 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 2000
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1564
www.gachamber.com

T: (404) 223-2264 F: (404) 223-2290



GEORGIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2010





PROTECTING OUR ASSETS - PREPARING FOR RECOVERY

The Georgia Chamber of Commerce is committed to working with our state's business community to support legislation that will keep our state economically prosperous and preserve our high quality of life. Our mission is more important than ever as Georgia prepares for recovery and works to replace the many jobs that have been lost in recent times.

Thousands of bills are debated during the annual 40-day legislative session – many of which would stimulate our economy, and others which could be detrimental

to business and industry. The Georgia Chamber's professional staff works hand-in-hand with our 450 member Government Affairs Council to analyze proposed legislation and determine its potential impact.

The Georgia Chamber of Commerce has established the following priorities for the 2010 legislative session – each of which will protect our business climate and ensure we are ready for the future.

Taxation and Economic Development

- Work with state leaders to foster economic recovery and ensure Georgia's budget deficit is addressed in a way that considers our state's competitiveness and encourages local job growth
- Reduce the capital gains tax on business to allow for reinvestment and long-term growth
- Eliminate the inventory tax, which currently puts Georgia at a competitive disadvantage with our neighboring states
- Renew the cap on sales tax for energy used in the manufacturing process
- Prevent Georgia companies from being subjected to the expense and burden of multiple sales tax audits
- Allow investment of a portion of Georgia's public pension funds in private equity to provide additional capital for business ventures in our state

Legal Reform

- Protect the significant reforms established in 2005 including the requirement to prove gross negligence with regard to emergency room liability, caps on non-economic damages, the elimination of joint and several liability, and provisions to discourage frivolous litigation
- Change Georgia's employment covenant laws so that employment agreements are enforceable in a court of law and are no longer an impediment to economic development
- Ensure adequate funding for Georgia's judicial system so that all cases can be resolved in a timely manner
- Enforce Georgia's right-to-work laws so that no employee is forced to join a union as a provision of labor

Water Policy

- Fund Georgia's Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Plan to support successful long-term planning of this finite resource
- Support the goals of the Governor's Water Contingency Planning Task Force with regard to conservation, capture and control measures needed to meet the water supply gap that would exist should U.S. District Judge Magnuson's ruling go into effect in 2012

Transportation

- Identify a sustainable, balanced source of funding that will allow Georgia to build and maintain a comprehensive, multi-modal transportation system that can safely and efficiently move both people and freight within and through our state

Health Care

- Create a \$10 vehicle tag fee, or other dedicated source of funding adequate to support a meaningful trauma care network that can provide qualified trauma treatment to all Georgians in a timely manner
- Prevent costly insurance mandates and maintain benefit flexibility for employers so that they can continue to provide health insurance for employees while keeping their business solvent

Education

- Clarify the roles, responsibilities and training requirements for school board members in order to ensure that Georgia's public schools benefit from the best possible leadership
- Provide continued support for the Georgia Work Ready program so that our communities are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow

Visit www.gachamber.com for updates throughout the legislative session. Follow us on Twitter @gachamber.