

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 400 government affairs professionals representing companies throughout our state. The GAC has nine 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 review and subsequent recommendation to the GAC Executive Committee. Guided by the Georgia Chamber's adopted policy positions, a position to support or oppose is then made to the full GAC.

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GEORGIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
2011 Policy Priorities

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**GEORGIA CHAMBER**

GEORGIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2011 Policy Priorities

The Georgia Chamber is focused on policy priorities that will increase our state's economic competitiveness, foster job creation and preserve our quality of life.

Tax Reform

- Modernize and streamline the state's tax system by broadening the base, reducing and flattening income tax rates and creating a statewide tax court where disputes can be resolved in a timely manner.

Water

- Expand Georgia's surface water storage system and ensure access to an adequate water supply.
- Protect the responsible and permitted use of interbasin transfers in regional water plans.

Education

- Continue to provide opportunities for Georgia students and ensure the long-term quality of the state's workforce through strategic management of lottery-funded education programs.
- Provide for additional flexibility and opportunities for school choice through the expansion of the state's charter school system and other innovations.
- Expand access to online learning programs and virtual schools in order to maximize access to education resources.

Economic Development

- Promote policies that expand access to venture capital and attract venture capital firms to Georgia.
- Allow communities to use local option sales tax revenues for economic development projects.
- Increase Georgia's economic competitiveness by exempting the sales taxes on business inputs including energy used in manufacturing, allowing job creation tax credits to be used against withholding, and expanding tax credit programs for small and emerging businesses.
- Promote the expansion and growth of Georgia's ports.

Legal Reform

- Establish provisions for cost-sharing arrangements for discovery of electronically-stored information.
- Allow the introduction of collateral financial sources for determining liability judgments.

Health Care

- Prevent additional health care mandates that drive up the cost of employer-provided insurance.
- Control the regulatory and financial burden resulting from the implementation of federal health care reform.

Immigration

- Provide employers with uniform standards and procedures for employee verification and indemnify those who make good faith efforts to follow the law.

Transportation

- Maintain the key provisions of the Transportation Investment Act of 2010.
- Modernize the motor fuel tax to adequately fund Georgia's long-term transportation needs.

