

GEORGIA CHAMBER 2012 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Georgia Chamber is focused on legislation that will increase our state's economic competitiveness, encourage job creation and attract new investment to our state.

Georgia Competitiveness Initiative

- Throughout 2011, the Georgia Chamber was a proud partner with Governor Deal and the Georgia Department of Economic Development on the Georgia Competitiveness Initiative, an effort to develop a long-term economic development strategy for our state. As an organization, we look forward to continuing to support this effort and the legislative and policy recommendations that result.

Economic Development & Taxation

- Enact regulatory reforms that streamline government and help create an environment that stimulates economic and job growth
- Expand access to venture and seed capital by authorizing use of state employee pension funds for alternative investments and offering other incentives to attract venture capital firms to Georgia
- Modernize Georgia's revenue structure by broadening the sales tax base and reducing income tax rates
- Eliminate the sales tax on energy used for manufacturing, mining and agriculture in order to encourage economic development and reduce the cost of goods produced in Georgia
- Create an equitable and simplified communications taxing structure through a broad-based excise tax which will incentivize broadband investment throughout Georgia

- Improve Georgia's economic competitiveness by expanding state discretionary economic development resources, modifying job incentive and credit programs, reducing inventory taxes, and creating an independent review process to remedy state tax disputes
- Authorize a local-option convention center district program for infrastructure improvements and improve the existing tourism development incentive to encourage increased travel, retail and hospitality investment

Education

- Create a voter referendum to restore state involvement in charter schools and clarify state funding and governance of local school systems
- Enact measures to improve teacher and school quality, including ensuring that tenure and academic degrees are not the sole factors used in hiring and retention
- Identify and assist students needing remediation before high school graduation and ensure that both these students and more advanced learners are aware of and prepared for post-secondary options

Environment & Energy

- Utilizing continued input from the Regional Water Councils, implement the Statewide Water Plan by expanding Georgia's surface water storage inventory and protecting the responsible and currently authorized use of regional interbasin transfers

Health Care

- Support a Georgia-based, free-market health insurance exchange and other reforms that provide workers with a range of affordable, private coverage options
- Defend against cost shifting and the addition of costly health insurance mandates that drive up the cost of delivering care for Georgia businesses and providers

Legal Reform

- Pursue civil justice reforms to provide confidence of equitable and predictable treatment of business in the courts
- Remedy the current economic burden of executing garnishment orders by allowing non-lawyers to process them

Transportation

- Support ballot language that promotes understanding of the 2012 TSPLOST vote and encourages maximum voter participation
- Streamline transit governance to improve both connectivity and operational efficiency



Georgia Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Council

The Government Affairs Council (GAC) 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 recommendation to support or oppose is then made to the full GAC.

Government Affairs

David Raynor - Senior Vice President
draynor@gachamber.com

Jeff Hamling - Vice President, Federal Affairs
jhamling@gachamber.com

Lauren Wilkes-Fralick - Vice President,
Government Affairs
lwilkes@gachamber.com

Sally Clark - Director, Government Affairs
sclark@gachamber.com

Public Policy

John Krueger - Senior Vice President
jkrueger@gachamber.com

Kade Cullefer - Vice President, Legal
kcullefer@gachamber.com

Ryan Mahoney - Vice President, Public Policy
rmahoney@gachamber.com

Sheridan Watson - Manager, Public Policy
swatson@gachamber.com

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 Legislative Scorecard

In 2011, the Georgia Chamber issued its first legislative scorecard, which graded members of the General Assembly based on their votes on certain pro-business issues. To see which issues will be included in the 2012 scorecard, visit www.gachamber.com/scorecard. Grades for the 2011 and 2012 legislative sessions will be combined to provide a score for the full two-year term.



2012 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

233 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 2000
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1564

www.gachamber.com

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

 facebook.com/gachamber  [@gachamber](https://twitter.com/gachamber)