

SAVANNAH

AREA CHAMBER



2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

- Support state funding to complete the current expansion of the Savannah Convention Center.
- Continue to support funding for the redesign and construction of the I-95 Airport Interchange (Exit 104).
- Support the Technical College System of Georgia's Capital Outlay Request to add additional manufacturing lab space at Savannah Technical College's Liberty Campus.
- Support legislation to enact a workforce development pilot project to create Goodwill Excel Center schools for persons over the age of 21 to obtain their high school diploma.
- Seeking sustainable state funding in support of Chatham Area Transit's system meeting the travel demand for jobs, services, and destinations through development, implementation and operation of a multimodal system serving Chatham and the surrounding region.
- Support state funding for Tybee's beach and dune nourishment, stormwater management improvements, and nature-based improvements to the area bordering the tidal salt marsh.
- Support the recommendations of the Governor's Healthcare Workforce Shortage Commission. Due to the critical shortage of healthcare professionals in our state, it is important to support legislation, funding and policy changes that will assist in this endeavor.
- Support proactive military legislation that seeks to protect and expand Georgia's military installations and grow this essential statewide economic driver.

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KEY PRO-BUSINESS POLICIES & POSITIONS:

- Continue to support the recommendations of the Joint Study Committee on Airport Infrastructure and Improvements to create a sustainable State funding source for Georgia's commercial service and general aviation airports and support increased capital funding to include additional significant air cargo handling improvements for the Savannah Airport as identified in GA DOT's Air Cargo Study.
- Preserve tax policies and tax incentives that continue to make Georgia the best state in the country to do business.
- Support funding and initiatives that improve access, availability, and quality of early childhood and Pre-K education throughout our community.
- Support an increase in budgeted funds for marketing Georgia as a tourism destination to increase Georgia's market share by better competing with other states.
- Support city and county endeavors to construct, renovate or acquire affordable housing while also supporting initiatives that will increase homeless services and enable local government and state authorities to provide care for citizens experiencing homelessness.
- Support initiatives and programs such as Certified & Registered Apprenticeships, Dual Enrollment, Georgia College & Career Academies, and other efforts that prepare students for future careers and train a skilled workforce for the region's current and future employees
- Support initiatives to limit the unanticipated large-percentage swings in annual commercial property tax increases and decreases.

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