



SUPPORT AGENDA

TOP PRIORITY

County Manager Legislation

Support legislation that would authorize the Jefferson County Commission to appoint a county manager without going through the Jefferson County Personnel Board

Economic Development

Support coordinated economic development

- **University of Alabama at Birmingham**
Support special funding for UAB, in partnership with the Southern Research Institute, in the amount of \$4 million to form a drug discovery institute.
- **Economic Development**
 - Support enhanced economic development efforts to attract knowledge-based industries to our state and region by working with economic development professionals to develop a recruiting strategy.
 - Support the creation of economic development incentives to benefit Alabama's film industry.

Transportation

Secure increased funding for transportation infrastructure needs

- **Northern Beltline**
Ensure construction and completion of the Northern Beltline.
- **US Highway 280**
Provide \$60M over four years for urban interchanges and access management improvements in the western corridor of US 280. These are high priority projects (HPPs) and are supported by the cities of Mountain Brook, Vestavia Hills, and Homewood.
- **Transit**
 - Secure permanent and dedicated funding for regional mass transit.
 - Support a plan to amend legislation that creates a more regional BJCTA board.
- **Finley Avenue "Fly-Over"/Extension**
 - Support efforts to complete the Finley Avenue project.
- **State Transit Commission**
 - Support legislation that would create a statewide commission to study funding options for transit.

Tax

The Chamber will support pro-business tax initiatives. However, we will not consider supporting tax increases unless such legislation is applied fairly without levying a disproportionate burden on any individual segment of our region's economy. Any tax reform proposal must be tied to governmental accountability and the elimination of wasteful spending.

- **Partnership Tax Exemptions**
Clarify exemption for income earned by non-resident partners of "qualified investment partnerships."
- **Alabama Tax Appeals Commission ("ATAC")**
Support the creation of an independent Alabama administrative tax tribunal that would replace the current Administrative Law Division ("ALD") of the Alabama Department of Revenue.

- **Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex Car Rental Tax**
Support passage of corrective legislation regarding the collection of an automobile rental tax that would allow the BJCC to issue bonds for expansion of the current facility.
- **Historic Preservation Tax Credits**
Provide state tax credits for rehabilitation of residential or commercial historic properties.

Other

- **Minimum Standards for Contract Security Guards**
Support minimum standards for non-exempt security officers employed in Alabama. Provide equal employment reciprocity in any other state for Alabama-based, non-exempt security guards.
- **Copper Theft**
Support legislation that would decrease the theft of copper and other precious metals from businesses, homes, schools and churches.
- **“Free the Hops”**
Support efforts that would amend Alabama’s antiquated liquor laws so that gourmet beers not currently available in Alabama could be sold.

MONITOR AGENDA

Transportation

- **Corridor X**
Ensure ALDOT funding in order to allow for the timely completion of Corridor X.
- **U.S. 280/Eastern Corridor**
Ensure ALDOT funding for a solution to the severe traffic congestion problems along the eastern corridor.
- **Transportation Commission**
Ensure appropriate Birmingham region representation on a statewide commission to oversee ALDOT spending.

Healthcare Issues

- **Statewide Trauma Network**
Secure funding for statewide trauma network.
- **Medicaid Funding**
Stabilize long-term Medicaid funding.

Education

- **Student Retention Tax Credits**
Continue discussions with state legislators regarding student loan repayment tax credits for persons who graduate from an accredited public or private Alabama college, university, or two-year college and work in Alabama following graduation.
- **Pre-K Funding**
Monitor efforts to expand the voluntary Pre-K educational initiative for four-year-olds in Alabama.

Tax

- **Research & Development Tax Credit**
Enact research and development (R & D) tax credit to parallel the Federal credit (including financial institutions).
- **Streamlined Sales/Use Tax System**
Enact streamlined sales and use tax (SST) system, first at the federal level.
- **Taxpayers' Bill of Rights II**
Enact Alabama Taxpayers' Bill of Rights II, providing more taxpayer protections.
- **Tax Conformity Legislation**
Support compromise legislation regarding income tax treatment of partnerships, S corporations, LLCs and other pass-through entities and their resident owners.
- **County/State Business License Reform**
Streamline the business licensing process:
 - Create a catch-all category for unregistered businesses.
 - Allow one-stop online filing.

Other

- **Eminent Domain**
Ensure local government's right to exercise eminent domain power.
- **Constitutional Reform**
Monitor efforts to rewrite Alabama's 1901 Constitution.