



# PUBLIC POLICY

## 2021-22 AGENDA

Metro Atlanta Chamber public policy team advocates for state and regional policies that enhance quality of life and protect our world-class business environment. The 2021-22 policy agenda guides our advocacy work and includes public health, economic recovery and racial equity.

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### BUSINESS CLIMATE

- Bolster economic development tools and promote inclusive growth to start, recruit and retain businesses, events, entertainment and creative arts
- Protect Georgia's top-rated business climate against legislation that is discriminatory in nature and harmful to our ability to create, recruit and retain jobs and talent
- Support a competitive tax environment that maintains the state's economic and fiscal attractiveness and encourages business creation, recruitment, retention and expansion
- Attract major sporting events, particularly the 2026 FIFA World Cup, by working with the Atlanta Sports Council to leverage and showcase Atlanta's sports brands and the benefits they bring to the region and Georgia
- Legalize online sports betting on professional sporting events
- Foster innovation and drive entrepreneurship by expanding venture capital funding, access to funding and entrepreneurial assistance resources, particularly in underrepresented communities
- Allow private parties the freedom to make decisions concerning the presence of weapons on property they control
- Reform our legal system to ensure a consistent, fair and stable legal climate for business
- Support strategic reforms to the criminal justice system to minimize recidivism and fiscal demands while maximizing rehabilitation and re-entry
- Combat human trafficking by raising awareness and supporting survivors
- Encourage new revenue streams to improve public health

### EDUCATED WORKFORCE

- Develop a globally competitive workforce by increasing coordination of resources, restoring funding and promoting curriculum alignment between K-12, higher education systems and workforce needs
- Promote economic mobility and address systemic inequities by removing barriers to education and employment
- Boost early learning by expanding access and affordability of quality-rated childcare and Georgia Pre-K
- Prepare educators and educational leadership to maintain and bolster effective instruction and comprehensive student support to strengthen Georgia's education systems
- Encourage innovation in instruction and curriculum by supporting the promotion of STEAM and career and technical education in both K-12 and post-secondary education
- Support innovative student assessments, aligned to state curriculum standards, that ensure students are successful throughout their educational career and beyond
- Establish state funding for needs-based aid to help students overcome barriers to post-secondary education

# TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Expand long-term dedicated state funding for transit improvement and expansion
- Upgrade existing freight networks by increasing freight capacity and safety
- Oppose attempts to takeover Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
- Increase access to reliable communications networks for businesses, families and students
- Embrace new technologies such as autonomous vehicles and establish Georgia as a leader in innovation, research and applied technology in transportation
- Support transportation demand management strategies including managed-lane options, telecommuting, bike/pedestrian facilities, public/private solutions and smarter land use
- Ensure Georgia maintains leadership in cybersecurity and digital technologies
- Increase supply of housing to meet workforce needs
- Improve public health infrastructure to help address health disparities

# NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Spur long-term economic growth and ensure air quality by advocating for a clean, safe, reliable, affordable and diverse energy portfolio for Georgia
- Advocate for responsible management of all waste streams utilizing waste reduction, diversion, recycling and innovation
- Support policies improving food security
- Adequately fund our legal strategy to defend long-term access to Georgia's abundant surface water and groundwater supplies
- Promote long-term water management through the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and other water councils/entities and advocate for related state appropriations
- Uphold current law for Interbasin Water Transfers (IBT) as a water management tool and base future revisions on science, recommendations by the Department of Natural Resources and state and regional water planning efforts

## OUR TEAM

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