



# 2023-24 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

The Metro Atlanta Chamber Public Policy team advocates for state and regional policies that advance our **economy**, grow our **talent**, and enhance our **community**.

📍 @MAC\_POLICY | MACPOLICY.COM



## BUSINESS CLIMATE

- Bolster economic development tools and promote inclusive growth to start, recruit and retain businesses, events, entertainment, and creative arts
- Ensure a competitive tax environment that encourages business creation, recruitment, retention, and expansion
- Support a consistent, fair, and stable legal climate for business
- Ensure the City of Atlanta and its assets remain one united city
- Foster innovation and drive entrepreneurship by expanding venture capital funding, and entrepreneurial assistance resources, particularly in underrepresented communities
- Protect Georgia's top-rated business climate against legislation that interferes with business operations or is discriminatory in nature and harmful to our ability to create, recruit and retain jobs and talent
- Ensure the ability of private parties in control of property to determine whether to permit weapons on that property, in accordance with current Georgia law

## TALENT DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

- Develop a globally competitive talent pool by aligning workforce and education systems, agencies, and industry partners to deliver talent for high-demand careers
- Cultivate strong public-private partnerships from early to post-secondary education to ensure a solid foundation of career awareness and family supports
- Strengthen and coordinate funding and resources throughout the cradle-to-career pipeline with a specific focus on childcare, career and technical education, needs-based aid, and completion of high-demand degrees and certifications including experiential learning
- Promote economic mobility and remove barriers to employment and educational attainment for all learners, particularly those in communities with the least resources



## INFRASTRUCTURE

- Expand long-term dedicated state funding for transit improvement and expansion
- Increase freight capacity and safety
- Ensure air quality by advocating for a clean, safe, reliable, affordable, and diverse energy portfolio for Georgia
- Increase access to reliable communications networks for businesses, families, and students
- Establish Georgia as a leader in innovation, research, and applied technology in transportation, including electric vehicles
- Ensure Georgia maintains leadership in cybersecurity and digital technologies
- Promote responsible management of all waste streams and long-term water management through district water council and other efforts

## THRIVING COMMUNITY

- Attract major sporting events 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 mobile sports wagering and dedicate funds towards hosting future major sporting events
- Support strategic reforms to the criminal justice system to minimize recidivism and fiscal demands while maximizing rehabilitation, re-entry, and public safety
- Combat human trafficking by raising awareness and supporting survivors
- Encourage new revenue streams to improve public health, including mental health
- Increase supply of housing to meet workforce needs
- Promote policies that support ATL Action for Racial Equity (AARE) Initiatives

## OUR TEAM

### KATIE KIRKPATRICK

PRESIDENT AND CEO  
katiekirkpatrick@macoc.com  
@katiebizu

### MARSHALL GUEST

SVP, PUBLIC POLICY  
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
mguest@macoc.com  
@marshallguest

### DAVE WILLIAMS

SVP, PUBLIC POLICY  
AND TALENT  
dwilliams@macoc.com  
@suwaneedave

### LEANNA BROWN

VICE PRESIDENT,  
BUSINESS CLIMATE AND  
TALENT DEVELOPMENT  
lbrown@macoc.com  
@leannakbrown

### TIM CAIRL

SENIOR DIRECTOR,  
TALENT DEVELOPMENT  
tcairl@macoc.com  
@timcairl

### NICK FERNANDEZ

DIRECTOR,  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS  
nfernandez@macoc.com  
@nickolas\_f

### JUSTIN HAIGHT

DIRECTOR, TALENT  
PARTNERSHIPS  
jhaight@macoc.com

### SKY PARK

DIRECTOR, LEGAL  
AFFAIRS  
spark@macoc.com

### ZACH FIORE

PROJECT MANAGER,  
TALENT PIPELINE  
zfiore@macoc.com

### KIERA TOLBERT

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT,  
PUBLIC POLICY  
ktolbert@macoc.com

### MAGGIE WIGTON

COORDINATOR,  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS  
mwigton@macoc.com



@MAC\_POLICY | MACPOLICY.COM | 404-586-8458

191 PEACHTREE STREET NE | SUITE 3400 | ATLANTA, GA 30303