



# ENTERPRISE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# LEGISLATIVE & PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA



553 Glover Ave, Enterprise, AL 36330

Phone: (334) 347-0581

[www.EnterpriseAlabama.com](http://www.EnterpriseAlabama.com)

Email: [info@enterprisealabama.com](mailto:info@enterprisealabama.com)

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 @enterprisechamber

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# **POLICY STATEMENT**

**The mission of the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce is to be an advocate for our members by promoting the growth of business, industry, and community.**

**Our legislative and public policy agenda goals exist to enhance the economic vitality of Enterprise through advocacy, connectivity, and education.**

**The Enterprise Chamber of Commerce is committed to maintaining a bipartisan, non-governmental position, while simultaneously creating opportunities to educate voters and create platforms for the citizens of Enterprise to communicate with, learn from, and make their voices heard by their local elected representation.**

**The Enterprise Chamber of Commerce does not endorse candidates for public office. We pride ourselves on successfully building and maintaining strong bipartisan relationships with key partners in government at the local, state, and federal levels, regardless of party affiliation. We do believe it is in our members' best interest to take a position on ballot initiatives impacting our business community. When the Chamber releases an issue statement, know that we have done the homework so you don't have to. The Chamber is your trusted resource on Election Day.**

# **FEDERAL PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA 2021-2022**

## **Business Development**

- **We support the addition and/or revision of Opportunity Zones with input from local officials and interested parties.**
- **We support continuing the mission and vision of the Wiregrass Economic Development Corporation.**

## **Infrastructure**

- **We support initiatives that provide for continued growth and expansion of the Enterprise Airport and the key role it plays in attracting new and larger businesses to our area.**

## **Education & Workforce Development**

- **We support continuing to adequately fund Federal early childhood education programs, such as Head Start.**
- **We support funding of grants for locally administered workforce development programs.**

## **Employment & Labor**

- **We support policies that preserve Alabama as a “right to work” and “employment at will” state.**

## **Taxation**

- **We support a tax code that does not disproportionately impose burdens on employers, or on one particular industry or segment or economy.**
- **We support continued pro-growth tax policies in relevant legislation and permanency of pro-growth provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (e.g., full expensing, R&D).**

## **Health Care**

- **We support initiatives that build a business environment conducive to the growth and expansion of our local hospital, healthcare providers and their affiliates.**

## **Military**

- **Initiatives that support the military and defense mission at the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence**
- **Initiatives that provide educational, employment and business opportunities for military families.**

# **STATE PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA 2021-2022**

## **Business Development**

- **We support simplifying state regulations affecting small businesses and reducing the regulatory burden on businesses.**
- **We support existing economic development agencies, including but not limited to the Wiregrass Economic Development Corporation and Enterprise Chamber of Commerce.**

## **Infrastructure**

- **We support a dedicated state funding mechanism for the improvement of local infrastructure.**
- **We support the improved broadband through enhanced funding and deregulation.**
- **We support state funding for public transportation.**

## **Education & Workforce Development**

- **We support adequate funding and support for the Enterprise State Community College and the Enterprise City Schools Career and Technical Center.**
- **We support bond opportunities to be used for capital improvements and deferred maintenance.**

- **We support funding mechanisms for initiatives including: Pre-K, Enterprise State Community College and the Enterprise City Schools Career and Technical Center.**
- **We support the Economic Developer Exemption Bill. This legislation clarifies that developers do not have to register as lobbyists. As lobbyists, economic developers would have to reveal information that could endanger economic development efforts by causing businesses seeking to locate projects to avoid considering Alabama.**
- **We support the bill that allows the age for CDL being lowered from 21 to 18. This new standard will create thousands of jobs and will allow Alabama businesses that rely on trucks to move their good or equipment to better compete with surrounding states for freight movement.**

## **Employment & Labor**

- **We support tort reform legislation to protect employers' frivolous lawsuits through modifications to existing law.**
- **We support the Unemployment Compensation bill that allows a maximum of 14 weeks of benefits, unless the state average unemployment rate is above 6.5%. The maximum weekly benefit increased to \$275. The annual savings to Alabama employers is an estimated \$45 million.**

## **Taxation**

- **We support a tax code that does not disproportionately impose burdens on employers, or on one particular industry or segment of the economy.**

## **Health Care**

- **We support setting aside adequate funding to ensure sustainable health programming for our region.**

## **Special Issue: Reappointment**

- **We support the workforce initiatives and workforce training that is part of this special session legislative agenda regarding prison reform and construction of new prisons.**