



## Legislative Agenda 2019

The Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce supports legislative action that promotes a **strong quality of life** by fostering a **growing economy** for our county, region and state. We believe that the state must focus on **developing a skilled workforce, promoting economic development and helping small business** in order to strengthen the economy and improve the lives of our residents. To that end, we encourage the General Assembly to:

1. **Support career readiness** for high school students by removing barriers to apprenticeships and strengthening the connection between our high schools and community colleges. Examples include:
  - a. Continued funding for students who are dually enrolled.
  - b. Investment in state-of-the art training equipment.
  - c. Promoting manufacturing and trade careers as part of K-12 education.
2. **Revise the school report card system** to recognize both achievement and growth so that businesses have a better understanding of the performance of their local schools.
3. **Build new schools** by:
  - a. **Supporting additional state funding for school construction through a statewide bond referendum or other funding mechanism such as increasing the allocation of lottery funds.**
  - b. Providing Cabarrus County with the flexibility to use funds from its ¼ cent local option sales tax for school construction.
4. **Make permanent the sales tax exemption on jet fuel** to provide both Concord-Padgett Regional Airport and Charlotte-Douglas International Airport a competitive advantage in securing commercial flights.
5. Make any necessary changes to state law to **facilitate the creation of association health plans** for small businesses.

In addition to these initiatives, the Cabarrus Chamber follows the following guiding principles in evaluating legislation:

1. We support state **investment in infrastructure**. Specifically, the state must **invest in transportation** systems that allow businesses to promote tourism and move goods and products, education systems that **improve our workforce**, and technology platforms that allow businesses to seamlessly interact with government.
2. We support legislation that **recognizes the needs of both our growing communities and those that are economically challenged** and that both communities can exist within the same county.
3. We **oppose unfunded mandates** on local governments or the creation of programs without recurring funding.
4. We recognize that **the current health insurance system is unaffordable for many small businesses** and support efforts at all levels of government to address this burden on our small businesses.
5. Regulation on the business community must have a clearly articulated policy objective, must be fairly enforced, and should be a cost-effective means of achieving the objective.