



Legislative Agenda 2020

The Cabarrus County Chamber 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 particularly as the state recovers from the economic impact of Covid19. To that end, we encourage the General Assembly to:

1. **Align tax policy with federal changes** to provide businesses with clear rules for paying taxes. For instance, timely returns should not be subject to interest for taxes due. Special benefits provided by the federal government to assist businesses and individuals should not be subject to state taxation.
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. In particular, the report card system should recognize the unique challenges created by months long school cancellations.
3. **Examine any state or local mandate that requires an “in-person” interaction** such as inspections and document filings.
 - a. Provide grace periods to meet currently due mandates. The state must recognize that pent up demand will make it difficult to meet deadlines even after mandatory stay at home orders are lifted.
 - b. Examine all such requirements and determine if the state’s objective can be met through alternative means such as online filings.
4. **Allow local governments to select a business other than the low bidder under the following circumstances:**
 - a. The low bidder is an out of state company without a business location in the county where the work will be performed.

There is an alternative bidder within 5% of the low bid price who

 - i. Is registered in North Carolina
 - ii. Certifies that at least 75% of the workers on the contract are North Carolina residents

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 promote tourism and allow businesses to 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.