



# 2026 Legislative Agenda

## Approved by the Board of Directors

In the agenda below each of the Chamber's priority items areas are listed with bullet items listed by priority. The first for issues are the Chamber's Primary Advocacy Issues.

### **Primary Advocacy Issues:**

Advocate for expanded funding for local Veteran Services in affiliation with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Support Hurricane Helene efforts

Work with elected leaders, NCDOT officials, NC Highway 73 Council of Planning, CRTPO and other agencies to expedite road projects.

Work with the Lake Norman Education Collaborative, CPCC, education partners and area businesses to provide career ready opportunities/training for individuals entering the workforce.

Support efforts to implement a magistrate in North Mecklenburg

Advocate for the use of "hardened shoulders" on 177 to create an additional General-Purpose Lane during peak driving hours.

### **Criminal Justice/Courts**

Support efforts to "implement" a magistrate in North Mecklenburg.

Support efforts to ensure mental health data is being properly reported to the Federal Background Check System

Support efforts that promote access and use of Public Records and data.

### **Education**

Work with the Lake Norman Education Collaborative, CPCC, education partners and area businesses to provide career ready opportunities/training for individuals entering the workforce.

Support NC Department of Information Technology's Whole-of-State and Education Pathways initiatives to provide a means to fill the gap in local and statewide trained cybersecurity resources.

Engage the Lake Norman business community in creating internships for skilled and technical trade opportunities.

Support increasing the allocation of behavioral health resources in local schools.

Support efforts to reform K-12, community colleges and universities to allow for flexibility in managing calendar and funding priorities that have minimal impact on students and teachers.

Support continued improvement of the teacher compensation system to make N.C. more competitive.

## **Employer-Employee Relations**

Support efforts to reduce the employee minimum from twenty-five {25} to five (5) to allow employers to be eligible to self-insure.

Support local and state wages tied to market demand.

Support N.C. Right-to-Work laws for private and public employees.

Workforce Development & Training- supporting workforce training programs, apprenticeships, or partnerships with community colleges

Affordable Healthcare Options - beyond self-insurance, support cost-effective healthcare solutions for small businesses

Talent Attraction & Retention - North Carolina's economic growth depends on attracting and retaining skilled workers. Support programs are available within the state to support bringing in skilled employees and retaining those already in state

## **Environmental**

Collaborate with the Lake Norman Marine Commission, Duke Energy, NC Department of Environmental Quality, NC Wildlife Resources Commission and local agencies to bring awareness and support efforts in managing hydrilla as well as other threats to our lake system.

Work with local officials and agencies to ensure adequate water levels on the lake which maintain the lifestyle, commerce, and quality of life on which we depend as a community and region.

Advocate for appropriate allocation of dollars that support hydrilla management

Collaborate with the Lake Norman Marine Commission, Duke Energy, NC Department of Environmental Quality, NC Wildlife Resources Commission and local agencies to bring awareness and support efforts in managing hydrilla as well as other threats to our lake system.

## **Health Care**

Address burdensome regulatory policies that impact healthcare costs.

Support health care price transparency initiatives for patients and businesses.

Assist in the formulation of a formal task force to address the region's thyroid cancer issue and efforts to address the region's ocular melanoma cancer issue.

Support the Certificate of Need (CON) processes to optimize competitiveness while doing no harm to patients and health care providers.

Support solutions that leverage innovation to fund our health care delivery system.

Support Medicaid transformation that provides coverage for gap populations that does not require expansion of state or local government resources.

Explore and support coverage of expansion populations using Federal funds to find a commercially viable financial option.

Support Direct Primary Care initiatives as appropriate.

## **Job Creation**

Support fiscally responsible funding for the arts, travel and tourism, plus amateur/professional sports in the Lake Norman region and throughout NC that fosters economic development.

Support incentives to attract jobs that compete better with surrounding states.

Support job recruitment efforts of Economic Development Partnerships and the Department of Commerce.

Support actions to ensure adequate supply and instant availability of energy.

Promote innovative approaches, technologies and tools to manage energy cost/rate impacts to customers.

## **Municipal/County**

The Chamber supports placing a referendum on the ballot for Mecklenburg County voters to decide on transportation improvements in the fall of 2025.

Support reform of local building codes which make the approval process more efficient and less burdensome to applicants.

Support and promote "regionalism" between the lake towns1 including but not limited to infrastructure1 economic development1 and quality of life issues.

Support and actively encourage counties and municipalities implement tax neutral rates after property tax revaluations.

Support policies which enhance the development of affordable housing.

Advocate for a metro regional approach to infrastructure and legislative issues with neighboring counties and municipalities.

Support tax policies that return collected monies to the county/municipality of origin.

## **State & Federal Issues**

Support efforts to reform business and environmental laws/regulations that encourage business growth.

Support removing unnecessary regulatory burdens on businesses and business owners.

Support efforts that address appropriate buffer requirements on the Lake Norman shoreline.

## **Taxes**

Support continual tax reform that creates a positive impact on economic growth.

Support simplification of tax code.

Support tax reform or property re-evaluations that stimulate business growth1 administrative simplicity and controlled spending

Support reduction of corporate and personal income taxes.

Support elimination of business franchise taxes.

Support efforts to encourage economic development opportunities in rural counties while safeguarding current local sales tax and related revenue sources.

Support tax reform or property re-evaluations that stimulate business growth, administrative simplicity and controlled spending.

Support stopping the taxation of the same source of funds multiple times.

Support increasing the transparency in property tax rates and valuations.

## **Technology**

Support legislation that eliminates forms1 paper storage and wet signature requirements when alternative technological solutions exist.

Support state1county and municipal initiatives that improve the data privacy and cybersecurity vulnerabilities of our businesses.

Support NC Department of Information Technologies Whole-of-State and Education Pathways initiatives to provide a means to fill the gap in local and statewide trained cybersecurity resources.

Support policies that promote private sector investment in broadband technologies and infrastructure including the rapid delivery of SG services and the expansion of broadband services to unserved areas critical for the Charlotte and Lake Norman region.

Support initiatives that create paperless environments to transact business.

Support legislations that eliminate archiving of hard copies of documents when electronic or scanned versions are available through data storage solutions.

## **Transportation**

Work with elected leaders, NCDOT officials, NC Highway 73 Council of Planning, CRTPO and other agencies to expedite road projects.

Support CRTPO decision authority to be one vote per town, instead of a weighted vote.

Support local jurisdiction ability to construct transportation projects that improve mobility.

Advocate for the use of "hardened shoulders" on 177 to create an additional General-Purpose Lane during peak driving hours.

Support the study of reasonable improvements and solutions to regional transit.

Support bike and pedestrian roadway options.

Support transportation initiatives that lower congestion while financed without burdening businesses.

Support regulatory changes and enhancements to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) a 435-page document published in February 2022 to provide the transportation improvements citizens need and desire.