



2012 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Developing the Agenda

Each year, the Chamber identifies the top legislative priorities that it will pursue on a local, statewide, and federal level. The Chamber begins its planning process with a membership survey distributed to the entire Chamber membership to ask for input in identifying key issues.

In late summer, the Chamber hosts the annual Coastal Grassroots meeting in partnership with the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and in conjunction with the Berkeley, Greater Summerville/Dorchester County, Tri-County Regional, and Colleton/Walterboro Chambers of Commerce. All members are invited to participate in the event and voice their opinion on top issues.

The Chamber's Business Advocacy Committee then compiles the information and forwards the recommended Legislative Agenda to the Chamber's Executive Committee and Board of Directors for final approval.

The Business Advocacy Committee is comprised of representatives of various committees, task forces and sectors of the Chamber's membership in an effort to ensure all types, sizes and business interests are involved in the business advocacy process. Chamber committees such as the Environmental Steering Committee, the Infrastructure Visioning Task Force, the Small Business Council and others also forward recommendations to the Business Advocacy Committee for consideration.

Implementation Plan

Once adopted, the Business Advocacy Committee and Chamber staff take the following steps to advance the Chamber's Legislative Agenda:

Lobbying

The Chamber maintains an active relationship with members of the tri-county legislative delegation through a full-time lobbyist in Columbia during the legislative session. In addition, Business Advocacy staff attend city and county council meetings and actively monitor local issues. On a national level, Chamber staff work with both the local and Washington, D.C. offices of the congressional delegation on federal issues that impact the local business community.

Grassroots Engagement

All Chamber members can become part of the Chamber's grassroots effort and become engaged in Business Advocacy efforts. Through the Chamber's online advocacy tool, [ChamberWatch](#), members can easily contact their elected officials and sign up to receive regular action alerts and updates on legislative issues throughout the year. To sign up, visit www.chamberwatch.net.

Advocacy Focused Events

- Legislative Reception - the Chamber hosts local, state and federal elected officials each January to kick-off the State Legislative Session and unveil the Chamber's Legislative Agenda
- Statehouse Day - members are encouraged to visit the Statehouse in February to meet with the region's State elected officials
- DC Fly-In - each spring the Chamber organizes a two-day trip to Washington, D.C. to call on congressional members
- Legislative Appreciation Dinner - each June the Chamber reveals the State Legislative Scorecard and recognizes state delegates that have voted to maintain a healthy business climate in South Carolina