
SUPPORT AGENDA

POLICY STATEMENT

- **Jefferson County Sewer Bond Default**

Jefferson County's lingering default on its sewer debt has profound implications for the county, region and state. The hidden costs of this default to taxpayers and businesses could be extensive if this crisis continues to linger and go unresolved. Economic development efforts will continue to suffer because businesses looking to expand in our region and state will have little confidence in our government living up to its commitments. The BBA endorses immediate action to resolve this crisis which may include legislative support, commission support, community support and the cooperation of all parties to the sewer crisis.

Economic Development

Support coordinated economic development efforts to increase the vitality and prosperity of the seven-county region

- **University of Alabama at Birmingham**

Work with other regions to support the activation of The Science and Technology Roadmap for Alabama, including funds that support peer-reviewed, merit-based recruitment of academic leaders.

- **Broadband Policy Initiative**

Broadband is an essential component of Alabama's infrastructure and critical to growing and diversifying Alabama's economy. The Birmingham Business Alliance supports broadband policy that promotes greater access to affordable broadband for all Alabamians; encourages new investment, jobs, and technology development and deployment across Alabama; and, promotes greater competition and choices for businesses and consumers. We oppose public policy that leads to excessive government intervention and regulation of the internet which will inevitably drive up costs for business and consumers in Alabama.

Transportation

Secure increased funding for transportation infrastructure needs

- **Northern Beltline**

Ensure the construction and completion of the Northern Beltline and work locally to advocate for public and private support.

- **US Highway 280**

Support ALDOT and assist in finding a solution to the severe traffic congestion problems along the eastern corridor.

- **Finley Avenue "Fly-Over"/Extension**

Support efforts to complete the Finley Avenue project.

Tax

The BBA will support pro-business tax initiatives. However, we will not consider supporting tax increases unless such legislation is applied fairly without levying a disproportionate burden on any individual segment of our region's economy. Any tax reform proposal must be tied to governmental accountability and the elimination of wasteful spending.

- **Taxpayers' Bill of Rights II**

Enact Alabama Taxpayers' Bill of Rights II, providing more taxpayer protections.

- **Alabama Tax Appeals Commission ("ATAC")**

Support the creation of an independent Alabama administrative tax tribunal that would replace the current Administrative Law Division ("ALD") of the Alabama Department of Revenue.

- **Education Trust Fund Rolling Reserve**
The BBA supports Representative Greg Canfield’s proposed legislation that promotes a business-like approach to state government budgeting that provides sustainable growth for the Education Trust Fund while establishing budget stabilization savings to prevent future proration. Further, the BBA supports a responsible budgeting process as opposed to efforts to burden businesses and individual taxpayers with new taxes during difficult economic cycles.
- **Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex Car Rental Tax**
Support passage of corrective legislation regarding the collection of an automobile rental tax that would allow the BJCC to issue bonds for expansion of the current facility.
- **Historic Preservation Tax Credits**
Provide state tax credits for rehabilitation of residential or commercial historic properties.

Environment

- **Red Mountain Park**
Support the development and completion of Red Mountain Park in accordance with the Red Mountain Greenway and Recreational Commission’s master plan.
- **Forever Wild Funding Reauthorization**
Support to protect and reauthorize Forever Wild funding pursuant to Amendment 543 of the Alabama Constitution.

MONITOR AGENDA

Transportation

- **Corridor X**
Ensure ALDOT funding in order to allow for the timely completion of Corridor X.
- **Transportation Commission**
Ensure appropriate Birmingham region representation on a statewide commission to oversee ALDOT spending.

Tax

- **Research & Development Tax Credit**
Enact research and development (R & D) tax credit to parallel the Federal credit (including financial institutions).
- **Streamlined Sales/Use Tax System**
Enact streamlined sales and use tax (SST) system, first at the federal level.
- **Entity Harmonization Legislation**
Support legislation regarding uniform treatment of disregarded entities for all tax purposes.
- **County/State Business License Reform**
Streamline the business licensing process:
 - Create a catch-all category for unregistered businesses.
 - Allow one-stop online filing.

Other

- **Eminent Domain**
Ensure local government's right to exercise eminent domain power.