

LIVINGSTON PARISH
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Livingston Parish Business Priorities

— 2018 —

Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce
248 Veterans Blvd., Denham Springs, LA 70726
(225) 665-8155 | www.livingstonparishchamber.org

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Representing Livingston Parish Business
since the 1920's - Incorporated 1966



GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PURPOSE

- **Develop and maintain** strong working relationships with government entities on behalf of the business community.
- **Ensure that local**, state and federal elected officials are aware of the concerns of the business community.
- **Encourage and insist** the views of the business community are carefully considered when weighing legislation and decisions that could impact business growth, job creation, taxes, commerce and regulatory statutes.
- **Lead, collaborate or support** items and projects which meet our mission.
- **Facilitate open** dialogue sessions with elected officials and business leaders.
- **Inform the business** community of upcoming actions and opportunities to effectively weigh in on pro-business policy.
- **Engage** business owners on policy that impacts their business.
- **Offer** a collective voice for business including the demands on business and business perspective.
- **Provide information** to support an informed voter base.
- **Work toward** the common goal of a stronger, more prosperous business community.

CHAMBER BUSINESS PRIORITIES

- **Minimum Wage** - Business owners advise that minimum wage should continue to be determined by market forces. Businesses currently pay more than minimum wage for qualified, skilled workers. Wages should be tied to experience, skill and market variables.
- **Internet Sales Tax** - The Chamber supports collection enforcement of internet sales tax to ensure local businesses which contribute to the tax base through sales tax and property taxes are not at a competitive disadvantage.
- **Jobs and Career Development** - Problems with the employee base are ongoing and continue to get worse. The Chamber advocates for funds for employee training to assure that not only are larger employers considered, but the employee shortfall and training expense of small businesses are not left off the agenda. Partnerships with the local Chamber community are a solid opportunity to address the problem at a grassroots level and lead to satisfactory results for all employer sizes.
- **NFIP Premiums - The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)** authorization expired on March 23, 2018. While the financial stability of the program must be addressed and growth in the private flood insurance market encouraged, the program must be reauthorized to allow homeowners and businesses to purchase flood insurance at reasonable rates.
- **Taxes & Regulatory Issues** - The burden of taxes and regulatory compliance on businesses are growing and diverting resources. Business resources in this regard have been stretched to the point of breaking. The business community seeks a diplomatic approach and solution to this problem.

CHAMBER BUSINESS PRIORITIES

- **Insurance Premiums to Business & Access to Affordable Healthcare -** High premiums and deductibles continue to spiral crippling small businesses on medical insurance, general liability, workers compensation and flood insurance. The burdens and costs to small business are astounding and the Chamber strongly advocates for solutions, including underlying issues, to this immense problem. The Chamber recognizes the need for quality and accessible affordable healthcare for Livingston Parish.
- **Transportation | Infrastructure | Roads -** The Chamber aligns with local elected officials and the priorities which include Highway 447, Highway 190 and the continued widening of I-12 to the state line. The Chamber supports the opportunity to provide roads which connect communities to shopping within Livingston Parish strengthening the tax base.
- **Business & Education Partnerships** through the Chamber include opportunities to connect with and mentor students, programming to assist students in considering the employer's perspective, soft skills and career paths. Employable, career-ready students and community college efforts are also Chamber initiatives.
- **Louisiana Checkbook -** The Chamber supports bringing Louisiana Checkbook, formatted after Ohio Checkbook, to our state.
- **Constitutional Convention -** The Chamber supports a constitutional convention.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**BETTER
BUSINESS**

**BETTER
COMMUNITY**

- Local businesses and vendors should be used, when possible and practical, for work contracted through parish and municipal government agencies.
- Livingston Parish's ability to compete with local, state, regional and global areas should be a consideration when deciding regulations or actions.
- Businesses should be good corporate citizens.
- Parish and municipal government should focus on priorities that will foster a favorable business climate to grow commerce, industry and jobs in Livingston Parish.
- Government should first “do no harm” to the Livingston Parish area’s economy.
- Government should seek input from the business community in regards to regulations which burden businesses.
- Government should streamline government processes whenever and wherever possible.
- Consideration of creating a problem when solving a problem should be a factor in decision making.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Blount

President

Blount General Contractors
2018 Chamber Chairman

Candy Forbes

President | Owner

Denham Springs Housing
2018 Committee Chair

Chad Bacas, P.E. MBA

Operations Leader

Forte & Tablada, Inc.
2018 Committee Co-Chair

Kimberly Sanders, MBA

CPA | Partner

LA Champagne, LLP

Robert Morgan

Attorney

Morgan Law Associates, LLC

Shelby Carnahan

Owner | CPA

Carnahan Andrews CPA

Deric Murphy, P.E., L.S.I

President

Quality Engineering

John Holmes

President | Owner

Holmes Building Materials

Regina Scott

AVP Informatics

North Oaks Health System

Todd Caruso

Attorney

Todd Caruso Attorney

Craig Schimpf

Customer Service Manager

Entergy

Shannon Bernard

Regional VP

Primerica

Jon Goodart

General Manager

Allstar Automotive Group

Kevin Foster

Liaison Livingston Young

Professionals

Curt Nickels

Agent

Farm Bureau Insurance

April Wehrs, IOM

President | CEO

Livingston Parish Chamber

LIVINGSTON PARISH CHAMBER

MISSION, GOALS, VISION,
VALUES, FOCUS



THE MISSION of the Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce is to promote business, enhance community vitality and advance economic prosperity in Livingston Parish.

CHAMBER GOALS

- Strong, collective voice for business.
- Desirable communities and quality of life.
- Strategic plans and results.
- Member representation & advocacy.
- Development of informed leaders.
- Partnerships for the common good.

VISION

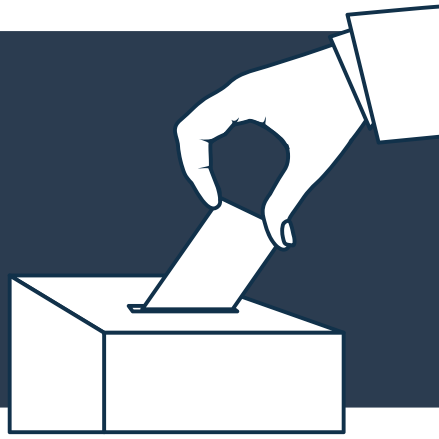
To be recognized for our unique and invaluable role in helping businesses prosper and our communities thrive.

CHAMBER VALUES

Credibility | Integrity | Collaborations |
Inclusiveness | Service | Advocacy

CHAMBER PROGRAMS FOCUS

Service to members
Positive promotion of the parish
Leadership & professional development
Economic impact to the parish
Betterment of Livingston Parish
Engagement of business
Advocacy for the free enterprise system



ELECTIONS

November 6, 2018

- November 6, 2018 | Early voting October 23-30

On the ballot

- Congressional Election - House District 6
- Associate Justice - 5th Supreme Court District
- Public Service Commission - District 2
- Livingston Parish School Board Seats
- Constable Justice of the Peace - Ward 7
- One Half-Cent Sales Tax - Sheriff
- Mayor and Council - Denham Springs
- Mayor and Council - Albany
- Mayor - Killian
- Chief of Police - Albany
- Alderman - Port Vincent

December 8, 2018

- December 8, 2018 | Early voting November 23 - December 1

On the ballot

- Congressional Election

March 24, 2019

- March 24, 2019

On the ballot

- Roadworks tax renewal