

LIVINGSTON PARISH
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

Livingston Parish Business Priorities

— **2019** —

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 1920s - 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

INSURANCE PREMIUMS TO SMALL BUSINESS - CHAMBER ASSOCIATION HEALTH CARE PLANS

The Chamber prioritizes the need to address the high premiums and deductibles which 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 awaits court challenges to the President's Executive Order in regards allowing businesses in a chamber to band together to allow for more affordable insurance as part of association health plans. We will continue to seek solutions to the substantial costs to independent business owners.

SIMPLIFIED SALES TAX COLLECTION

With the business community bearing the responsibility of sales tax collections compliance and expense, the Chamber supports a simplified sales tax collection and remittance process. Businesses that collect sales tax in multiple parishes and taxing districts have a cumbersome and costly process to follow. Businesses are held accountable for confusion in taxing districts due to the complex address procedures and accessibility.

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.

JOBS AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Concerns with our employee base are ongoing and continue to get worse. The Chamber advocates for funds for employee training to ensure 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.

CHAMBER BUSINESS PRIORITIES

TAXES & REGULATORY ISSUES

The burden of taxes and regulatory compliance on businesses are 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. Concerns with our employee base are ongoing and continue to get worse.

STATEWIDE RIDESHARE LEGISLATION

Because ride share must fill the the gap of transportation needs in Livingston Parish, the Chamber is a signatory of and supports supports comprehensive statewide legislation to allow companies like Lyft and Uber to operate across Louisiana with one clear set of rules for ridesharing paving the way for these innovative transportation services throughout the entire state.

NFIP PREMIUMS - NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Affordable flood insurance premiums are a necessity in Livingston Parish. The financial stability of the program must be addressed to allow homeowners and businesses to purchase flood insurance at reasonable rates. The Chamber is a signatory of the Coalition for Sustainable Flood Insurance headed by GNO, Inc.

TRANSPORTATION | INFRASTRUCTURE | ROADS

The Chamber aligns with the business community and business organizations to address long overdue traffic solutions through dedicated funding. 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.

CHAMBER BUSINESS PRIORITIES

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION 2020

The Chamber supports a Constitutional Convention to address the ongoing issues of limited budget control and restraints. A Constitutional Convention is a method to streamline, simplify and re-structure Louisiana's system of government. Louisiana's constitution is too long and confusing, 10 times longer than the U.S. Constitution, Changed 189 times in 44 years and protects special Interests.

BUSINESS & EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

Chamber business and education partnerships 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.

LITTER PRIORITIES | QUALITY OF LIFE

As a priority of the Chamber to take action on the litter and the message it sends, the Chamber supports legislation which protects organizations who organize such efforts. Collaborations on meaningful projects are a priority to address this issue in our parish.

PARISH MASTER PLAN

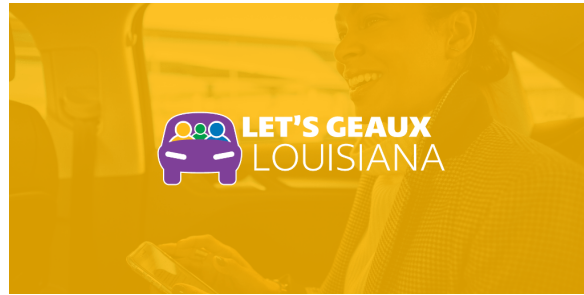
The Chamber intends to seek information and provide information on the business on the Master Plan and the committee's actions. As outlined in this guide, the business community should be considered and have the opportunity to weigh in on the plan of action.

ALBANY FIRE DISTRICT TAX RENEWAL

The Chamber supported the Fire District 10 Mil Renewal. The renewal passed positively by voters on the May 4, 2019 election.

CHAMBER COALITIONS

Coalitions the Chamber is signed on to and their links:



**Let's Geaux
Louisiana Coalition**



**coalition for sustainable
flood insurance**

**Coalition for
Sustainable Flood
Insurance**



**CONSTITUTIONAL
COALITION 2020**

**Constitutional
Coalition 2020**

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

Chad Bacas, P.E. MBA

President

Forte & Tablada, Inc.

2019 Committee Chair

Candy Forbes

President | Owner

Denham Springs Housing

2019 Board Chair

Kimberly Sanders, MBA

CPA | Partner

LA Champagne, LLP

2019 Committee Co Chair

John Holmes

President | Owner

Holmes Building Materials

John Blount

President | Owner

Blount General Contractors

Todd Caruso

Owner

Todd Caruso Attorney

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

President

Quality Engineering

Robert Morgan

Attorney

Morgan Law Associates, LLC

Shelby Carnahan

Owner | CPA

Carnahan Andrews CPA

Tracy Randazzo

VP of Strategy & Outreach

North Oaks Health System

Shannon Bernard

Regional VP

Primerica

Curt Nickels

Agent

Farm Bureau Insurance

Steve McLin

President | Owner

McLin Construction, LLC

James Moak

President | Owner

Gulf South Technology, LLC

Ross Kinchen

Liaison Livingston Young

Professionals

April Wehrs, IOM

President | CEO

Livingston Parish Chamber

Jeremy Aydell

Franchisee | Owner

Sport Clips

Kacie Stewart

Owner

Stewart Family Medicine



LIVINGSTON PARISH CHAMBER

MISSION, GOALS, VISION,
VALUES, FOCUS

THE MISSION of the Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce is to serve business, enhance community and advance the economy 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

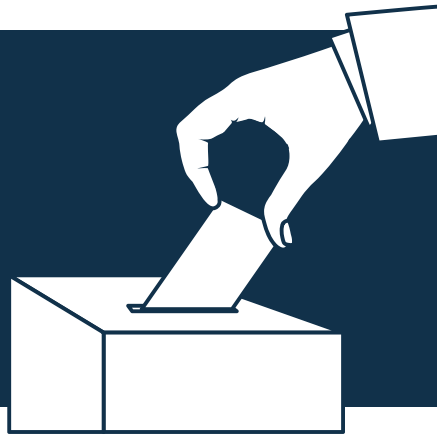
To be recognized for our unique and invaluable role in helping businesses prosper and our communities thrive.

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

March 30, 2019

- March 30, 2019 | Early voting March 16-23

On the ballot

May 4, 2019

- May 4, 2019 | Early voting April 20-27

On the ballot

- Mosquito Abatement districts 2 & 3 - Failed
 - Fire protection District 1 - 10 mil renewal - Passed
-

October 12, 2019

- October 12, 2019 | Early voting September 28-October 5

On the ballot

- Gubernatorial Primary
-

November 16, 2019

- November 16, 2019 | Early voting November 2-November 9

On the ballot

- Gubernatorial General
-

February 29, 2020

- February 29, 2020 | Early voting February 15-February 22

On the ballot

- Presidential Primary
- Road Tax Renewal