



**LIVINGSTON PARISH
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**



2021

**LIVINGSTON
PARISH
BUSINESS
PRIORITIES**

Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce
248 Veterans Boulevard
Denham Springs, LA 70726
livingstonparishchamber.org

LIVINGSTON PARISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Representing Livingston Parish Business
since the 1920s - Incorporated 1966



GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM PURPOSE

- **Offer a collective voice and** representation of the Livingston Parish Business Community.
- **Engage** business owners on policy that impacts their business.
- **Facilitate open** dialogue with elected officials and business leaders.
- **Act as a conduit** of information between government and business.
- **Inform the business community** of proposed actions and opportunities to effectively weigh in on business policy.
- **Support government** on actions which align with business priorities and better Livingston Parish communities.
- **Develop and maintain** solid working relationships with government entities on behalf of the business community.
- **Work toward** the common goal of a stronger, better and competitive Livingston Parish.
- **Lead, collaborate** and support items and projects which meet our mission.
- **Provide information** to support an informed voter base.



LIVINGSTON PARISH BUSINESS PRIORITIES PARISH 2021

DRAINAGE PARISH WIDE

Drainage and flooding concerns are a high priority for all in Livingston Parish. The potential for community and economic devastation is well known in our area.

It is a comprehensive problem that warrants the development of a comprehensive parish wide plan and solution. Ongoing awareness of the actions in place and education are essential to support the business community and community at large.

ROAD TAX BASS PRO FUNDS

The Chamber heavily supported the recent parish wide road tax renewal. The Chamber was also a partner on the Bass Pro project working as an agent on the materials and as an information source to voters of the opportunities of the project. With both of these project bond obligations being fulfilled soon, how roads, litter and other priorities will be impacted will be of interest to the business community.

LITTER PARISH WIDE

With the connection that litter has to drainage, business attraction and escalating public concern, the time is now to take aggressive action to combat the extensive litter problem. This includes: addressing the problem parish wide, funding, signage, collaborations, ordinances, enforcement and public-private partnerships. Since 2018, the Chamber has been a partner offering marketing and business engagement and support of solutions of the problem.

BOARD & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Consideration of business leaders, especially chamber businesses leaders, who by association are engaged, informed, and knowledgeable, is respectfully requested when considering appointments to board seats. The chamber can provide willing business leaders who are valuable resources and dedicated to the success of Livingston Parish.

PARISH MASTER PLAN

The Chamber supports the following:

- Converting the current Master Plan to a usable document under today's landscape.
- Funding the project so that it has real substance and value.
- Finding new ways to address old problems. Looking to communities that have had success.
- Hiring experts in the area of land usage.

CHAMBER ACTIONS & WATCH

Additional areas to to watch include:

- Informed Livingston Parish Businesses
- Informed Voters - Candidates, elections, voter information
- Redistricting for 2021
- The need for parish wide Animal Control.
- Federal funds from COVID



LIVINGSTON PARISH BUSINESS PRIORITIES STATE 2021

SALES TAX COLLECTION

Businesses bear the responsibility of sales tax collections, compliance and expense. The Chamber supports a simplified sales tax collection and remittance process. Multiple taxing districts are cumbersome and costly to navigate with business being held accountable for the confusion in taxing districts, varying rules, processes.

LOUISIANA TAX CODE

With the current tax code, Louisiana is viewed as less competitive as other states in our region making our state less attractive to economic gains. The business community supports a simplified taxing process for corporations and individuals.

GAS TAX

Solutions to address the back log of infrastructure improvements will likely be presented in the form of an additional gas tax. Voters will be looking for a transparency and clarity in how the funds today and how any new funds would be utilized including the impact to our region.

LEGAL LIABILITY FOR EMPLOYERS COVID

COVID has placed an unprecedented strain on employers of all size, and particularly small business. With suits against employers already mounting, state legislation protecting employers is supported.

LITTER PICK UP LIABILITY TO INCLUDE 501C NON PROFITS

State laws were passed that reduce liability to public entities engaged in structuring and hosting litter pick ups in their communities. Non profits were not included in this protection and distinction limiting an important partner in addressing the litter problem in our state.

WORKFORCE EDUCATION | CHILD CARE

The impact on the workplace through COVID shut downs has presented a greater than normal challenge to the workplace with families juggling work, child care and educating students at home. The new workplace must adjust to accommodate this important part of the workforce and education.



LIVINGSTON PARISH BUSINESS PRIORITIES FEDERAL 2021

MINIMUM WAGE OPPOSED TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Minimum wage should continue to be determined by market forces. Responsible businesses currently pay more than minimum wage for qualified, skilled workers. Wages should be tied to experience, skill and market variables.

LIABILITY PROTECTION FOR EMPLOYERS (COVID)

COVID has placed an unprecedented strain on employers of all size, and particularly small business. With suits against employers already mounting, federal legislation should be in place now to protect employers.

OPPOSE THE PRO ACT THAT LIMITS FREELANCERS

Protecting the Right to Work Act is aimed at 59 million freelancer jobs is the wrong bill at any time, but moreso, this time. The freelancer economy works and its an integral part of our federal, state and local economies.

RECOVERY FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Focus and funding to support our small businesses should be a top priority for federal funds and programming. Legislation that would do more harm than good to the business community should not be a consideration. Fund the associations that are at local level and have been an information hub for business since day one of the shut downs.

FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION

Actions by the new executive branch that do not align with local priorities include:

- Opposition to the oil and energy sectors of our economy.
- Halting of the Keystone Pipeline supported in our state.
- Funding projects that do not place our country and economy first.

CHAMBER ACTIONS

We will continue our commitment and actions of assisting the local business community in navigating PPP forgiveness and federal funds. The Chamber will continue to build our partnerships and relationships with our federal delegation, nationwide chamber industry and associations that align with our priorities.

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.
- 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 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

Jeremy Aydell

Franchisee | Owner
Sport Clips

2021 Committee Chair

Kacie Stewart

Owner
Stewart Family Medicine

2022 Board Chair

Chad Bacas, P.E. MBA

President
Forte & Tablada, Inc.
Transportation Updates

John Holmes

President | Owner
Holmes Building Materials
Sales Tax | Materials Supply

April Wehrs, IOM

President | CEO
Livingston Parish Chamber
Association Protocol

Trey Sanders

Partner
Hannis T Bourgeois
2021 Board Chair | Budget

John Blount

President | Owner
Blount General Contractors
Litter Initiative

Jamie Seal

VP of Operations
Quality Engineering
Drainage

James Moak

President | Owner
Gulf South Technology, LLC
Animal Control

Candy Forbes

President | Owner
Denham Springs Housing
Federal | Local Issues

Robert Morgan

Attorney
Morgan Law Associates, LLC

Todd Caruso

Partner
BHCA, Attorneys
2021 Co Chair

Shannon Bernard

Regional VP
Primerica
Education Updates

Steve McLin

President | Owner
McLin Construction, LLC
Master Plan | Drainage

Shelby Carnahan

Owner | CPA
Carnahan Andrews CPA
Federal & State

Regina Scott

VP - Team
North Oaks Health System

Curt Nickels

Agent
Farm Bureau Insurance



THE MISSION

of the Chamber is to serve business, enhance our 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

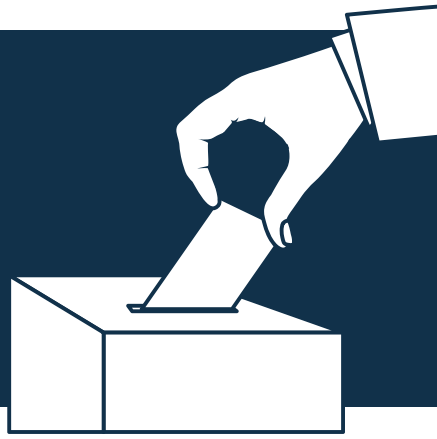
To be recognized for our unique and invaluable role in helping businesses prosper and our communities thrive.

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 24, 2021 - Election Day

- Early voting | March 6 - 13

On the ballot

- Killian Mayor and Alderman
 - Springfield Mayor and Alderman
 - Port Vincent Alderman
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April 24, 2021

- Early voting | April 10 - 17

On the ballot

- School Bond
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2022

- March 26th, April 30th,
- November 8th, December 10th

On the ballot

- School Board
 - Albany Municipal Elections
 - Denham Springs Municipal Elections
 - Congressional Seats
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