



LIVINGSTON PARISH  
**CHAMBER**  
OF COMMERCE



**2022**

**LIVINGSTON  
PARISH  
BUSINESS  
PRIORITIES**

Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce  
248 Veterans Boulevard  
Denham Springs, LA 70726  
[livingstonparishchamber.org](http://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 - MUNICIPAL 2022

## **BUSINESS CHALLENGES**

Businesses are faced with challenges that are escalating and threaten their ability to sustain and elevate the economy. Support of the business community as they are faced with unprecedented challenges and prepare for next level issues. Support of the efforts of the parish's business association, the Chamber, to convene business and collaborate on solutions.

## **EMPLOYEE ISSUES FOR BUSINESS**

Every employer, private or public, is impacted by the escalation of the workforce challenges. Without staff, businesses will not have the resources to generate economic gains. As this impacts every area of the municipalities and parish, the approach should be collective with a pooling of resources. Some in mind are a local jobs board - already in place - plus the support of collective business and education partnerships.

## **LITTER PARISH WIDE**

With the connection that litter has to drainage, business attraction and escalating public concern, it is time to take aggressive action to combat the 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.

## **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.

## **CHAMBER ACTIONS & WATCH**

Additional areas to to watch include:

- Parish Master Plan
- Changes to NFIP and the local impact
- Informed Voters - Candidates, elections, voter information
- Redistricting for 2022
- Parish wide Animal Control.
- Federal funds from COVID



# LIVINGSTON PARISH BUSINESS PRIORITIES STATE 2022

## EMPLOYEE ISSUES FOR BUSINESS

Every employer, private or public, is impacted by the escalation of the workforce challenges. Without a workforce, businesses will not have the resources to generate economic gains. As this impacts every area of the municipalities and parish, the approach should be collective with pooling of resources. A local jobs board - already in place - and support of collective business and education partnerships.

## GIG ECONOMY

A gig economy is here to stay and it's been known that a gig economy would be a driver in the economy.

Exploring road blocks and challenges to businesses that will have to utilize these types of production will be key for Louisiana's future.

## CAREER READINESS FOR EMPLOYMENT

Exploring creative ways to prepare students for the workforce. Review and address potentially outdated processes that impede entry to the workforce.

The new workplace must adjust to accommodate this important part of the workforce and education

## MOVE LOUISIANA FORWARD

Talks of moving Louisiana out of the bottom ranking on important quality of life and economic opportunities should be a priority for every one in the state.

Actions that are measurable will be a determining factor in our ability to raise the standard for our state.

## 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.

## INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Those include:

Internet access for underserved and unserved areas.

Road improvements and traffic improvements as the I-12 corridor continues to expand.

Funding for highways to alleviate bottlenecks in Livingston Parish.



# LIVINGSTON PARISH BUSINESS PRIORITIES FEDERAL 2022

## **SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY**

Small business recovery is key. Lawmakers should recognize policy that would do more harm than good to the business community. Taking time to learn from small businesses and adjusting policy based on their input is key. Reinstate the Employer Retention Tax Credit

## **WAGE MANDATES**

The business community has long noted that market forces drive wages. As the demand for workers increases, businesses are making the adjustments in pay to fill positions in the workplace. Responsible businesses currently pay more than minimum wage for qualified, skilled workers. Wages should be tied to experience, skill and market variables.

## **CHALLENGES IN WORKFORCE**

Federal policy and actions that allow employers flexibility in the workplace is the new normal. The reality of today's workforce and the ability of employers to adjust to growing changes is essential. Employers are making adjustment, federal policies should not bring new demands to employers.

## **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.
- Funding projects that do not place our country and economy first.

## **OPPOSE THE PRO ACT**

The freelancer economy works and is an integral part of our federal, state and local economies. The coming changes that create a gig economy have been known for over a decade.

## **NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE**

New federal legislation has resulted in dramatic swings in flood insurance premiums. The impact of the new rating scale is becoming evident and is expected to challenge communities and their residents. Lawmakers and administration should be prepared to provide concrete guidance on the policy, plus be prepared to make adjustments as it correlates to local economies.

# 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

**2022 Committee Chair**

## **Trey Sanders**

Partner  
Hannis T Bourgeois

**Budget - Public funds**

## **Chad Bacas, P.E. MBA**

President  
Forte & Tablada, Inc.

**Infrastructure**

## **Ross Kinchen**

President | Owner  
The Kinchen Group

**Master Plan | Development**

## **April Wehrs, IOM**

President | CEO  
Livingston Parish Chamber

**Association Protocol**

## **David Hoffstetter**

Owner - Franchisee  
Restoration 1

## **Kacie Stewart**

Owner  
Kalon Clinic

**2022 Board Chair**

## **John Blount**

President | Owner  
Blount General Contractors

**Ordinances & Litter**

## **Jamie Seal**

VP of Operations  
Quality Engineering

**Drainage**

## **James Moak**

President | Owner  
Gulf South Technology, LLC

**Broadband**

## **Candy Forbes**

President | Owner  
Denham Springs Housing

**Federal | Local Issues**

## **Matthew Adams**

Regional Manager  
AT&T

## **Todd Caruso**

Partner  
BHCA, Attorneys

**2022 Co Chair**

## **Shannon Bernard**

Regional VP  
Primerica

**Education Initiatives**

## **Steve McLin**

President | Owner  
McLin Construction, LLC

**Development**

## **Shelby Carnahan**

Owner | CPA  
Carnahan Andrews CPA

**Federal & State**

## **Regina Scott**

VP - Team  
North Oaks Health System

**Healthcare**

## **Curt Nickels**

Agent  
Farm Bureau Insurance

**NFIP**



## **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.

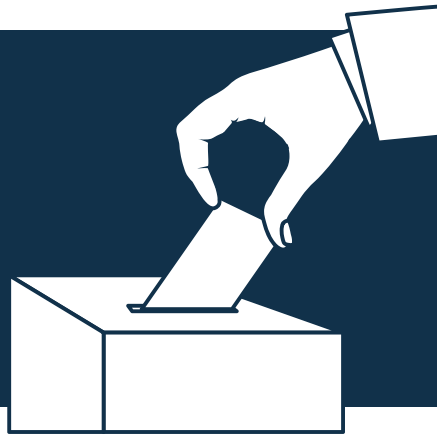
## **CHAMBER VALUES**

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

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## March 26, 2022 - Election Day

- Early voting | March 12 - 19

### On the ballot

- School Board Renewal Tax
  - French Settlement Alderman
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## April 30, 2022

- Early voting | April 16 - 23

### On the ballot

- Possible - Albany Schools Tax New
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## November 8, 2022

- Early voting | October 25 - Nov 1st

### On the ballot

- US Senate
  - US Congress
  - Denham Springs - Mayor & Council
  - Albany - Mayor, Police Chief, Council
  - School Board Parish Wide
  - Judges
-



# HAVE A VOICE

## ADVOCACY

## CHAMBER GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS - POLICY - BUSINESS - ISSUES

**What policies are helping or harming your business? What makes the communities in the parish positive?**

If you are in business, you are impacted by policy. Learning more about business and industry helps prepare your business.

You have a say in what's better for business and improving Livingston Parish communities as a place to do business, work, live and enjoy life. **Get informed.**

## LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT

### MINIMAL - EASIEST WAY TO ENGAGE

- **Read the correspondence-** that comes out on governmental - business affairs. One a month or more if there is an issue needing attention.
- **Respond to surveys and polls** they are what is used to convey what is a problem and what helps.
- **Review the Chamber's Annual Policy Agenda** Let us know if we are on the right track in representing your business.
- **Bring us your issues.** Tell us what your issues are. Your elected officials want to know how policy is impacting you.

### MID LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT - OCCASIONAL

- **Annual Policy Address State Chamber** - state's business priorities as researched by LABI
- **Legislative** pre and post session meetings - Hosted by the chamber with our state delegation.
- **State of the Parish** - An update on our parish. Annually in August.
- **Mayors Address** - Mayors from throughout the parish
- **Business & Industry** - Updates from industry
- **Other Involvement** - Directly sponsor and support the program, media or event.
- **Forums & Elections** - Varies with elections in each year.

### MOST INVOLVED - MONTHLY - ONGOING

- **Committee - Meets most months** - Issues discussion and research between meetings as assigned and in your wheelhouse.
- Engaged in issues facing business at any level of government. Must be authorized to represent your business.
- **Scorecard of Our Success** The Chamber keeps a scorecard of stance on issues taken and outcome.
- **Business & Industry Updates** At least quarterly, committee meetings take place at these events open to membership. Informative sessions.
- Presence at Parish, Municipal and Committee Meetings as needed.
- **Federal Level Interaction** - For federal level authority and policy. Fly ins, engagement.