



2024

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



birmingham
businessalliance

THE CHAMBER FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY





LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Birmingham Business Alliance (BBA) is pleased to present the 2024 BBA Legislative Agenda highlighting our priorities ahead of the Alabama Legislative Session. This year's agenda is divided into three sections:

1. Lead priorities signify items BBA will directly work on and take lead responsibility.
2. Support priorities are important to BBA, but these priorities will be worked on in coordination with other organizations.
3. Long-term priorities are impactful items, but they may take longer to come to fruition and may yet to have legislation associated with them

Each lead, support and long-term item is further classified into the following three categories:

- (L) local
- (S) state
- (F) federal

Please note: Items may be placed in one, two or all three categories.

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LEAD PRIORITIES

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES L S F

BBA supports legislation that allows any county or group of counties to establish an Office of Emergency Services (OES) for the provision of emergency services, including E911 Operations, emergency management agencies and related services and operations.

THE SITE EVALUATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (SEED) STRATEGY ACT L S F

BBA supports legislation that will create funding mechanisms and sources for the SEED Act. The SEED Act allows the State Industrial Development Authority to accelerate the development of industry-ready sites due to a scarcity of available sites within the state.

INVESTING IN INNOVATION DISTRICTS L S F

BBA supports legislation that will give cities and counties the authority to establish innovation districts that will allow for tax and other incentives to companies focused on research and innovation that will lead to the creation of jobs in those sectors.

BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN COLLEGE L S F

BBA is acutely aware of the position that Birmingham-Southern College (BSC) holds in nurturing and educating our future leaders. BBA wholeheartedly supports BSC in its efforts to solidify and seek funding from the State Legislature, including clarification of the funding legislation passed in 2023 and other fundraising efforts of the institution. We understand the significance of BSC, and should the institution be forced to close, it will be a loss not only to the City of Birmingham but also to the entire state.

PORT OF BIRMINGHAM EXPANSION L S F

BBA supports expansion of the Port of Birmingham and strongly urges the State Legislature to increase funding for all of Alabama's inland ports. This includes but is not limited to Legislative action, grants and appropriations.

CHILD CARE TAX CREDITS L S F

BBA supports legislation that enhances childcare tax credits for families, providers and educators not only to support workforce needs in an impactful way but, also workforce accessibility for working parents. These tax credits will help solve the need for 500,000 skilled workers in the next five years.

SUPPORT PRIORITIES

NORTHERN BELTLINE L S F

BBA supports the construction, full funding and timely completion of the Northern Beltline as an essential component of the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) to support economic development and additional job creation in the region and the state.

NATIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS INSTITUTE (NCFI) L S F

BBA supports the continued expansion of the NCFI facility with support from the state and federal governments.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EV) L S F

BBA supports statewide efforts to plan and establish an electric vehicle charging infrastructure network to conduct EV technology education and implement EV-related workforce development programs. These efforts help Alabama remain competitive as an automotive manufacturing state, support consumer decisions to transition to electric vehicles and help communities attract EV drivers who spend money on goods and services while stopping to charge their vehicles. BBA further supports efforts to encourage the development of Alabama's graphite resources for battery manufacturing.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (ADEM) FUNDING L S F

BBA supports sustained and adequate funding of the ADEM to ensure that it retains primary responsibility over regulatory programs. This includes supporting sufficient appropriations from the state's General Fund to ADEM.

JEFFERSON COUNTY AND CITY OF BIRMINGHAM PERSONNEL BOARD L S F

BBA supports a fair, balanced, and equitable evaluation of the Personnel Board that represents all cities currently served within the boundaries of Jefferson County.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE L S F

BBA supports developing innovative policy solutions that would reduce or restrain the rising cost of prescription drugs and, thus, prescription drug coverage that must be borne by Alabama's employers and employees.

HEALTH CARE BENEFITS L S F

BBA opposes mandating employer-provided health care benefits or any legislation, resolution, or regulation that would increase health plan costs without positively impacting access to or quality of care. BBA also opposes measures that place limitations on out-of-pocket medical expenditures for health care or prescription drugs if the impact of such measures would be to increase the premiums for coverage paid by employers and their employees.

METRO AREA TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE L S F

BBA supports funding for the improvement of roads, bridges and other transportation infrastructure in the Birmingham metro area.

LONG-TERM PRIORITIES

FUNDING FOR UNDERREPRESENTED AND MINORITY COMPANIES L S F

BBA supports continuing funding programs for underrepresented companies to facilitate the growth of small, minority and women-owned businesses and job creation in these businesses. This support aligns with Governor Ivey’s Game Plan: Innovation and Small Business Act, which aimed to stimulate the growth of Alabama’s innovation economy and support underrepresented businesses.

STREAMLINE PERMITTING PROCESSES L S F

BBA supports efforts of municipalities and counties in the Greater Birmingham Region to streamline and clarify zoning, permitting, and licensing processes to make them more business-friendly, one-stop-shop systems and online permitting options.

CONSUMER LENDING PRACTICES L S F

BBA supports continued legislation to reform Alabama’s laws regulating lending practices that include but are not limited to payday loans and title loans.

BROADBAND POLICY INITIATIVE L S F

BBA supports broadband policies that promote (1) increased access to affordable broadband for all Alabamians, (2) the efficient deployment of advanced technology platforms, (3) continued investment and innovation to enhance deployment across Alabama and (4) competition and choice for Alabama’s businesses and residents.

TALENT RECRUITMENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT L S F

BBA supports initiatives that enhance the state’s ability to retain talent, and we continue to support all efforts to better align Central Six’s workforce initiatives and programs through the seven regional workforce councils.

CLOSING THE COVERAGE GAP L S F

BBA supports responsibly investing in health care, closing the coverage gap and pursuing innovative solutions that preserve employer-provided and commercial healthcare benefits while maximizing available federal funds.

MASS TRANSIT L S F

BBA supports increased mass transit funding to provide affordable public transportation alternatives in urban and suburban areas for quality-of-life solutions and to reduce toxic air pollution.

OPPORTUNITY ZONES L S F

BBA supports efforts by the State of Alabama to take full advantage of the 34 designated qualified Opportunity Zones in our seven-county region. This vital economic development program serves as a portal to attract both national and international dollars to local projects and underserved communities.

LONG-TERM PRIORITIES

PRE-K INITIATIVE L S F

BBA supports the expansion of the state's high-quality, voluntary pre-K program. BBA supports investing in our children to establish a strong foundation for early learning, which will also positively impact student performance related to the Alabama Literacy Act, which requires third graders to read on grade level before being promoted.

UNIFIED AUDIT PROCESS L S F

BBA supports implementing a unified audit process that is recognized by all levels of government and private auditing firms for the same tax and same tax periods.

NEW MARKET TAX CREDITS L S F

BBA supports making the New Market tax credits permanent or reauthorizing the tax credits available under the Alabama New Markets Development Act for certain investments in qualifying low-income communities.







Birmingham Business Alliance is proud to be a part of the Greater Birmingham Region.



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