

# Legislative Action

## Economic Development & Tax

**Encourage** investment and job growth in order to make Alabama more competitive with other Southern states by enacting economic development incentives:

- Extend the Alabama Historic Tax Credit program beyond 2016 and increase amount of credits issued annually.
- Create Research-and-Development Tax Credits modeled after the federal R&D credit and with an enhanced credit for Alabama-based academic or nonprofit research institutions.
- Expand the New Markets Development Tax Credit program by increasing the individual project cap and the aggregate cap.
- Establish a New Income Tax Credit available to companies with increased cargo volume through any publicly-owned facility located within the Port of Mobile.

**Curb** blight and enhance the development and growth within the city of Mobile by restructuring the existing Mobile Redevelopment Authority with an expanded scope to include residential properties.

**Maintain** federal military contracts with Mobile-area based companies, particularly for the construction of Austal's Littoral Combat Ships, Joint High Speed Vessels and future small Surface Combatant ships, as well as Ingalls Shipbuilding's LHA/LPD Amphibious Assault Ships and Coast Guard cutters.

**Increase** access to global markets through fair trade initiatives and agreements, including the continued funding of the Ex-Im Bank, the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), and the reduction of trade and tourism restrictions with Cuba.

**Support** federal immigration reform that will secure our borders, establish reasonable and effective visa policies/procedures, and recognize the need to attract professional and highly-valued workers to the U.S.

## Education & Workforce Development

**Continue** to adequately fund Alabama's Education budget in order to ensure the most up-to-date facilities, tools and services for Alabama schools as well as the expansion of Alabama's First Class pre-kindergarten to all Alabama four-year-olds.

**Continue** the full funding and implementation of the Alabama Board of Education's PLAN 2020, which includes the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards, Alabama Reading Initiative, Alabama Math Science Technology Initiative, dual-enrollment programs, and other innovative and flexible college prep and career-ready programs; and oppose any legislation or administrative action which deters it.

**Seek** a FY 2017 appropriation for the University of South Alabama that reflects the institution's successful enrollment growth.

## Healthcare

**Explore** existing and future options for funding Medicaid in Alabama, either through the participation in federal Medicaid expansion or growth of Regional Care Organizations.

**Seek** an equitable resolution on the Medicare wage index issue so that hospitals in the region will be fairly reimbursed for the Medicare services they provide.

**Seek** a permanent funding source for Mobile's Programs for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and the expansion of such cost-saving programs across the state.

## Energy, Environment & Infrastructure

**Ensure** that RESTORE Act penalties and BP economic damage settlement funds support the long-term economic and environmental restoration in the Alabama coastal counties and that a significant portion of funds are sent to coastal counties affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and not used to make up state-wide revenue shortfalls or debt payments.

**Fund** the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to ensure the continued environmental scrutiny of state-wide economic development that will safeguard against the increased over-reach and cost of EPA involvement.

**Preserve** jobs and economic growth through the removal of barriers that can derail infrastructure projects and the reduction of overly burdensome regulations.

**Increase** the supply of energy in a manner that is safe and protective of the environment through a comprehensive energy policy that promotes energy conservation and encourages research and development of clean and alternative energy sources.

**Support** funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District for the annual operations, maintenance and necessary dredging of Alabama's waterways, including the Bayou la Batre and Coden ship channels in order to expand existing or secure new shallow port industries and jobs.

**Continue** funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District Civil Works program in support of the annual operations and the deepening and widening of the Mobile Ship Channel.

**Support** the design phase of the proposed I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway widening project and partner with the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to actively seek construction funding.

## Small Business

**Seek** more affordable and readily available coastal homeowners insurance through the action steps identified by the governor's Hurricane Homeowners workgroup.

**Protect** an employer's right to provide a safe workplace by opposing any legislation that would keep an employer or property owner from restricting firearm possession on company or private property.

**Support** all efforts to decrease workers' compensation medical costs in Alabama by taking measures to decrease fraud in unemployment and workers' compensation claims:

- Maintain current Alabama laws that support an employer's right to choose the treating physician and second physician in workers' compensation claims.
- Enact statutes that allow businesses to perform the Workman's Compensation claim checks prior to hire.

**Support** local small business and provide a level playing field for all retailers through the collection of state and local sales tax from all online transactions.

**Close** the loophole in Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide businesses with clearer rules for identifying and correcting ADA access violations in order to avoid excessive and frivolous lawsuits and ensure fully-accessible public buildings and spaces.

# Legislative Directory

**Senator Gregory Albritton**  
State Senator District 22  
(334) 242-7800  
gregory.albritton@alhouse.gov

**Representative Alan Baker**  
State Representative District 66  
(251) 867-0244  
staterep@co.escambia.al.us

**Representative Elaine Beech**  
State Representative District 65  
(251) 847-2604  
elainebeech83@gmail.com

**Representative Napoleon Bracy Jr.**  
State Representative District 98  
(251) 622-8118  
napoleon@napoleonbracy.com

**Representative James Buskey**  
State Representative District 99  
(251) 457-7928  
james.buskey@alhouse.org

**Representative Adline Clarke**  
State Representative District 97  
(251) 434-2238  
adline.clarke@alhouse.gov

**Representative Randy Davis**  
State Representative District 96  
(251) 442-2552  
rmdavis14@aol.com

**Representative Barbara Drummond**  
State Representative District 103  
(251) 471-5015  
drummondbarbara@att.net

**Representative Joe Faust**  
State Representative District 94  
(251) 928-5445  
jfaust@co.baldwin.al.us

**Senator Vivian Davis Figures**  
State Senator District 33  
(251) 457-4567  
vivian.figures@alsenate.gov

**Representative Victor Gaston**  
State Representative District 100  
(251) 208-5480  
hvgaston04@yahoo.com

**Senator Rusty Glover**  
State Senator District 35  
(251) 649-7380  
kay.dierlam@alsenate.gov

**Senator Bill Hightower**  
State Senator District 35  
(251) 219-0078  
bill.hightower@alsenate.gov

**Representative Thomas Jackson**  
State Representative District 68  
(334) 636-8119  
thomas.jackson@alhouse.gov

**Representative Steve A. McMillan**  
State Representative District 95  
(251) 948-5575  
bcl07@gmail.com

**Senator Trip Pittman**  
State Senator District 32  
(251) 621-3555  
trip.pittman@alsenate.gov

**Representative Chris Pringle**  
State Representative District 101  
(251) 341-1110  
chrispringle@southerntimberlands.com

**Representative David Sessions**  
State Representative District 105  
(251) 865-4275  
d.r.sessions@att.net

**Representative Harry Shiver**  
State Representative District 64  
(251) 937-1391  
harryshiver@aol.com

**Representative Margie Wilcox**  
State Representative District 104  
(251) 476-7711  
margie.wilcox@alhouse.gov

**Representative Jack Williams**  
State Representative District 102  
(251) 331-1979  
jackwilliams55@icloud.com



**MOBILE AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

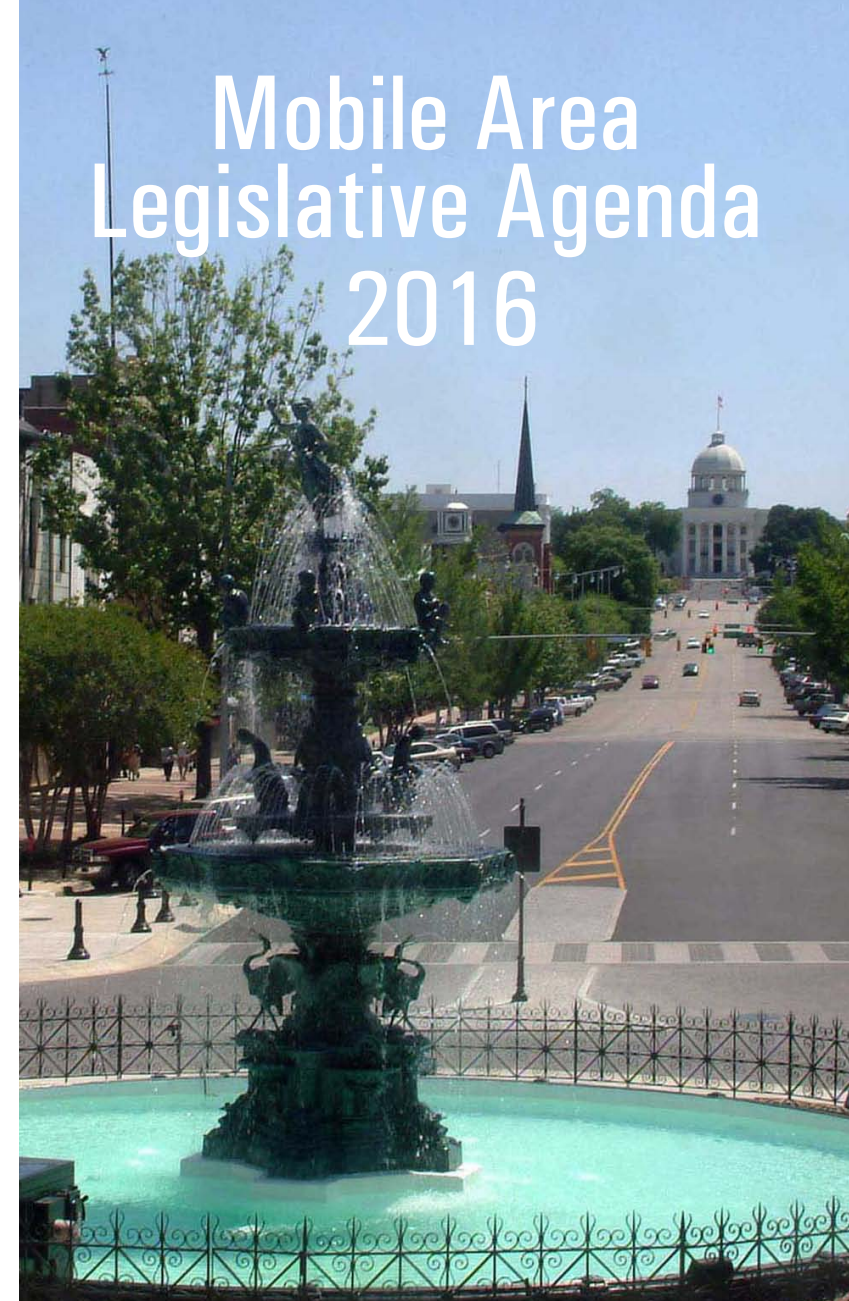
[www.mobilechamber.com](http://www.mobilechamber.com)

**Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce Staff**  
William B. Sisson, President & CEO  
Robert L. Chappelle, Executive Vice President  
Ginny K. Russell, Vice President, Community & Governmental Affairs  
Patty Howell, Director of Regional Affairs, Community & Governmental Affairs  
Carolyn Hunt, Administrative Assistant, Community & Governmental Affairs

451 Government St. Mobile AL 36602  
(251) 433-6951

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce serves as a progressive advocate for business needs to promote the Mobile area's economic well being.

# Mobile Area Legislative Agenda 2016



Serving as a progressive advocate for business, the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce supports and encourages work at all levels of government. Our advocacy work will stimulate jobs; support non-regressive sources of revenue without levying a disproportionate burden on any individual segment of Alabama's economy; seek efficiencies in government and protect fundamental public services and infrastructure.

The members of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce and Mobile's economic development partners have identified the enclosed legislative goals as fundamental to Alabama's progress because they will help to build additional jobs and a more positive business climate in the Mobile area.

