



Mobile Chamber


Mobile Chamber

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ADVANCING MOBILE
SINCE 1836.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2026

The Mobile Chamber has served as the Mobile area's leading business advocate for 190 years. Mobile connects Alabama to the world, and the Chamber advocates for legislation that grows Mobile and Alabama's influence in the region, across the country and around the world.

2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

KEY PRIORITIES

New Maritime & Advanced Manufacturing Educational Campus

Alabama has an opportunity to lead the nation in preparing a skilled workforce for the rapidly expanding maritime and advanced manufacturing industries along the Gulf Coast. The proposed Maritime Educational Campus, owned by Mobile County Public Schools System (MCPSS) in partnership with Bishop State Community College and the Mobile Area Education Foundation (MAEF), would serve as a comprehensive workforce development hub.

During the school day, the campus would provide students in grades 6–12 with hands-on learning, industry-aligned coursework, and direct exposure to high-wage, high-demand career pathways. In addition, the campus would extend its impact through evening and weekend programs, offering credential-focused training for:

- Adult learners seeking career advancement or retraining
- Opportunity youth who are currently disconnected from school or work and need accessible pathways to employment

This dual-access model ensures the facility is used to its fullest capacity, creating a continuous talent pipeline that supports current industry needs while opening doors to economic opportunity for residents of all ages.

To learn about these key priorities and more, scan here.



Increasing Salaries for Career Technical Education Teachers

To support Alabama's growing economy and strengthen its workforce pipeline, the state must increase compensation for Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers across both high schools and community colleges. These educators are essential in preparing students for skilled careers in high-demand fields such as biosciences, advanced materials, logistics, defense, forestry, agriculture and other industries critical to Alabama's competitiveness.

However, CTE positions are some of the most challenging to fill. Professionals with advanced technical expertise often earn significantly higher wages in private industry, making it difficult for schools to recruit and retain qualified instructors.

Increasing CTE teacher salaries would:

- Attract highly skilled professionals into teaching roles
- Reduce persistent vacancies in critical technical programs
- Keep experienced instructors in classrooms instead of losing them to industry
- Strengthen alignment between education and the state's workforce needs
- Ensure students graduate ready for high-wage, high-demand career pathways

By offering competitive compensation, Alabama can secure the instructional talent necessary to fuel economic development and provide students with the skills needed to excel in the future workforce.

Feel free to reach out to our Government Affairs team at the Mobile Chamber.



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KEEPING ALABAMA OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Mobile Chamber continues to advocate for the protection of businesses, both large and small, from legislation that would open the door to frivolous lawsuits.

The Mobile Chamber advocates for legislation that protects existing business infrastructure and creates an attractive environment for economic development, ensuring Alabama is widely known as a business-friendly state.

The Mobile Chamber supports the funding and construction of the proposed I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway and will partner with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Alabama Department of Transportation to actively seek construction funding through federal grants and other sources.

The Mobile Chamber supports all efforts to increase the \$20 million annual cap and return the qualifying age from 75 years to 60 years for certified historic structures. The Alabama historic tax credit program is a proven incentive to bring more investment capital into projects that positively impact job creation and sustain economic activity, and it is in such demand that projects across the state are waitlisted.

The Mobile Chamber supports increasing the film and music industry in the State of Alabama by advocating for raising the incentive cap.

The Mobile Chamber supports a statewide vote on gaming, including, but not limited to, an education lottery; sportsbook; casino-style games at designated locations; a regulatory body; and a compact with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

The Mobile Chamber supports the Fiscal Year 2026 state supplemental funding request for the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) to complete the necessary funding for construction of the second floor of a new dormitory, providing affordable on-site housing for graduate students conducting research and studies in coastal Alabama. Additionally, DISL seeks funding assistance to replace the deteriorating, 70-year-old Discovery Hall Program classroom building, which serves as a vital educational facility delivering hands-on learning experiences to approximately 10,000 K-12 students, teachers, and chaperones annually, and remote educational programs to an additional 3,500 students statewide.

The Mobile Chamber supports reforms of Alabama's tort laws and other civil justice reforms to strike an appropriate balance between protecting consumer and business interests, building a stronger business climate, and creating a fairer civil justice system for all.

The Mobile Chamber supports state and federal investment in the Alabama Port Authority for capital improvement projects that foster continued growth at the Port of Mobile and throughout the State of Alabama.

The Mobile Chamber supports legislation allowing Class 2 municipalities to expand the amount of taxable property included in TIF districts, giving Mobile greater flexibility to finance redevelopment and economic growth.

The Mobile Chamber supports a fair, open and transparent competitive bidding process that ensures accountability, prevents favoritism and fosters a level playing field for all businesses seeking public contracts.

The Mobile Chamber supports policies that encourage the responsible use of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), to help small businesses compete and grow. The Chamber advocates for balanced, federally guided AI regulations that protect consumers while enabling small businesses to innovate, expand, and adopt new technologies. A uniform federal framework, rather than a patchwork of state-by-state regulations, will provide the consistency and clarity needed to foster innovation and economic growth nationwide.

The Mobile Chamber supports efforts to modernize and streamline the financing and enforcement of improvement district assessments to enhance usability by investors, home builders, and developers. Aligning assessment collection with existing tax lien processes will increase efficiency, reduce legal and administrative costs, and make improvement districts a more practical and competitive tool for funding local infrastructure projects.

The Mobile Chamber supports Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS) in its efforts to protect our water supply. Reliable access to clean, safe and affordable water is not only essential for the health of our residents but also a cornerstone of economic growth and business development in Mobile.

The Mobile Chamber supports policies that invest in and expand access to the arts and creative industries, which drive tourism, fuel small business growth, and strengthen Mobile's ability to attract and retain talent.

TRAINING & ADVANCING ALABAMA'S WORKFORCE

The Mobile Chamber supports expanding compensation incentives for Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers in Alabama's key industries which include mobility, agriculture, chemical manufacturing, defense, forestry, bioscience, healthcare, technology and advanced materials. Offering higher pay and professional development will help attract and retain skilled educators, address workforce shortages and better prepare students for high-demand careers critical to Alabama's economic growth.

The Mobile Chamber supports a \$30-million investment in the south Alabama workforce by constructing a regional advanced manufacturing and maritime training academy, serving grades 6–12 with dual enrollment, and developed by the Mobile Chamber's Workforce Alliance.

The Mobile Chamber supports demand-driven strategic workforce training initiatives in south Alabama's key economic growth sectors, including aerospace, maritime, advanced manufacturing, tourism, healthcare and supply chain.

The Mobile Chamber supports reentry and job skills training programs for those currently in correctional facilities serving sentences for non-violent crimes. Promote and support apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities in partnership with key industry sector employers and community colleges in southwest Alabama.

The Mobile Chamber advocates for the investment in essential support services, including public transportation and childcare, the two most significant barriers to employment and training.

The Mobile Chamber promotes and supports scholarships and other funding opportunities to prepare existing and prospective students to earn credentials through Bishop State Community College's state-of-the-art Advanced Manufacturing Center, preparing individuals to enter high-demand, high-wage manufacturing occupations.

The Mobile Chamber supports increased funding for dual enrollment programs for high school students, rapid skill training programs that lead to industry-recognized credentials, for-credit certificates, degree programs and adult education programs.

The Mobile Chamber supports and promotes the integration of STEM curriculum and career exploration for K-12 students, and aviation training programs such as FlightPath9, Bishop State's aviation manufacturing partnership with Airbus, and the Impact Program with Arcelor Mittal Calvert.

The Mobile Chamber supports additional funding to renovate and modernize Mobile County's high school career- tech centers, which is imperative to ensuring students have access to state-of-the-art facilities, fostering a conducive learning environment aligned with industry standards, better equipping students with the practical skills needed to excel in a rapidly changing job market and contributing to the long-term economic development of this region.

The Mobile Chamber supports the FY 2026 supplemental funding request for ASMS to expand enrollment and construct a new residence hall. As the state's only 100-percent residential school and with 500+ students applying to the school annually, ASMS has played a significant part in school choice since 1989. ASMS also seeks an increased state budget appropriation to enhance facilities, equipment and educational offerings. The school, which was recently ranked "#1 Best Public High School in Alabama" by Niche, is exceeding state averages, including a 100-percent graduation rate and an average ACT score of 30 with 75 percent of graduates attending college in Alabama and 65 percent working in the state.

The Mobile Chamber supports legislation that amends Alabama's Simplified Sellers Use Tax (SSUT) to adjust tax revenue distribution for municipalities impacted by population changes due to annexations, de-annexations, or incorporations.

The Mobile Chamber supports a revision to the SSUT to ensure online purchases of locally sourced goods (i.e. food and groceries) are taxed under local sales tax rates, instead of the standard statewide 8% for online sales.

The Mobile Chamber supports a modification to the CPA licensure requirement, lowering the mandatory education threshold from 150 credit hours to 120 while maintaining rigorous examination and ethics standards. This change will remove a costly barrier to entry, address the growing CPA workforce shortage, and align requirements more closely with the actual competencies needed to succeed in the profession.

The Mobile Chamber supports the USS Alabama Battleship Commission's request for state funding for the construction of a new educational building at USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park.

The Mobile Chamber supports amendments to the Alabama Childcare Tax Credit that improve equity and clarity, ensuring both for-profit and non-profit providers can qualify under consistent criteria, rewarding higher-quality programs, expanding eligibility for employees, and clarifying guidance to maximize employer utilization and statewide economic impact.

MADE IN MOBILE, FOR AMERICA & THE WORLD

The Mobile Chamber supports the continued expansion of the maritime industrial base in Mobile. Mobile County has several shipyards that play an important role in building and repairing ships for the Department of Defense, U.S. Coast Guard, and commercial customers. This sector is both critical to our national defense and to the continued growth of the Mobile economy.

The Mobile Chamber supports free and fair trade and investment policies that expand access to international markets, reduce trade barriers and increase foreign direct investment creating a level playing field to put Mobile area families, businesses and workers first and improve the overall international competitiveness of Alabama exporters.

The Mobile Chamber supports legislation defining "mass balance attribution" in solid waste disposal and recyclable materials management, ensuring clarity and accountability in regulatory frameworks for sustainable waste management practices and promoting a more circular economy.

The Mobile Chamber does not support the broad application of tariffs across all industries, as such measures can create unnecessary barriers to trade, hinder economic growth and increase costs for consumers. However, we do recognize the critical importance of safeguarding national security and protecting strategic industries essential to the country's defense and infrastructure. In these specific cases, the implementation of targeted tariffs may be a necessary tool to preserve domestic capabilities and ensure the long-term security of vital sectors. Our approach emphasizes balance, promoting free and fair trade while addressing genuine national security concerns where appropriate.

The Mobile Chamber supports a reduction of the state's ad valorem tax on manufacturing machinery and equipment. Removing this tax will reduce the cost burden on manufacturers, encourage reinvestment in facilities, and position the state as a more competitive destination for industrial expansion and job creation.

A SAFE AND HEALTHY ALABAMA

The Mobile Chamber supports strong effective measures to address the growing opioid and fentanyl crisis in Alabama that has detrimental effects on the availability of a qualified workforce, workplace safety, public safety and overall community health.

The Mobile Chamber supports efforts to expand mental and behavioral health programs to increase access to mental healthcare, increase diagnoses and reduce suicide rates.

The Mobile Chamber supports congressional reauthorization of the National Estuary Program (NEP). Continuation of the program is essential to sustaining Mobile Bay's environmental resilience, supporting coastal industries, and preserving critical natural assets that underpin regional economic growth.

Upcoming Chamber Events

Stay up-to-date on the latest public policy and networking events.



GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF ALABAMA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

The Mobile Chamber supports the continuation of federal payments to Alabama, specifically Mobile and Baldwin counties, from the 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). Under GOMESA, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas receive a share of the revenue from oil and gas drilling in federal waters, which helps address coastal restoration, hurricane protection and watershed management programs in coastal Alabama.

The Mobile Chamber advocates for investments in climate-resilient infrastructure like a new I-10 Bridge and Bayway in an effort to mitigate damage from future storms.

The Mobile Chamber actively supports buy-local seafood programs by advocating for policies at both the state and federal levels that promote the Gulf Coast seafood industry. This includes working with government agencies to secure funding, providing platforms for local seafood businesses to connect with larger markets, fostering partnerships between seafood producers and local retailers and ensuring sustainability and economic growth for the region's seafood industry.

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES, AMERICA'S LARGEST EMPLOYER

The Mobile Chamber supports preserving jobs and economic growth in all sectors through the reduction of overly burdensome regulations and the advancement of permitting reform. These measures help lower the cost of doing business, reduce uncertainty and prevent unnecessary delays that have the potential to stifle growth.

The Mobile Chamber encourages the representation and engagement of the Alabama Innovation Commission and the Alabama STEM Council to improve the creation and growth of small businesses and entrepreneurial development in Alabama as well as workforce development opportunities across the state.

The Mobile Chamber supports the growth and development of Mobile's entrepreneurial community and Innovation Portal's mapping of entrepreneurial talent to meet the growing technological needs of industry with state funding opportunities. Promote efforts to provide much-needed programming, skills training and funding for entrepreneurial clients, as well as enable the engagement of local industry to identify technological solutions to small business challenges.

The Mobile Chamber, as a member of the I-10 Gulf Coast Chamber Coalition, supports the collaborative efforts to develop collective responses to shared challenges such as FEMA response, wind and flood insurance, infrastructure, oil and gas leasing and coastal protection.

The Mobile Chamber supports extending the notification period for insurance policy cancellations and adjustments, aiming to provide individuals and businesses with increased time to prepare for any potential changes or to seek alternative coverage. This adjustment would offer more stability and assistance to policyholders in navigating insurance transitions.



FUNDAMENTAL FOUNDATIONS FOR ALABAMA

The Mobile Chamber supports increasing Alabama's investment in transportation infrastructure to sustain and promote economic growth, job creation, quality of life and public safety. The Chamber recognizes there will always be a gap between state resources and infrastructure needs, particularly with regard to the development of new projects. The Chamber believes it is critical to invest state resources in roadways that spur economic growth and increase public safety, namely the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project, the US 90/98 Causeway, U.S. HWY 45, the West Alabama Corridor (HWY 43), State Route 158 from Mobile to the Mississippi line, improvements to I-65 and I-10, and Baldwin County Beach Express Extension.

The Mobile Chamber advocates for continued funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District Civil Works program which supports the annual operations and maintenance dredging of the Mobile Ship Channel; and maintain the necessary funding for the operation and maintenance of Alabama's commerce waterways, including the deepening of the Bayou la Batre and Coden ship channels. The Chamber also supports the beneficial use of dredged materials in environmental restoration, coastal resilience and other value-added projects.

The Mobile Chamber supports the Mobile Airport Authority's efforts to secure final funding of Mobile's commercial terminal at the Mobile International Airport.

The Mobile Chamber advocates for adequately funding Alabama's Education budget, including Alabama's first-class pre-kindergarten, career tech, dual enrollment and other innovative programs to ensure an increase in student scoring, higher graduation rates and competitive college-and-career-ready graduates.

The Mobile Chamber supports additional funding in the 2027 fiscal year state budget for the University of South Alabama to recognize its recent enrollment growth and positive community impact, while also providing crucial additional funding for USA Health, the upper Gulf Coast's leading academic healthcare system with the region's most comprehensive burn center, only Level I trauma center, and only Level III neonatal intensive care facility.

The Mobile Chamber supports state investment of one-time and ongoing education funding to enhance the facilities and equipment at all four campuses of Bishop State Community College, focused on improving student support services and workforce development training opportunities to meet regional occupational demand.

The Mobile Chamber supports efforts to expand and maintain comprehensive statewide veterans' assistance programs to ensure Alabama is the best state for military families and personnel (active and retired) to live and work.

The Mobile Chamber supports amending the definition of "low- or moderate-income person or family" to include individuals or families earning up to 140% of the area's average median income (AMI). This adjustment allows municipalities greater flexibility in allocating local funds to support the construction and expansion of workforce housing, addressing the growing demand for affordable housing solutions.

The Mobile Chamber supports creating an additional tax incentive pilot program designed to continue to meet the housing demand of Alabama's workforce. The program would be a state initiative to encourage private investments in workforce housing by offering tax credits to individuals and businesses that contributed to eligible projects. The program incentivizes donations to approved workforce housing projects, granting tax credits equivalent to the amount donated. This setup aims to streamline the acquisition of property, removal of blighted property and infrastructure improvements, incentivizing developers in Alabama to further develop additional housing demands.

The Mobile Chamber supports the Mobile City Council's approval and implementation of ALHB 335, enabling the South Alabama Homebuilders Academy (SAHA) to deliver hands-on training in high-demand construction trades and connect graduates directly with local employers, which strengthens small businesses, fills critical workforce gaps and accelerates economic growth in Mobile's home building sector.

MOBILE METRICS

SINCE 2023

25
Expansion Projects

\$14 Billion
Public and Private
Investment

5,185
New, Direct Jobs

12.6%
Below National Average
Cost of Living

12
New Projects
Announced



Access key economic, workforce and industry data – all in one place.

Scan the QR code to explore the numbers driving Mobile's growth.



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