As the voice for business in Catawba County, the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce convened a taskforce, made up of business and community leaders, to adopt a legislative agenda for 2019. The purpose for this effort was to ensure our business community’s opportunities and challenges would be presented directly to our legislators to encourage them to work efficiently and promote policy that advances and protects business in Catawba County throughout the year.

The priorities below will be integral in stimulating economic growth and fostering an environment for business success in Catawba County in 2019 and beyond.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & TALENT SUPPLY

- The Catawba County Chamber will continue to advocate for the sustainability of K-64, a collaborative approach to shaping future careers and meeting workforce demands by connecting students and employers throughout the educational curriculum (www.k-64learning.com).

Other priorities regarding the success of K-64 are as follows:

- The Catawba County Chamber supports the continuation, and potential expansion of, funding for dual enrollment in the Career and College Promise Program which increases college readiness and access to career opportunities and credentials for high school students.

- The Catawba County Chamber supports investments in business growth and the skills of recent high school students by incentivizing the expansion of apprenticeship programs, such as Apprenticeship NC and our local consortium, Apprenticeship Catawba.

- The Catawba County Chamber understands that education is our top economic development driver, therefore, we recognize the critical and immediate need for legislation to provide needed capital funding from the state for upgrading and/or constructing educational facilities for Catawba County Schools, Hickory City Public Schools, Newton-Conover City Schools and Catawba Valley Community College.

- The Catawba County Chamber supports legislation that optimizes our competitiveness as a premier location for military retirees and those transitioning into their next career in the civilian workforce.

- The Catawba County Chamber supports full exemption of North Carolina state income taxes on military retirees’ military pensions.

- The Catawba County Chamber supports legislation that advances reciprocal licensing for military service members and spouses, allowing occupational or professional licenses to be honored from other states for a reasonable amount of time during transition, providing that the original license is maintained and kept current.

- The Catawba County Chamber supports the credentialing of service members in their Military Occupational Specialties, ensuring that the training men and women in the armed forces receive is acknowledged and provides ease of transition into the civilian workforce.

### COMPETITIVE BUSINESS CLIMATE

- The Catawba County Chamber supports policies and increased flexibility for Tier I and Tier II counties that make it easier to build and redevelop commercial, industrial and residential projects.

- The Catawba County Chamber supports association health plans in order to improve the affordability of quality health insurance plans for small businesses and those they employ.

### TAX

- The Catawba County Chamber supports tax policies that encourage industrial and entrepreneurial development.

- The Catawba County Chamber opposes legislation that would reduce local revenues, including the alteration of the current sales tax distribution formula.
**FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**UNIVERSAL STATES SENATORS**
- Richard Burr - Republican
  
- (202) 224-3154
   
- Thom Tillis - Republican
  
- (202) 224-6342

**UNIVERSAL STATES REPRESENTATIVES**
- Patrick McHenry - 10th District
  
- (828) 327-6100
  
- www.house.gov/mchenry

- Virginia Foxx - 5th District
  
- (336) 778-0211
  
- www.house.gov/foxx

**NC SENATOR**
- Andy Wells - 42nd District
  
- (919) 733-5876
  
- andy.wells@ncleg.net

**NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
- Mitchell S. Setzer - 89th District
  
- (919) 733-4948
  
- Mitchell.Setzer@ncleg.net

- Jay Adams - 96th District
  
- (919) 733-4111
  
- Jay.Adams@ncleg.net

**STATE GOVERNMENT**

**CITY GOVERNMENTS**

**CITY OF HICKORY**
- Hickory City Hall
  
- (828) 323-7400
  
- Hank Guess - Mayor
  
- (828) 294-7757

**CITY COUNCIL**
- Brad Lail - Ward 1
  
- (828) 322-3510
  
- Charlotte Williams - Ward 2
  
- (828) 302-3205

- Danny Seaver - Ward 3
  
- (828) 322-5155
  
- David Williams - Ward 4
  
- (828) 327-7228

- Jill Patton - Ward 6
  
- (828) 324-1325

**CITY OF NEWTON**
- Newton City Hall
  
- (828) 695-4300
  
- Anne Stedman - Mayor
  
- (828) 446-0234

**CITY COUNCIL**
- Jody Dixon
  
- (828) 310-1763
  
- Jerry T. Hodge
  
- (828) 234-5413

- Tom Rowe
  
- (828) 612-1208
  
- Ed T. Sain
  
- (828) 381-7006

- John Stiver
  
- (828) 612-0989
  
- Anne Abernathy Wepner
  
- (828) 320-5307

**CITY OF CLAREMONT**
- Claremont City Hall
  
- (828) 466-7255
  
- Shawn R. Brown - Mayor
  
- (828) 466-7255

**CITY COUNCIL**
- Les Morrow
  
- (828) 466-7255
  
- Dayne L. Miller
  
- (828) 466-7255

- Lee Miller
  
- (828) 466-7255
  
- David B. Morrow
  
- (828) 466-7255

- M. Dale Sherrill
  
- (828) 466-7255

**CITY OF CONOVER**
- Conover City Hall
  
- (828) 464-1191
  
- Lee Moritz, Jr. - Mayor
  
- (828) 464-2149

**CITY COUNCIL**
- Don Deal
  
- (828) 464-6801
  
- Mark Carrob
  
- (828) 466-2141

- Bruce Eckard
  
- (828) 466-2141
  
- Joe Fulbright
  
- (828) 464-4957

- Kyle Hayman
  
- (828) 466-1306

**TOWN OF CATAWBA**
- Catawba Town Hall
  
- (828) 241-2215
  
- Donald Robinson - Mayor
  
- (828) 241-2563

**TOWN COUNCIL**
- Donald (Donnie) Allen
  
- (828) 241-2563

- Colleen Anderson
  
- (828) 241-4558

- Jeffery W. Hendren
  
- (828) 241-4891

- Patrick H. Laney
  
- (828) 241-3546

**TOWN OF BROOKFORD**
- Brookford Town Hall
  
- (828) 322-4903
  
- Thomas Schronce, Sr. - Mayor
  
- (828) 651-6332

**TOWN COUNCIL**
- Charles Bargsley
  
- (828) 639-4614

- Sue Noblitt
  
- (828) 327-4502

- James Weaver
  
- (828) 294-4563

- Bill McGregory
  
- (828) 455-8985

**TOWN OF MAIDEN**
- Maiden Town Hall
  
- (828) 438-5000
  
- Robert L. Smyre - Mayor
  
- (828) 428-5031

**TOWN COUNCIL**
- Max Bumgarner, Jr.
  
- (828) 428-8789

- Danny Hips
  
- (828) 228-1846

- Trina Michael
  
- (828) 428-8180

- Marcus Midgett
  
- (828) 428-9668

- Ronnie Williams
  
- (828) 428-8409

**TOWN OF LONG VIEW**
- Long View Town Hall
  
- (828) 322-3921
  
- Marla Thompson - Mayor
  
- (828) 327-6978

**TOWN COUNCIL**
- Randall Mays - Ward 1
  
- (828) 326-3362

- Gary Lingerfelt - Ward 2
  
- (828) 238-4209

- Thurman VanHorn, Jr. - Ward 3
  
- (828) 302-0870

- David Elder - Ward 4
  
- (828) 327-4922

- Dallas Tester - Ward 5
  
- (828) 228-1117

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
- Randy Isenhower - Chair
  
- (828) 465-2143

- Barbara Beautt - Vice Chair
  
- (828) 320-0370

- Kitty Barnes
  
- (828) 478-2240

- Sherry Butler
  
- (828) 464-9312

- Dan Hunsucker
  
- (828) 465-2802

**MEET YOUR REPRESENTATIVES**

For a complete list, visit:

www.catawbachamber.org/advocate-for-your-business