

2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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.

MEET YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

UNITED STATES SENATORS

Richard Burr—*Republican*
(202) 224-3154

Thom Tillis—*Republican*
(202) 224-6342

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES

Patrick McHenry—*10th District*
(828) 327-6100
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Virginia Foxx—*5th District*
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STATE GOVERNMENT

NC SENATOR

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NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Jay Adams—*96th District*
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CITY GOVERNMENTS

CITY OF HICKORY

Hickory City Hall
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Hank Guess—*Mayor*
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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*

David Zagaroli—*Ward 5*
(828) 217-7228

Jill Patton—*Ward 6*
(828) 324-1325

CITY OF NEWTON

Newton City Hall
(828) 695-4300

Anne Stedman—*Mayor*
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CITY COUNCIL

Jody Dixon
(828) 310-1763

Jerry T. Hodge
(828) 234-5413

Tom Rowe
(828) 612-1208

Ed T. Sain
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Anne Abernathy Wepner
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CITY OF CLAREMONT

Claremont City Hall
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Shawn R. Brown—*Mayor*
(828) 466-7255

CITY COUNCIL

Les Morrow
(828) 466-7255

Dayne L. Miller
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Lee Miller
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David B. Morrow
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M. Dale Sherrill
(828) 466-7255

CITY OF CONOVER

Conover City Hall
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Lee Moritz, Jr.—*Mayor*
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CITY COUNCIL

Don Beal
(828) 464-6801

Mark Canrobert
(828) 466-2411

Bruce Eckard
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Joie Fulbright
(828) 464-4957

Kyle Hayman
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TOWN OF CATAWBA

Catawba Town Hall
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Donald Robinson—*Mayor*
(828) 241-2563

TOWN COUNCIL

Donald (Donnie) Allen
(828) 241-2563

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

Patrick H. Laney
(828) 241-3546

TOWN OF BROOKFORD

Brookford Town Hall
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Thomas Schronce, Sr.—*Mayor*
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Charles Bargsley
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(828) 327-4502

James Weaver
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Bill McGregor
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TOWN OF MAIDEN

Maiden Town Hall
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Robert L. Smyre—*Mayor*
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Max Bumgarner, Jr.
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Danny Hipps
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Trina Michael
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Marcus Midgett
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Ronnie Williams
(828) 428-8409

TOWN OF LONG VIEW

Long View Town Hall
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Marla Thompson—*Mayor*
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TOWN COUNCIL

Randall Mays—*Ward 1*
(828) 326-3362

Gary Lingerfelt—*Ward 2*
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Thurman VanHorn, Jr.—*Ward 3*
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David Elder—*Ward 4*
(828) 327-4922

Dallas Tester—*Ward 5*
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COUNTY GOVERNMENT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Randy Isenhower—*Chair*
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For a complete list, visit:

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