



2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Gaston Business Association leverages our unique position within the business community to address forward-looking, multi-year strategic priorities focused on influencing the business environment, driving business success, and enhancing workforce capacity.

As the resounding voice for Gaston businesses, the GBA actively supports economic policies, strategies, and actions that create a positive business climate, resulting in:

1. Consistent pro-business/pro-region public policy
2. Efficient and congruent tax policy
3. A straightforward and streamlined regulatory environment
4. The attraction, retention, and development of a talented, skilled, and diverse workforce
5. Effective and sustainable infrastructure investments
6. Strong regional partnerships with a focus on Gaston County

Guided by these Principles, the GBA specifically endorses the following public policy initiatives:

TRANSPORTATION/INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Modernization of transportation funding methods with sustainable and sufficient revenue streams encouraging comprehensive mobility solutions
- Support for respective phasing studies of the Catawba Crossings, Belmont/Mount Holly Connector, and CATS light rail extension projects as opportunities for connectivity enhancement and congestion reduction
- Investment in the deployment of high-speed internet throughout Gaston County to drive business, remote work, and entrepreneur growth and diversification

WORKFORCE/TALENT

- Expanded financial support of the GBA Talent Partnership initiative focused on addressing specific industry talent needs through innovative recruitment, education, and placement efforts
- Support for Career & Technical Education and Apprenticeship programs to strengthen local talent pipelines
- Advancement of appropriate child care funding sources, structures, policy reforms, and innovations aimed at addressing growing workforce demands

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support for tax policies that encourage economic growth, capital investment, and job creation
- Reasonable flexibility and consideration of JDIG fulfillment requirements
- Support for downtown Gastonia revitalization planning efforts

TAX & REGULATORY REFORM

- Elimination of the state franchise tax