

2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Union County Chamber Public Policy Program is designed to create a business-friendly environment in our community through advocacy, education, and leadership. The Chamber convenes community leaders and influencers, business leaders, and community stakeholders to provide a series of forums for relevant discussions about policies impacting business.

Our Mission Statement

We champion business growth and business prosperity throughout Union County.

Our Vision Statement

Everyone who does business or lives in Union County enjoys a thriving local economy and excellent quality of life.

A thriving community is a community with business-friendly public policies, along with open and frequent communication between business leaders and local, state, and federal policymakers. YOUR Union County Chamber has adopted a legislative agenda to help strengthen our advocacy efforts to ensure everyone who does business or lives in Union County enjoys a thriving local economy and excellent quality of life.



The Chamber supports policies, programs, and initiatives that provide adequate, cost-effective public and private infrastructure essential for business development, growth, and prosperity throughout Union County.

The Chamber supports investment in high-speed internet across Union County.

The Chamber recognizes the need for a well-maintained, interconnected road network. In light of declining revenue from the gas tax and uneven allocation of funds, the Chamber supports efforts to reform the funding model for road maintenance and construction by considering alternative revenue sources.

The Chamber supports policies that ensure reliable and affordable energy now and in the future.

The Chamber supports efforts at the State, County, and municipal levels to implement the planning and funding mechanisms for increasing wastewater treatment capacity in the long term and expedite the process of adding wastewater capacity in the short term.

Recognizing the importance of agriculture in Union County, the Chamber encourages the growth of agricultural-related industry including investment in the infrastructure needed to support agri-business.

The Chamber encourages the continued revitalization of downtown Monroe, the county seat, through improved policies, incentives, and regulatory improvements. In addition, the Chamber supports efforts by all municipalities in Union County to renew and maintain vibrant downtowns and commercial districts.

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The Chamber supports policies, programs, and initiatives that provide a trained, available workforce for all business and industries including future expansion in Union County.

The Chamber supports state and local policies that ensure every student graduates with a plan and a pathway, including:

- Curricula that are directly aligned with the needs of the workforce, ensuring that students gain relevant skills that lead to employment opportunities within the community.
- The elevation and promotion of skills and vocational training via educational options, internships, and apprentice programs
- The endorsement of initiatives that facilitate continuous learning and skill enhancement for workers at all stages of their careers, including access to non-traditional education, certification programs, and digital literacy training to stay competitive in an evolving job market.
- The Chamber supports policies that remove barriers to work including efforts to make childcare more accessible and affordable for parents who wish to work.



The Chamber opposes taxes and regulations by any jurisdiction that hinder or interfere with business growth, development, and prosperity in Union County or that place Union County businesses at a disadvantage when competing with businesses outside Union County.

The Chamber supports revising the current North Carolina Development Tier Designations system to provide economic development support based on census block level data so economically distressed areas in prosperous counties are eligible for support.

The Chamber supports efforts by the North Carolina General Assembly to eliminate corporate and business income taxes, including the franchise tax.

The Chamber supports efforts by local governments to encourage business start-up and development, such as streamlining regulations, licensing, and permitting processes in a business-friendly and cost-effective manner and eliminating physical document storage, wet signature, and hard copy postal delivery requirements to the maximum extent reasonably prudent.

The Chamber supports local government policies and initiatives, including the allocation of infrastructure to promote commercial/industrial development to achieve a more balanced property tax ratio.