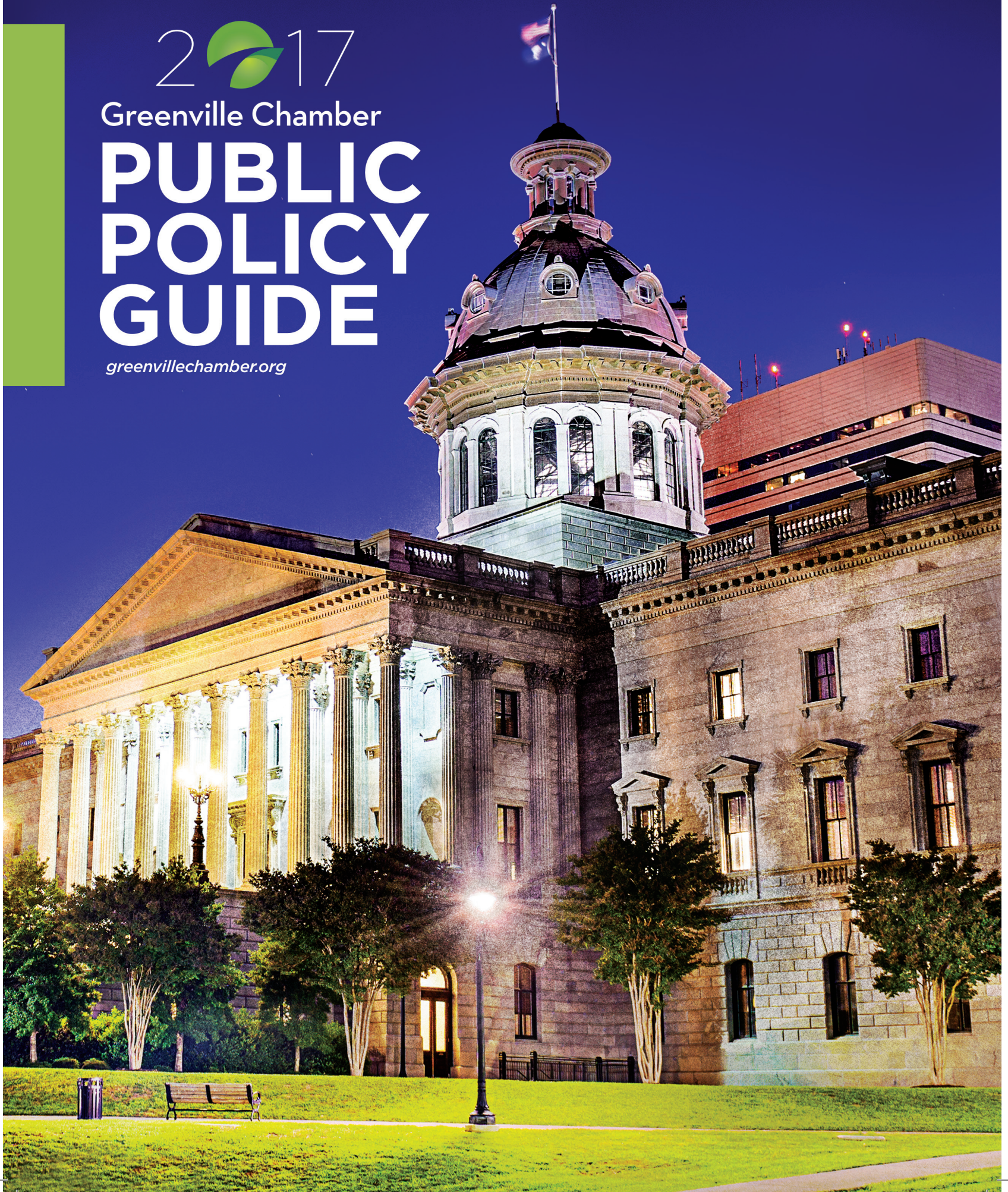


2017

Greenville Chamber

# PUBLIC POLICY GUIDE

[greenvillechamber.org](http://greenvillechamber.org)





# BIGPAC

Business and Industry in Greenville  
Political Action Committee

**BIGPAC** advocates for the Greenville business community, the free market, and expanding our economy.

Your contribution ensures support for public officials who share those values

In a tumultuous election year:

**87%**

of **BIGPAC** endorsed candidates won their elections.

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**JOIN US!**

## **2017 Legislative Kickoff Fundraiser**

**Monday, January 9th  
5:00 p.m.  
Embassy Suites Riverplace**

featuring Special Guests

**HOUSE SPEAKER JAY LUCAS**  
and the Greenville Legislative Delegation

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For more information on the PAC  
and to register for the fundraiser:

[www.BIGPAC.org](http://www.BIGPAC.org)



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The Greenville Chamber is focused on making it easier to do business in Greenville and improving our area's incredible quality of life. We take seriously our work to inform, advocate, and educate the business community about the public policy issues that impact your bottom line.

The term "unprecedented" was used a lot in the past year as we saw surprising results in national politics that virtually nobody predicted. As the voice of business in Greenville, we will be unapologetic in our work to promote the needs of both small and large businesses. Our goal is to enact the pro-business policies that will move our state forward.

This year, our mission is clearer than ever. After dozens of meetings with our volunteers and staff, you told us that:

- Finding qualified employees is very difficult and is getting harder as unemployment slides toward historic lows,
- We need sustained, substantial, and new funding to repair a crumbling infrastructure, and
- Government needs to cut red tape for small businesses and lower the barriers to entry for entrepreneurs.

As your advocate in Congress, at the Statehouse, and at City Hall, the Greenville Chamber will work to promote the issues that are important to our investors and look out for the interests of Upstate business. We will also work to prevent anti-business legislation and regulation, research and develop solutions to address business concerns, and create alliances with other business groups.

Five years ago, the Greenville Chamber of Commerce and 10 other Upstate Chambers of Commerce joined forces to support a unique idea: to form a coalition of local chambers of commerce to improve our business climate. The Upstate Chamber coalition was born, and today chambers from eight counties are united as the voice of business in Columbia. We can leverage the power of our Coalition Chambers, their 8,000 member businesses, and more than 250,000 employees to get things done.

On the following pages, we outline our federal, state, and local agendas for 2017.

Each year, the Upstate Chamber Coalition creates a unified state and federal Agenda that guides our advocacy efforts. This year, we held nearly two dozen "listening tour" meetings with our investors and partners. After we listened to your needs, we compiled everything into an online survey and we had a record number of businesses participate. The results were clear, and the agenda items we lay out in the following pages are what the Greenville business community told us is important to you.

We hope this new publication will help inform our investors, advocate our positions, and ensure we build a pro-business climate in the Upstate.

Thank you for your support of the Greenville Chamber.

**Brenda J. Thames,**  
2017 Board Chair, Greenville Chamber of Commerce

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**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

**The Greenville Chamber and the Upstate Chamber Coalition will make it easier to do business in Greenville. The small businesses we represent face clear and present economic challenges that we must tackle to ensure our business community will continue to drive growth and create jobs.**

1. **With the local unemployment rate under 5 percent, tens of thousands of jobs are going unfilled** – and half of those jobs do not require college degrees. We need a fully funded education system from pre-kindergarten to post-college job training so we can train workers for 21st Century jobs. We also need to challenge the status quo and look at innovative ways to expand the workforce from within.
2. **The Upstate is the best place to locate a business with access to an expanding port and 95 million consumers within a day’s drive.** That geographic advantage is slipping because we are neglecting basic government services. Our state must invest in our infrastructure if we’re to expand our locational advantage.
3. **The Greenville Chamber and the Upstate Chamber Coalition will work at the state and local levels to cut red tape for small business,** make our region more economically competitive, and lower the barriers to entry for local entrepreneurs.
4. **Our state’s unfunded public pension liability is a fiscal crisis that could dramatically increase costs for the business community.** The General Assembly needs to tackle the issue in 2017 with realistic assumptions that will minimize the impact on the private sector. Failure to address this crisis will mean fewer resources to apply to education, infrastructure, and public safety.
5. **The Upstate has deep ties to countries around the world, and we are home to more than 500 foreign-owned companies from 34 countries.** This makes foreign trade a vital part of our economy. We also oppose burdensome federal regulations that make it more costly to do business.
6. **Your local officials touch small businesses more than any other level of government.** The Greenville Chamber will engage with local governments so it is easier for you to do business in Greenville.

<p><b>STAND</b> 11 Chambers</p>	<p><b>SUPPORT</b> More than 8,000 businesses</p>	<p><b>CHAMPION</b> More than 250,000 employees</p>
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Greenville Chamber  
**ADVOCACY**

.....

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kbusbee@greenvillechamber.org

**Brenda J. Thames**

2017 Board Chair

**Phillip Kilgore**

Vice Chairman of Business Advocacy

**Milton Shockley**

Chairman, Business Advocacy Committee

**James Akers**

Chairman, Small Business Policy Council

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**www.upstatechamber.org**

**Twitter:** @UpstateChamberSC

**Facebook:** UpstateChamberCoalition

**Instagram:** UpstateChamberSC

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**UCC MEMBER CHAMBERS:**

Anderson Area Chamber  
Cherokee County Chamber  
Clemson Area Chamber  
Greenville Chamber  
Greater Greer Chamber  
Greater Easley Chamber  
Greenwood Chamber  
Laurens County Chamber  
Oconee County Chamber  
Simpsonville Area Chamber  
Spartanburg Area Chamber

.....

**PUBLISHED BY**

Business Black Box

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# UNITED STATES FEDERAL AGENDA

**The Upstate has deep ties to countries around the world, and we are home to more than 500 foreign-owned companies from 34 countries. This makes foreign trade a vital part of our economy. We also oppose burdensome federal regulations that make it more costly to do business.**

## Trade

We support international trade deals that will expand the \$19 Billion Upstate export economy.

We support restoring the Export-Import Bank's ability to finance projects of more than \$10 million.

## Regulation

We will continue to oppose burdensome regulations from agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Labor Relations Board.

We support legislation that will require immediate stays on regulations with a major economic impact pending judicial review.

## Transportation & Infrastructure

We support funding, and regulatory approval, of the Charleston Port deepening project.

We support efforts to pass increased and long-term funding legislation to repair our crumbling infrastructure.





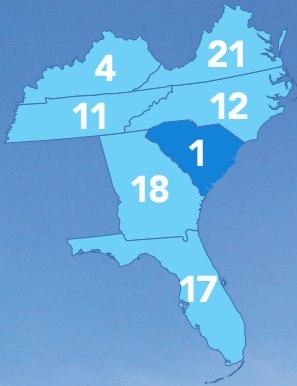
# SOUTH CAROLINA STATE AGENDA

The Greenville Chamber leads the Upstate Chamber Coalition, which was created to present a unified voice for the Upstate business community in the General Assembly. Each year, we create a joint agenda that pushes job-creating reforms at the Statehouse.

## EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE AGENDA

With the local unemployment rate under 5 percent, tens of thousands of jobs are going unfilled—and half of those jobs do not require college degrees. We need a fully funded education system from pre-kindergarten to post-college job training so we can train workers for 21st Century jobs. We also need to challenge the status quo and look at innovative ways to expand the workforce from within.



Number of Fortune 500 Companies in Southeast U.S.

SOURCE: FORBES

### EFA Funding:

The Greenville Chamber urges the General Assembly to fully fund the Education Finance Act, and will support efforts to reduce the gap between the amount required by state law and what is actually funded.

### Expungement:

We support the expansion of expungement for one-time, non-violent offenders to expand our workforce.



**The Upstate is the best place to locate a business with access to an expanding port and 95 million people within a day’s drive. That geographic advantage is slipping because we are neglecting basic government services. Our state must invest in our infrastructure if we’re to expand our locational advantage. We also urge communities across the Upstate to support regional efforts to plan for our future transportation needs.**

**Gas Tax:**

The Upstate Chamber Coalition supports increasing the gas tax by 10 to 12 cents to provide a substantial, sustainable, and recurring funding source so DOT can work on the more than 85 percent of state roads rated “fair” or “poor.” The Coalition also calls for the gas tax to be indexed for inflation, to ensure the buying power of the tax revenue keeps up with road building costs.

**Capital Projects:**

If the state will not act, the General Assembly must give municipalities the ability to enact capital projects sales taxes by referendum—the same power currently given to counties.

**The Greenville Chamber and the Upstate Chamber Coalition will work at the state and local levels to cut red tape for small business, make our region more economically competitive, and lower the barriers to entry for local entrepreneurs.**

**Headquarters tax credits:**

Only one Fortune 500 headquarters is located in our state. We need to re-assess and expand our efforts to attract corporate headquarters to the Upstate.

**High-impact company incentives:**

South Carolina is aggressive in attracting manufacturing jobs—and we must continue to do so. However, we need to re-vamp our corporate incentive programs to focus on the high-impact companies which do not qualify for traditional incentive packages that focus on costly infrastructure.

**Business license fees:**

The Upstate Chamber Coalition supports streamlining and standardizing the business license fee process. We oppose intentional efforts to negatively impact municipal revenue since cities do not have full taxing authority. We will also aggressively seek compromise on which entity manages an online payment portal.

**Angel Investor Tax Credit Expansion:**

The General Assembly needs to reauthorize the successful Angel Investor Tax Credit program that encourages South Carolinians to fund our own high-impact start-up companies.

# INFRASTRUCTURE

SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE AGENDA



# TAXES & REGULATION

SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE AGENDA



# PENSION CRISIS

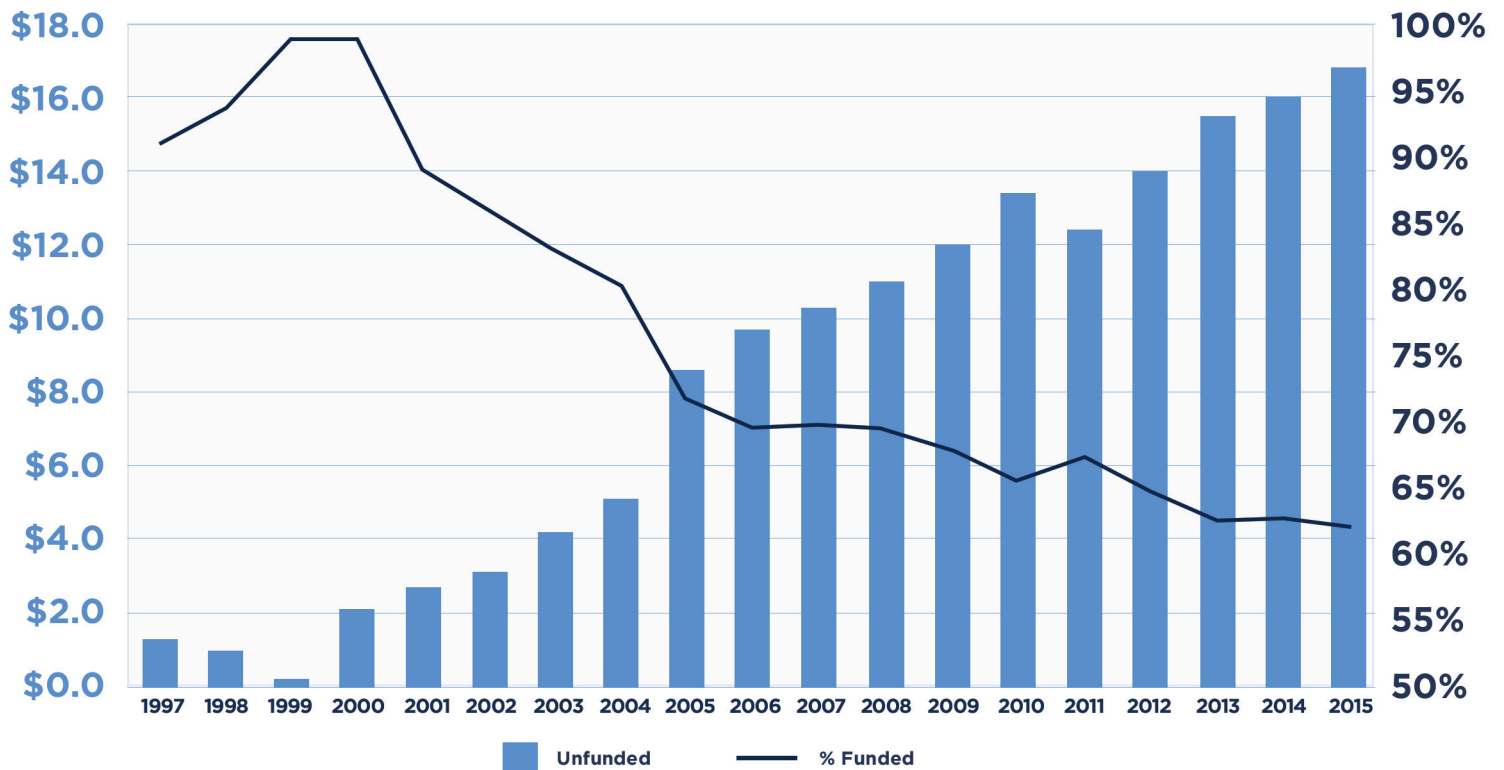
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE AGENDA

Our state's unfunded public pension liability is a fiscal crisis that could dramatically increase costs for the business community. The General Assembly needs to tackle the issue in 2017 with realistic assumptions that will minimize the impact on the private sector. Failure to address this crisis will mean fewer resources to apply to education, infrastructure, and public safety.



## GROWTH IN UNFUNDED/DECLINING FUND PERCENT

The graph below shows the decrease in the percent and dollar amount of the state's retirement system's funding against the growing amount of the system's unfunded liability. In 1999 and 2000 the state's retirement system was nearly fully funded compared to today's estimate of an \$18 billion unfunded liability.







## GREENVILLE, S.C. LOCAL AGENDA

Your local officials touch small businesses more than any other level of government. The Greenville Chamber will engage with local governments so it is easier for you to do business in Greenville.

### IMED Project

We support Greenville Health System's IMED project as a transformative project for Greenville and will work with local governments to facilitate its progress.

### Transportation & Infrastructure

We urge local government to explore options to expand the Greenlink bus system so workers have public transit options to take advantage of jobs, healthcare, and education.

### Sign Ordinance

We will work with local governments to amend sign ordinances to comply with court mandates while: Minimizing the regulatory burden on small businesses, and preserving a small business' right to advertise.

### Workforce Housing

We support efforts to expand the availability and affordability of housing options in our community for young professionals and working families.

### Permitting / Growth

We urge local governments to improve the speed of the permitting process while maintaining long-term plans for growth management.



# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

BECOME AN ADVOCATE

The Greenville Chamber needs your voice. Your investment in the Chamber gives you two full-time government affairs professionals representing you in Congress, at the Statehouse, in County Square, and in City Hall. We need your help to ensure that pro-business policies are enacted at all levels of government, which will make it easier for you to grow your business.



## Join our Advocacy Committees

**The Greenville Chamber has five issue-based Advocacy committees where you can engage:** Business Advocacy, Transportation and Infrastructure Issues, Healthcare Issues, Environmental Issues, and the Small Business Policy Council. These committees are an opportunity to hear from experts in these policy areas, connect with your local elected officials, and stay abreast of new legislation and regulations. The Business Advocacy Committee and Small Business Policy Council also help craft the Chamber's Annual Legislative Agenda and Local Policy Agenda. These committees are open to all chamber members and are a perfect first step for getting involved. More info on these committees can be found on the next page.



## Advocate for Your Business

**As legislation moves through the process, we often call on Chamber members to help our bills clear legislative hurdles.** You can advocate for pro-business legislation, or squash anti-business legislation by responding to the Chamber's Call to Actions. If there is an issue that you're passionate about, take a few minutes to write your representative an email or give them a call. Personal contact is always the best option over automated emails. And you don't have to wait for a Call to Action from us – we've put together a how-to guide on effectively setting up meetings, crafting your message, and lobbying for your issues. Advocating for your business is one of the best ways to get involved in shaping policy.



## Stay Informed by Joining our Grassroots List

**By joining our Grassroots list, you'll receive weekly updates from the Chamber's Advocacy staff on important legislation that affects business.** You're busy running your business, so we know that you don't have time to pour over jargon-heavy legislation or stream hours-long committee meetings. These weekly updates are jargon free, and give you a snapshot of what your Chamber is working on. They will also let you know of upcoming legislative events from our 11 chambers in the Upstate Chamber Coalition. If you'd like to be added to our Grassroots list, email Katie Busbee at [kbusbee@greenvillechamber.org](mailto:kbusbee@greenvillechamber.org).



## Attend One of Our Many Advocacy Events

**The Greenville Chamber holds many Advocacy events throughout the year.** Whether you're interested in running for office, want to learn more about a policy issue, would like to meet members of our local, state, and federal delegations, or want to visit the Statehouse or U.S. Capitol, the Greenville Chamber holds events that offer all of these opportunities and more.

Take a look at our upcoming 2017 events on our events calendar on our website at [www.greenvillechamber.org](http://www.greenvillechamber.org).

# ADVOCACY COMMITTEES

MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE

Interested in joining one of our committees? Our Business Advocacy Committees are open to any Chamber investor.

## Business Advocacy Committee

Get your Politics Fix: Our Business Advocacy Committee is an opportunity to receive legislative updates from the local, state, and federal levels of government, hear from policy experts, and develop deeper relationships with your elected officials.

**Chairman:** Milton Shockley

**2017 Committee Dates:** 1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 4/14, 5/12, 6/9, 9/8, 10/13, 11/10

## Transportation & Infrastructure Issues Committee

The Road to Prosperity: Our Transportation Committee hosts guest presentations on important infrastructure issues such as road, rail, air, and public transportation projects, the port, and their impact on local economic development.

**Chairman:** Bob Knight

**2017 Committee Dates:** 2/17, 4/21, 6/16, 10/20

## Healthcare Issues Committee

Building a Healthy Greenville: Our Healthcare Committee provides a forum for discussion on issues of policy, affordability, access to care, and clinical topics to improve the health of the greater Greenville area.

**Chairman:** TBA

**2017 Committee Dates:** 1/17, 3/21, 5/23, 9/19

## Environmental Issues Committee

The Intersection of Industry and Compliance: Our Environmental Issues Committee hosts speakers from SCDHEC and industry leaders to talk about water and air quality, energy, regulatory compliance, and other related topics.

**Chairman:** Charlie Isham

**2017 Committee Dates:** 2/28, 6/6, 8/29, 10/31

## Small Business Policy Council

Overcome Red Tape: Our Small Business Policy Council informs, creates, and guides our efforts in engaging local government, and crafts solutions to obstacles small business owners face in starting and growing their businesses.

**Chairman:** James Akers

**2017 Committee Dates:** 1/25, 4/26, 6/28, 8/30, 10/18

*Most of our committees begin at 8:30 a.m. Please visit [www.greenvillechamber.org](http://www.greenvillechamber.org) for more information on times and speakers.*



2015-2016

# SENATE & HOUSE REPORTS

SEE HOW YOU'RE AFFECTED

In 2016, we enjoyed a string of successes that will propel our economy into the future. This was our first Legislative Report, which is meant to shed some light on how our Upstate representatives voted on the issues important to business. We hope you will take the time to look at how your legislators and Senators voted on the issues that you, as business leaders, told us mattered. We ask our investors to carefully consider each vote, and if an individual vote concerns you, investigate the reasons behind the vote (or absence).

## SENATE REPORT

**S. 897**  
Removal of Confederate Flag

**S. 267**  
Shorten Legislative Session

Cloture on Sen. Bright (to debate road bill)

**S. 1258**  
Roads Bond Bill

**H. 3266**  
Trespasser Responsibility Act

**S. 3**  
Criminal Domestic Violence

**S. 229**  
Pollution Control Act

**S. 1**  
Ethics Reform Act

**H. 3184**  
Outside Ethics Investigations

**H. 3186**  
Income Disclosure

Senator	District	S. 897	S. 267	Cloture	S. 1258	H. 3266	S. 3	S. 229	S. 1	H. 3184	H. 3186
Alexander, Thomas	R-Walhalla	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Allen, Karl	D-Greenville	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
Bright, Lee	R-Roebuck	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
Bryant, Kevin	R-Anderson	YES	X	NO	NO	YES	X	YES	NO	X	X
Corbin, Tom	R-Travelers Rest	X	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES
Fair, Mike	R-Greenville	YES	YES	NO	YES	X	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Gambrell, Mike <sup>1</sup>	R-Honea Path	1	X	1	YES	YES	1	YES	1	YES	YES
Martin, Larry	R-Pickens	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Martin, Shane	R-Pauline	X	YES	X	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	X	X
Nicholson, Floyd	D-Greenwood	YES	YES	X	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
Peeler, Harvey	R-Gaffney	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Reese, Glenn	D-Spartanburg	YES	X	NO	X	YES	X	YES	NO	X	X
Turner, Ross	R-Greenville	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Verdin, Danny	R-Laurens	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

<sup>1</sup> Mike Gambrell was elected to the S.C. Senate in May following the passing of Senator O'Dell.

X Did not vote or absent

# HOUSE REPORT

**S. 897** Removal of Confederate Flag  
**H. 3579** House Gas Tax Plan  
**S. 267** Shorten Legislative Session  
**S. 1258** Roads Bond Bill  
**H. 3088** Small Biz Tax Incentives  
**H. 4145** Coordinating Council for Workforce Dev.  
**H. 3184** Outside Ethics Investigations  
**H. 3186** Income Disclosure  
**S. 3** Criminal Domestic Violence  
**H. 3266** Trespasser Act

Ilison, Rita	R-Lyman	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Anthony, Mike	D-Union	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Bannister, Bruce	R-Greenville	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Bedingfield, Eric	R-Belton	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	X	YES	YES
Brannon, Doug	R-Landrum	YES	YES	X	X	YES	YES	YES	YES	X	YES
Burns, Mike	R-Taylors	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Chumley, Bill	R-Woodruff	NO	NO	X	X	YES	NO	YES	YES	X	YES
Clary, Gary	R-Clemson	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Cole, Derham	R-Spartanburg	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Collins, Neal	R-Easley	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dillard, Chandra	D-Greenville	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	X
Forrester, Mike	R-Spartanburg	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	X	YES	YES	YES	YES
Gagnon, Craig	R-Abbeville	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Gambrell, Mike <sup>1</sup>	R-Honea Path	YES	YES	1	1	YES	YES	X	1	YES	YES
Hamilton, Dan	R-Greenville	YES	NO	X	YES	YES	X	YES	YES	YES	YES
Henderson, Phyllis	R-Greenville	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Hicks, Donna	R-Boiling Springs	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Hill, Jonathon	R-Townville	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	X	YES	YES	YES
Hiott, David	R-Pickens	X	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Loftis, Dwight	R-Greenville	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Mitchell, Harold	D-Spartanburg	YES	X	X	YES	X	YES	YES	YES	X	X
Moss, Dennis	R-Gaffney	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Moss, Steve	R-Blacksburg	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Nanney, Wendy	R-Greenville	NO	X	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
Parks, Anne	D-Greenwood	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	X	YES	YES	NO	YES
Pitts, Mike	R-Laurens	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Putnam, Joshua	R-Powdersville	NO	NO	X	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Riley, Shannon	R-Hodges	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Robinson-Simpson, Leola	D-Greenville	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	X	YES	YES	NO	NO
Sandifer, Bill	R-Seneca	NO	YES	YES	YES	X	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Smith, Garry	R-Simpsonville	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Stringer, Tommy	R-Greer	NO	NO	YES	YES	X	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Tallon, Eddie	R-Spartanburg	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Thayer, Anne	R-Anderson	NO	NO	YES	YES	X	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
White, Brian	R-Anderson	NO	YES	YES	YES	X	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Whitmire, Bill	R-Walhalla	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Willis, Mark	R-Fountain Inn	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	X	YES

<sup>1</sup> Mike Gambrell was elected to the S.C. Senate in May following the passing of Senator O'Dell.

X Did not vote or absent

# SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERAL OFFICIALS

## GENERAL INFORMATION

South Carolina has two U.S. Senators and seven Congressmen.

Three of these Congressional districts cover the Upstate.



### Senator Lindsey Graham (R)

**D.C. Office:** (202) 224.5972

**Upstate Office:** (864) 250.1417

*District Staff:*

Van Cato, State Director

Laura Turner, Upstate Regional Director



### Senator Tim Scott (R)

**D.C. Office:** (202) 224.6121

**Upstate Office:** (864) 233.5366

*District Staff:*

Danielle Gibbs, Regional Director

Seth Blanton, Constituent Services



### Congressman Jeff Duncan (R-3)

**D.C. Office:** (202) 225.5301

**Anderson Office:** (864) 224.7401

**Laurens Office:** (864) 681.1028

*District Staff:*

Elizabeth Edwards, Regional Director



### Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-4)

**D.C. Office:** (202) 225.6030

**Greenville Office:** (864) 241.0175

**Spartanburg Office:** (864) 583.3264

*District Staff:*

Cindy Crick, Chief of Staff

Missy House, Field Representative



### Congressman Mick Mulvaney (R-5)

**D.C. Office:** (202) 225.5501

**Rock Hill Office:** (803) 327.1114

*District Staff:*

Freddie Gault

# SOUTH CAROLINA STATE OFFICIALS

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Fax: (803) 734.5167

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**LT. GOVERNOR**

**Henry McMaster (R)**

Phone: (803) 734.2080

Fax: (803) 734.2082

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**Alan Wilson (R)**

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**Mark Hammond (R)**

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**SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION**

**Molly Spearman (R)**

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[www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov)



**GENERAL INFORMATION**

*\*In November, President-elect Donald Trump picked Governor Haley to be the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. If confirmed, and after Governor Haley tenders her resignation, Lieutenant Governor McMaster will assume the Governor's position. As of our publication date, there is uncertainty of how the Lieutenant Governor's position will be filled.*



# SENATE

These are the 14 State Senators from the eight county Upstate Chamber Coalition area.

**SENATE SWITCHBOARD:**  
(803) 212.6200

**SEND MAIL TO:**  
The Honorable (Senator's Name)  
South Carolina Senate  
P.O. Box 142  
Columbia, SC 29202

.....

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*(R-Oconee)*  
thomasalexander@scsenate.gov



**Karl Allen**  
*(D-Greenville)*  
karlallen@scsenate.gov



**Kevin Bryant**  
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# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

These are the 37 State House members from the eight county Upstate Chamber Coalition area.

**HOUSE SWITCHBOARD:** (803) 734.3000

**SEND MAIL TO:**

The Honorable (Representative's Name)  
 South Carolina House of Representatives  
 P.O. Box 11867  
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# GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Greenville County Council consists of 12 council members. Together they constitute the legislative body for the county.

**PHONE:** (864) 467.7115

*[www.greenvillecounty.org](http://www.greenvillecounty.org)*

.....

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**Ennis Fant (D-25)**

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**Fred Payne (R-28)**

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**Liz Seman (R-24)**

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# GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Board of Trustees of Greenville County Schools is an elected body.

Their mission is to ensure excellence in the governance of a quality educational program by analyzing needs, establishing policies, allocating resources, and monitoring progress.

[www.greenville.k12.sc.us](http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us)

.....



### W. Burke Royster, Ph.D.

*Superintendent*

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**Lisa H. Wells, Chair, Area 28**  
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# GREENVILLE CITY OFFICIALS

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

The City Council consists of the mayor and six council members. The mayor and two council members are elected at-large, while the remaining four council members are elected from single-member districts. Together they constitute the legislative body of the City. The city of Greenville operates under the Council-Manager form of government.

**Office of City Clerk**  
 cpitman@greenvillesc.gov  
 (864) 467.4431

**Knox White, Mayor**  
 kwhite@greenvillesc.gov  
 (864) 467.4590



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 Mayor pro tempore  
 District 3  
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**Gaye G. Sprague**  
 Vice Mayor pro tempore  
 At Large  
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**Amy Ryberg Doyle**  
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**Lillian Brock Flemming**  
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**David Sudduth**  
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**George Fletcher**  
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# FOUNTAIN INN

**Sam Lee, Mayor**  
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**John Mahony, Ward 1**  
**Andrew Stoddard, Ward 2**  
**Rose Ann Woods, Ward 3**

**Phil Clemmer, Ward 4**  
**Berry Woods, Jr., Ward 5**  
**Matthew King, Ward 6**

.....

# GREER

**Rick Danner, Mayor**  
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**Ed Driggers, City Administrator**  
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**Jay Arrowood, District 1**  
**Wayne Griffin, District 2**  
 Mayor pro tempore

**Kimberly Bookert, District 3**  
**Lee Dumas, District 4**  
**Wryley Bettis, District 5**  
**Judy Albert, District 6**

.....

# MAULDIN

**Dennis Raines, Mayor**  
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**Taft Matney, Seat 1**  
**Carol King, Seat 2**  
**Terry Merritt, Seat 3**

**Scott Crosby, Seat 4**  
**Dale Black, Seat 5**  
**Larry Goodson, Seat 6**

.....

# SIMPSONVILLE

**Janice Curtis, Mayor**  
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**Matthew Gooch, Ward 1**  
**Taylor Graham, Ward 2**  
**Jenn Hulehan, Ward 3**

**Elizabeth Braswell, Ward 4**  
**Ken Cummings, Ward 5**  
**Sylvia Lockaby, Ward 6**

.....

# TRAVELERS REST

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**Brandy Amidon**  
**Grant Bumgarner**  
**Kelly Byers**  
**Harvey Choplin**

**Rebecca Cooper**  
**Rick Floyd**  
**Jeff George**  
**Steve Waddell**

# MEETING OFFICIALS

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE AGENDA

Meeting face-to-face with elected officials or their staff is the most effective way to influence public policy. It will often take many visits, emails, phone calls, and other contacts to influence a position on a piece of legislation. Far too many people in politics today are confrontational, inconsiderate, and entitled, so politeness, consideration, and gratitude can go a long way toward wielding influence. The tips below can help guide you toward a successful visit.

## 1 APPOINTMENT

- Make an appointment. Don't just show up.
- Give staff your contact information. In Columbia or Washington, schedules change fast. Meetings are commonly moved or delayed.
- Bring several people with you. Coalitions do better than singles.

## 2 RESEARCH

- Check an official's website and Google for their positions before the meeting.
- Check your legislator's voting record at [scstatehouse.gov](http://scstatehouse.gov).
- Plan your responses about favorable or unfavorable votes. Be polite and don't comment off-the-cuff.

## 3 FOCUS

- Be on time. Legislators have a lot of demands on their time. If you're late, you may not get another meeting.
- Stay on topic. Don't use jargon or acronyms. Speak about one issue at a time.
- You don't need to be an expert, you're their constituent.

## 4 POSITIVE

- Thank them for their service—no matter what you think of their record.
- Find common ground (through your research) where you can start the discussion.
- Don't react negatively if you don't like something that is said.

## 5 LISTEN

- Ask the legislator for their position and listen carefully.
- Be patient and don't interrupt.
- Stay passionate, but respectful, about your issue.
- Always remain polite and respectful.

## 6 REQUEST

- Make as specific a request as you can. "Please vote for H. XXXX" or "Please introduce legislation that will XXXXXX."
- Give them real, concrete examples, tailored as closely as you can to your local community, of why a bill should be supported, defeated, or introduced.

## 7 THANK YOU

- Thank them again for their service and for taking your meeting.
- Tell them you appreciate them "fitting you in" to their schedule.
- Thank the staff. They're the ones who can get you in again, or "forget" to pass along a message.

## 8 FOLLOW-UP

- If a legislator asked for more information, get that information and send it along ASAP.
- Send a hand-written note thanking them for the meeting. This is the South, after all.

If a legislator asks you something you don't know, simply say: **"I don't know, but I will get you that answer."** Then, get him or her the answer ASAP.

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