



## 2016 Public Policy Agenda

In an important election year, the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce remains focused on promoting business growth by retaining existing businesses, recruiting new job creators and facilitating investment in the community. Below are the four main focus areas for 2016.

### REGIONALISM

- Utilize Wilmington Region Economic Scorecard to embrace transformational opportunities in entrepreneurship and innovation
- Seek opportunities to build productive regional partnerships, especially with counterparts in Brunswick and Pender Counties
- Encourage collaboration between state and local elected officials on issues of regional importance
- Continue to spearhead community initiatives like collaborative efforts on crime

### INFRASTRUCTURE

- Monitor major transportation initiatives: Surface Transportation Act (federal), implementation of Strategic Transportation Investment Plan (state), Highway 74 study (regional), Wilmington MPO (local)
- Support Cape Fear Public Utility Authority efforts to expand the water and sewer system and build customer base
- Continue to advocate for sustainable funding sources for beaches, inlets and waterfronts
- Encourage continued investment in the Port of Wilmington and Wilmington International Airport

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Promote continued progress on initiatives outlined in Jay Garner's *Pathways to Prosperity* as a guide for economic development strategy in the New Hanover and Wilmington Comprehensive Plans
- Monitor efforts to enhance state and local business recruitment incentives
- Promote tools to enhance the desirable, traded-sector film production industry
- Oppose efforts that do not streamline the New Hanover County Special Use Permit process

### EDUCATION

- Encourage New Hanover County Board of Education to expand Project Lead the Way's Gateway to Technology STEM program that was initially funded by Cape Fear Future
- Support the efforts of New Hanover County Schools and Cape Fear Community College to open a Career Technical Education (CTE) High School on the north campus of Cape Fear Community College