



2017 Public Policy Agenda

Drawing on findings from the Wilmington Regional Economic Scorecard, the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce will pursue public policy in 2017 which enhances our steady economic growth. New and returning leaders at the federal, state and local levels will provide opportunity to advance pro-business initiatives.

- Strongly support the State of North Carolina creating a sustainable funding mechanism for beaches and coastal storm damage reduction projects.
- Support state and federal efforts on regulatory reform and tax reform
- Support ongoing initiatives to enhance the film industry
- Enhance critical education infrastructure at all three levels by supporting our local schools as well as the strategic plans and legislative agenda of CFCC, the UNC Board of Governors and UNCW.
- Continue to support full funding for student enrollment growth, as UNCW has been the fastest growing campus in the recent past and is projected to continue that growth.
- Ensure a focus on economic development and quality of life in the ongoing New Hanover and Wilmington development ordinance re-writes
- Encourage continued infrastructure investment by CFPUA, Port of Wilmington and ILM
- Support ongoing transportation initiatives including Hampstead Bypass, rail-realignment, Cape Fear crossing, Independence Boulevard extension and Wallace to Castle Hayne rail extension
- Monitor New Hanover County's groundwater study to determine potential impacts on public water supply, new growth and existing regional businesses
- Continue to promote completion of parks and transportation infrastructure enabled by successful bond referenda
- Support significant investment in mental health treatment and coordination, to include adding OP services for behavioral health and substance abuse, as well as funding pilots in communities that have shown an ability and willingness to collaborate