

2022 Legislative Priorities

The Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met on December 6, 2022 and approved the following legislative/public policy priorities.

TRANSPORTATION:

- **I-69 Initiative:** The Chamber must stay engaged to ensure that the project moves forward to benefit Nacogdoches County. This includes:
 - To continue to support and advocate for I-69 funding on the state and national level
 - Working with TxDot officials and local business leaders to determine what works best for the Nacogdoches County

EDUCATION:

- **Stephen F. Austin State University:** The Chamber must continue to monitor the transition of Stephen F. Austin State University to the University of Texas System. This includes:
 - Working to ensure that SFA is appropriately funded
 - That on-campus student enrollment continues to grow
 - That faculty and programs are not reduced in the process of this transition
 - That the local community has a voice in the future of SFA
- **Unfunded Mandates:** The Chamber opposes unfunded mandates for public schools that are not funded by the State

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT: The Chamber supports investment in infrastructure that will result in Nacogdoches County being more attractive for investment.

- Working with local and state officials to determine where resources can be found to minimize the impact on local tax payers

HEALTHCARE: The Chamber is opposed to any legislative mandates that will increase the cost to employers of providing healthcare benefits to employees.

- The Chamber supports the use of telemedicine to reduce costs and increase access to care
- The Chamber supports increase state funding for mental health services to reduce the impact on the judicial system
 - Too many women and men currently in Nacogdoches county are in need of mental health services and should be treated by out-patient services or in a mental health facility. Currently, there are too little funding available to provide these services.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: The Chamber should support investments in land and housing to support future economic development

- **Economic Development Sites:** The Chamber supports the identification and acquisition of economic development sites on the I-69 Corridor. This includes:
 - A public/private partnership should be established to identify potential sites for business/industrial sites
 - Resources should be sought to purchase and develop these sites to accommodate future economic development opportunities
 - The Chamber should lobby Austin legislators for legislation will allow municipalities to annex additional land for future development.
- **HOUSING DEVELOPMENT:** There is currently a shortage of housing in Nacogdoches. The Chamber should encourage and promote the construction of housing developments at all levels.

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