

**2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

- ***The Nacogdoches Chamber supports legislation that provides COVID-19 Liability Protection for businesses and organizations that make a good-faith effort to protect their employees and/or customers.***
  - Many businesses are concerned about the potential of law suits from employees and customers. The U.S. Congress failed to address this issue and has deferred the issues to the States.
  
- ***The Nacogdoches Chamber opposes any legislation that would prohibit local and county governments from involvement in the public policy (lobbying) process.***
  - This legislation was proposed during the last legislative session and passed in the Senate before being defeated in the House. Rural communities in Texas would be at a major disadvantage in the public policy process if this legislation becomes law.
  
- ***The Nacogdoches Chamber supports the use of Limited, Temporary Property Tax Discounts.***
  - This has been an important economic development tool that municipalities have used to attract and retain businesses.
  
- ***The Nacogdoches Chamber supports the continued funding and development of I-69.***
  - I-69 is important to the future development of Nacogdoches County. The Chamber supports the funding and build-out of this project.
  
- ***The Nacogdoches Chamber supports the development of Broadband in rural Texas.***
  - The development of broadband in rural Texas is important for economic development.
  
- ***The Nacogdoches Chamber supports increase funding for Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA); the independent school districts in Nacogdoches County and opposes legislation that creates unfunded mandates for cities/towns and the county.***
  - SFA—loss or reduced funding presents a threat to programs and operations
  - Cities and towns in Nacogdoches/County are impacted by unfunded mandates from Austin and these mandates may result in tax increases
  - Education—ensuring that our school systems (ISDs) are adequately funded
  
- ***The Nacogdoches Chamber supports adequate funding for mental health services.***
  - The mental health system is overburdened. As a result, the justice and healthcare system is also impacted