



2022 Legislative Agenda

Economic/ Workforce Development:

- We support tax policies and other economic development tools that encourage investment in our community businesses, enhancing our global competitiveness and creating more jobs for our region.
- We oppose legislative measures that would negatively impact our business climate, are discriminatory in nature or would harm our ability to create, attract, retain, and expand jobs in our community.
- We oppose any legislative measures that limit the current structure and functions of Community Improvement Districts and Development Authorities.
- We support legislation that incentivizes 21st century infrastructure and promotes investment in Georgia.
- We encourage incentives to train and educate needed workforce in the growing fields of STEAM and health and technology career pathways in order to fill numerous available jobs.
- We support the efforts to cultivate relationships with post-secondary educational institutions to provide opportunities for North Fulton residents and the workforce to gain a quality and sustainable education in our region with the intention to retain them in the local workforce. The physical presence of technical colleges and universities are essential to these efforts. We want all of these post-secondary institutions to grow and thrive in North Fulton.
- We support the development of real, sustainable solutions to help increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace and company leadership.

Transportation:

- We strongly support the funding for construction of Express Lanes and Bus Rapid Transit on both Georgia 400 and the top end of I-285 to improve the safety, speed and traffic flow, which affects every one of our municipalities and the region at large. We view these projects as an economic catalyst for positive growth in the county and region.
- We support additional funding for critical transportation infrastructure, whether through federal, state or local sources.
- We support investments in alternate forms of transportation to provide North Fulton commuters and residents a choice of transportation modes to meet their needs.
- We support the upgrade of existing freight networks, increase freight capacity and safety on our existing interstates and rail networks. Maximize operational and regulatory efficiencies for movement of freight.

Water:

- We support effective management of our region's water resources to ensure adequate sources of clean water to meet the needs of our growing population and business sectors.
- We continue support of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, including additional funding to ensure adequate sources of clean water for metro Atlanta's future growth and quality of life.

Education:

- We request adequate funding to provide an education of excellence to every K-12 and higher education student in Georgia. Given the undisputable positive impact of public education on the long-term economic prosperity and well-being of our community, we ask that public education operating budgets be fully funded under current state funding laws and stay fully funded should the funding formula be changed.
- We urge the General Assembly to align legislative initiatives with state constitutional provisions regarding the control, management, safety and funding of our public schools. Specifically, appropriating funds for the use of salary, benefits and training of one school resource officer per school. Additionally, consider funding school counselors at the ASCA/NCAC recommended ratio of one counselor for every 250 students.
- We encourage the General Assembly to remain steadfast in funding a robust Georgia Teacher Retirement System (TRS) which honors commitments of previous generations of educators and is welcoming to the 21st Century educators needed to develop leaders of the future.
- We strongly support funding for the acquisition and construction of additional facilities for the North Fulton campus of Gwinnett Technical College, which currently serves more the 600,000 residents with a world-class, globally competitive technical education supporting business and industry needs. Additional facilities will allow GTC to enhance current programs and offer new programs vital to the future workforce of North Fulton in healthcare, autonomous and electric vehicle programs, culinary arts, cybersecurity, and FinTech.

Healthcare:

- We support local hospitals and emergency medical providers by requesting improved reimbursement levels for Medicaid providers (who provide essential, but unprofitable services such as emergency care), maintaining the current Certificate of Need (CON) process that has served Georgia and our community well, and continuing to look for ways to help avoid costs associated with unfunded mandates and defensive medicine.
- The ongoing pandemic continues to be a healthcare top priority and enduring challenge. We ask that elected officials continue to support community hospitals and clinical providers in the fight against COVID by promoting initiatives that increase vaccination rates and reiterate vaccine safety and effectiveness, ensuring an adequate supply process for Monoclonal Antibody therapies, sustaining gains in healthcare coverage achieved through waivers, enhancing health equity, and supporting COVID liability protections for providers.
- The Greater North Fulton Chamber continues to follow CDC guidance in setting safety protocols for programs and events. Under current guidance, individuals who are not fully vaccinated should wear a mask and social distance while at all Chamber events unless eating and/or drinking. Fully vaccinated individuals are recommended to wear masks indoors where social distancing is not possible. Chamber members are requested to not attend Chamber events if they are experiencing any COVID-19 related symptoms. We encourage COVID-19 vaccination to get North Fulton back to business. You can learn more about vaccine options and schedule an appointment at <https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/covid-19/covid-vaccine>.