



LIVINGSTON PARISH
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE



2023

**LIVINGSTON
PARISH
BUSINESS
PRIORITIES**

Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce
248 Veterans Boulevard
Denham Springs, LA 70726
livingstonparishchamber.org

LIVINGSTON PARISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Representing Livingston Parish Business
since the 1920s - Incorporated 1966



GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM PURPOSE

- **Offer a collective voice and** representation of the Livingston Parish Business Community.
- **Engage** business owners on policy that impacts their business.
- **Facilitate open** dialogue with elected officials and business leaders.
- **Act as a conduit** of information between government and business.
- **Inform the business community** of proposed actions and opportunities to effectively weigh in on business policy.
- **Support government** on actions which align with business priorities and better Livingston Parish communities.
- **Develop and maintain** solid working relationships with government entities on behalf of the business community.
- **Work toward** the common goal of a stronger, better and competitive Livingston Parish.
- **Lead, collaborate** and support items and projects which meet our mission.
- **Provide information** to support an informed voter base.



LIVINGSTON PARISH BUSINESS PRIORITIES PARISH - MUNICIPAL 2023

BUSINESS - ACTIONS & WATCH - HOT FOR 2023

Hot areas to to watch include:

- 2023 Elections at the parish and state level
- Developments and how zoning is impacting affordable housing
- Informed Voters - Candidates, elections, voter information
- Facilitating ongoing communications with government

BUSINESS - CHALLENGES - PRIORITIES

- Challenges with limited available employees.
- Streamlined Sales Tax Process - With 17 taxing districts in Livingston Parish, plus a complicated process for businesses to remit sales tax when doing business in more than one parish, the business community is in favor of a streamlined process.
- Broadband expansion for employees to work from home.
- Developments being shut down inhibiting one of our parish's largest employer segments- the construction industry.

PRIORITIES - FOR OUR PARISH AND ITS COMMUNITIES

Business view on parish priorities:

- Changes to NFIP - flood insurance premiums and the local impact
- Parish Wide Drainage solution
- Developments and how zoning is impacting affordable housing
- Parish Master Plan - Zoning
- Federal funds and how they are used from Covid
- Litter - With the connection that litter has to drainage, business attraction, and morale, it is time to take aggressive action to combat the problem.
- Respectfully request that business leaders, particularly those engaged with the chamber on parish wide issues, are top consideration for appointments to districting seats, board appointments and committee appointments by elected officials.



LIVINGSTON PARISH BUSINESS PRIORITIES STATE 2023

2023 HOT TOPICS

The Business community of Livingston Parish will be at the forefront of these issues which impact our region including:

- 2023 Elections - including Louisiana's governor and other state positions. Termed out state representatives will be a big transition for Livingston Parish.
- Louisiana Tax Reform
- Education and Education Savings Accounts
- Crime
- Infrastructure
- Potential of legalizing marijuana and clarity for the impact on employers

BUSINESS ISSUES

- Sales tax collection is an ongoing problem for Louisiana businesses, which are expected to collect and remit sales tax.
- Wage mandates. Responsible businesses currently pay more than minimum wage for qualified, skilled workers. Wages should be tied to experience, skill and market variables.
- Ongoing employee shortfall
- Inflation
- Support of the gig economy
- Exploring creative ways to prepare students for careers. Continue the Chamber's "Student Career Conference" launched in 2015.
- Adjustments to the post covid workplace environment, including work from home.

POLICY TO BENEFIT LIVINGSTON PARISH

- Internet access for underserved areas.
- Road improvements and traffic improvements as the I-12 corridor continues to expand. Funding for highways to alleviate bottlenecks in Livingston Parish.
- State laws were passed that reduce liability to public entities engaged in structuring and hosting litter pick ups in their communities. Non profits were not included in this protection and distinction limiting an important partner in addressing the litter problem in our state.



LIVINGSTON PARISH BUSINESS PRIORITIES FEDERAL 2023

SMALL BUSINESS ISSUES

Including:

- Rising health care premiums
- Opposition to increased wage mandates as wages are market driven.
- Support for the gig economy.
- Employer Retention Tax Credit
- Hiring challenges - prepared work force
- Inflation and the rising costs to do business

POLICY WHICH IMPACTS OUR AREA

Policy which impacts our geographic location

- Federal administration which opposes the oil and energy sectors of our local economy
- Funding projects that do not place our country and economy first.
- Dramatic swings in flood insurance premiums. The impact of the new rating scale is becoming evident and is challenging communities and their residents.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**BETTER
BUSINESS**

**BETTER
COMMUNITY**

- Local businesses and vendors should be used, when possible and practical, for work contracted through parish and municipal government agencies.
- Livingston Parish's ability to compete with local, state, regional and global areas should be a consideration when deciding regulations or actions.
- Businesses should be good corporate citizens.
- Government should focus on priorities that will foster a favorable business climate to grow commerce, industry and jobs in Livingston Parish.
- Government should first "do no harm" to the Livingston Parish economy.
- Government should seek input from the business community in regards to regulations which burden businesses.
- Government should streamline government processes whenever and wherever possible.
- Consideration of creating a problem when solving a problem should be a factor in decision making.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Trey Sanders

Partner

Hannis T Bourgeois

**Budget - Public funds
Committee Co Chair**

Jeremy Aydell

Franchisee | Owner

Sport Clips

Current Issues

Chad Bacas, P.E. MBA

President

Forte & Tablada, Inc.

Infrastructure

Ross Kinchen

President | Owner

The Kinchen Group

Master Plan | Development

April Wehrs, IOM

President | CEO

Livingston Parish Chamber

Association Protocol

Steve McLin

President | Owner

McLin Construction, LLC

**Development
Committee Co Chair**

Kacie Stewart

Owner

Kalon Clinic

Current Issues

Adam Cutrer

President | Owner

LA Pro

Litter

Sybil Cotten

VP - Team

**Our Lady of the Lake
Healthcare**

Drainage

James Moak

President | Owner

Gulf South Technology, LLC

**Broadband
Board Chair**

Todd Caruso

Owner

Todd Caruso Law

Legal Climate

Shannon Bernard

Regional VP

Primerica

Education

Shelby Carnahan

Owner | CPA

Carnahan Andrews CPA

Federal & State

Curt Nickels

Agent

Farm Bureau Insurance

NFIP



THE MISSION

of the Chamber is to serve business, enhance our community and advance the economy in Livingston Parish.

CHAMBER GOALS

- Strong, collective voice for business.
- Desirable communities and quality of life.
- Strategic plans and results.
- Member representation & advocacy.
- Development of informed leaders.
- Partnerships for the common good.

VISION

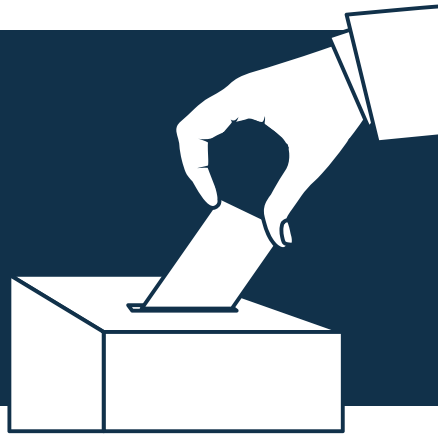
To be recognized for our unique and invaluable role in helping businesses prosper and our communities thrive.

CHAMBER VALUES

Credibility | Integrity | Collaborations | Inclusiveness | Service | Advocacy

CHAMBER PROGRAMS FOCUS

- Service to members
- Positive promotion of the parish
- Leadership & professional development
- Economic impact to the parish
- Betterment of Livingston Parish
- Engagement of business
- Advocacy for the free enterprise system



ELECTIONS

March 25, 2023 - Election Day

- Early voting | March 11 - 18

On the ballot

- School Board New 1% tax (failed)
 - Parish Council District 5
 - Killian New Sales Tax (failed)
-

April 29, 2023

- Early voting | April 15 - 22

On the ballot

- No current information
-

October 14, 2023 - Gubernatorial Primary

- Early voting | Sept. 30 - October 7

On the ballot

- Governor
 - Lieutenant Governor
 - Secretary of State
 - Attorney General
 - Treasurer
 - Commissioner of Agriculture
 - Insurance Commissioner
 - BESE
 - State Senate & Representatives
 - Parish President
 - Sheriff
 - Clerk of Court
 - Coroner
 - Assessor
 - Parish Council Races
-

November 18, 2023 - Gubernatorial General

- Early voting | Nov. 3 - Nov. 11

On the ballot

- Runoffs



HAVE A VOICE

ADVOCACY

CHAMBER GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS - POLICY - BUSINESS - ISSUES

What policies are helping or harming your business? What makes the communities in the parish positive?

If you are in business, you are impacted by policy. Learning more about business and industry helps prepare your business.

You have a say in what's better for business and improving Livingston Parish communities as a place to do business, work, live and enjoy life. **Get informed.**

LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT

MINIMAL - EASIEST WAY TO ENGAGE

- **Read the correspondence-** that comes out on governmental - business affairs. One a month or more if there is an issue needing attention.
- **Respond to surveys and polls** they are what is used to convey what is a problem and what helps.
- **Review the Chamber's Annual Policy Agenda** Let us know if we are on the right track in representing your business.
- **Bring us your issues.** Tell us what your issues are. Your elected officials want to know how policy is impacting you.

MID LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT - OCCASIONAL

- **Annual Policy Address State Chamber** - state's business priorities as researched by LABI
- **Legislative** pre and post session meetings - Hosted by the chamber with our state delegation.
- **State of the Parish** - An update on our parish. Annually in August.
- **Mayors Address** - Mayors from throughout the parish
- **Business & Industry** - Updates from industry
- **Other Involvement** - Directly sponsor and support the program, media or event.
- **Forums & Elections** - Varies with elections in each year.

MOST INVOLVED - MONTHLY - ONGOING

- **Committee - Meets most months** - Issues discussion and research between meetings as assigned and in your wheelhouse.
- Engaged in issues facing business at any level of government. Must be authorized to represent your business.
- **Scorecard of Our Success** The Chamber keeps a scorecard of stance on issues taken and outcome.
- **Business & Industry Updates** At least quarterly, committee meetings take place at these events open to membership. Informative sessions.
- Presence at Parish, Municipal and Committee Meetings as needed.
- **Federal Level Interaction** - For federal level authority and policy. Fly ins, engagement.