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NMBCCOC 2011-2012 Legislative Survey

To assist our Legislative Committee in identifying and prioritizing issues to be included in our Legislative Agendas for 2012, please complete this online survey by December 16th, 2011. It only takes 10 minutes to fill out the survey*. Thank you.

As background, our Committee and Board of Directors prepare research and adopt Legislative Policy positions on the local, state, and federal levels. These adopted policy declarations, with strong input from our membership as well as partner organizations at all levels, assist and guide us throughout the year, to represent the interests of our business community at these levels.

Therefore, a number of these issues you are being asked to consider, cross all three levels and will be included as part of all agendas. As background in reference to our goals and priorities for the year in many of these areas, you might also refer to our Business Plan for 2011-2012, found on the chamber's web site, www.NorthMyrtleBeachChamber.com.

** Please fill out and submit the survey only once. Repeat submissions will be disregarded.*

Please indicate your business category. (Select One) :

- Hospitality
- Professional
- Healthcare
- Education
- Other
- Retail
- Industry
- Self Employed
- Skilled/Technical

How many full time employees does your business employ?

- 10 or fewer
- 51 to 100
- 11 to 50
- 101 or more

A. STATE LEGISLATION

This following section deals with legislative issues at the state level in the categories listed. This information has been provided by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce.

1. Economic Development

South Carolina must continue to improve its overall business climate to create a competitive business environment.

This issue for me is :

- Very important
- Important
- Not important

If your response was important / very important...

1. a. Do you support port improvements, including harbor deepening projects?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

1.b. Do you support the South Carolina Department of Commerce budget, including "Closing Fund" appropriations (incentives to attract, retain new businesses)?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

1.c. Do you support "Fund ReadySC" (formerly known as Special Schools) to ensure companies considering locating or expanding in the state have access to a skilled workforce?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

1.d. Do you support a SC branding campaign to redefine perceptions of South Carolina?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

2. Workforce Development

Developing a highly-skilled, diverse and well-educated population is integral to increased job opportunities with dynamic companies doing business in South Carolina. The private and public sectors must work together to ensure workforce needs are addressed and strategies successfully implemented.

This issue for me is :

- Very important
- Important
- Not important

If your response was important / very important...

2.a. Do you support continuing the Education and Economic Development Act (EEDA), which has led to fewer students dropping out of high school, as well as career and technology centers?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

2.b. Do you support providing more choices for parents and students through public charter school reform?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

2.c. Do you support funding the Smart State program (endowed chairs) to help foster public-private partnerships in the knowledge-based economy?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

2.d. Do you support early childhood education, including addressing 3rd grade reading proficiency?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

2.e. Do you support expanded WorkKeys programs to better link workers to available jobs?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

2.f. Do you support expanding incentives for drug-free workplaces?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

2.g. Do you support legislation to help achieve the business community's 2020 Education Goals?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

3. Comprehensive Tax Reform

Tax policy is critical to companies deciding to open, expand or locate in South Carolina. Decisions are based largely on competitive rates, predictability and stability. South Carolina manufacturers currently pay the highest industrial property taxes in the country, while all other business properties pay the 7th highest property taxes.

This issue for me is :

- Very important
- Important
- Not important

If your response was important / very important...

3.a. Do you support the South Carolina General Assembly overhauling the state's tax code and replacing it with a tax strategy that is competitive to create long-term economic prosperity?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

3.b. Do you support Unemployment Insurance (UI) loan repayments to the federal government be offset with tax relief provided to employers?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

3.c. Do you support reforming the business license fee structure so that rates are competitive and allow companies to grow, while standardization, complexity and appeals across localities also be considered?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

4. Infrastructure

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has not seen an increase in dedicated funding for maintenance or expansion of roads and bridges since 1987. While South Carolina's population has increased dramatically and the state's economy has grown and diversified, infrastructure priorities continue to lag neighboring states – states South Carolina competes with for jobs. While South Carolina spends an average of \$15,000 per mile to maintain roads, Georgia spends more than \$35,000 per mile and North Carolina spends more than \$150,000 per mile.

This issue for me is :

- Very important
- Important
- Not important

If your response was important / very important...

4.a. Do you support an infrastructure plan that allocates General Fund revenues and surpluses to be dedicated to the Highway Fund, and examine other revenue sources for maintaining existing infrastructure?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

4.b. Do you support working with the state congressional delegation to improve South Carolina's donor state status, so South Carolina receives more of its fair share of motor fuel tax revenues back from the federal government?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

4.c. Do you support or oppose seeking additional state and federal funding for I73 and I74?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

4.d. Do you support dredging of the Georgetown Port as an economic driver for North Myrtle Beach, Horry County, and South Carolina?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

5. Environment and Energy

South Carolina businesses rely on balanced environment and energy policies to improve stability and certainty for companies to make long-term investment decisions.

This issue for me is :

- Very important
- Important
- Not important

If your response was important / very important...

5.a. Do you support restoring balance to the Pollution Control Act by correcting the Smith Land Company ruling from the South Carolina Supreme Court?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

5.b. Do you support continuing to reform and streamline antiquated environmental regulations that no longer serve a practical purpose in today's environment?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

5.c. Do you support policies and regulations that impact energy costs to ensure business and industry have access to reliable and low-cost electricity?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

5.d. Do you support or oppose drilling for liquefied natural gas (LNG) off our coast?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

5.e. Do you support or oppose drilling for oil off our coast?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

5.f. Do you support or oppose Wind farms off our coast?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

5.g. Do you support or oppose Wind farms off our coast if this is rate neutral to residents or could result in North Myrtle Beach becoming energy self-sufficient?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't Know

6. Government Restructuring

The SC Chamber of Commerce supports creating a more efficient, accountable and fiscally responsible state government through key reforms and restructuring initiatives.

This issue for me is :

- Very important
- Important
- Not important

If your response was important / very important...

6.a. Do you support creating a state spending cap with a budget stabilization fund to bring more predictability to the state appropriation process, and amend state statutes to move away from a revenue estimating-based budget process to a prior-year's budget as a basis for projections?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

6.b. Do you support finding workable solutions to the state retirement system's unfunded liability, which is currently more than \$17 billion and diverts funding away from critical needs?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

6.c. Do you support consolidating the administrative functions of the South Carolina Budget and Control Board into a Department of Administration under executive control?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

6.d. Do you support jointly electing the Governor and Lieutenant Governor?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

6.e. Do you support appointing the offices of state Superintendent of Education, Secretary of State, Adjutant General and Commissioner of Agriculture, and make these offices cabinet positions instead of constitutionally elected officials?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

B. FEDERAL LEGISLATION

This following section deals with legislative issues at the federal level in the categories listed.

7. Transportation

Transportation and Infrastructure provide the backbone to our country's competitive advantage, and the key to job creation. Funding at the national level is critical to our state and local community.

This issue for me is :

- Very important
- Important
- Not important

If your response was important / very important...

7.a. Do you support or oppose seeking additional state and federal funding for I-73 and I-74?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't Know

7.b. Do you support or oppose the dredging of the Georgetown Port?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

7.c. Do you support Congress approval to fund transportation and infrastructure projects at current levels?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

8. Employment / Labor Relations

Not since the great depression in the early 30's has our country had this many of its citizens unemployed. The creation of jobs is our nation's number one priority and Congress must do all it can to remove barriers and stimulate our economy.

This issue for me is :

- Very important
- Important
- Not important

If your response was important / very important...

8.a. Do you support prohibiting the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) from ordering any employer to close, relocate, or transfer employment under any circumstance?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

8.b. Do you support passage of the "Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act" which would restore balance to U.S. labor laws?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

9.Environment and Energy

As a premier coastal destination, we understand the need to protect and enhance our environment as a positive factor in our sustainable development and the growing of our "green economy," through reasonable and balanced measures, while promoting wind energy as a viable source of alternative energy.

This issue for me is :

- Very important
- Important
- Not important

If your response was important / very important...

9.a. Do you support requiring the federal government to consider the true economic impact of its major environmental regulations prior to enactment by EPA?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

9.b. Do you support a congressional amendment to the Magnuson-Stevens Act, giving immediate relief to our commercial and recreational fishermen?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

9.c. Do you support or oppose the same tax incentives for wind energy as available to solar?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

C. LOCAL ISSUES

The following section deals with local issues which might be of interest to the business community (not covered in other sections of this questionnaire).

10. Planning and Development

Exceptional planning and development leads to positive, quality growth and ultimately increased property values and a great quality of life.

This issue for me is :

- Very important
- important
- Not important

If your response was important / very important...

10.a. Do you support the creation and development of an integrated local and regional Sustainable Development Plan?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

11. Transportation / Infrastructure

Meeting the Transportation and Infrastructure needs at the local level provides a community the opportunity to achieve a diverse economy and a strong quality of life.

This issue for me is :

- Very important
- Important
- Not important

If your response was important / very important...

11.a. Do you support the funding and development of I-73 and I-74 as part of the local transportation plan and expanding SC Highway 9 to four lanes?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

11.b. Do you favor the continued support of Grand Strand Airport?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

11.c. Do you support or oppose the dredging of the Georgetown Port as an economic driver for local development?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

12. Hospitality / Tourism

Tourism generates close to \$400,000,000 dollars annually to the North Myrtle Beach economy accounting for 62% of all spending within the city.

This issue for me is :

- Very important
- Important
- Not important

If your response was important / very important...

12.a. As the city's "Destination Marketing Organization", (DMO), for marketing and promoting the community nationally and internationally with the support of accommodations tax dollars, do you support continued and increased a-tax funding from the city's applicable a-tax funds, to better promote our city as a premier visitor destination?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

12.b. Do you support ATAX funding from the county's applicable ATAX funds to better promote our area as a premier visitor destination?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

12.c. Do you support our city's adoption of the 1% Tourism Development Fee as a means to generate new marketing and advertising revenue in addition to dollars for Public infrastructure and/or Property tax relief?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

13. Education and Workforce

It has been proven that there is a direct correlation on the quality of education provided to our children with the quality of our skilled workforce, caregivers, and professional service providers.

This issue for me is :

- Very important
- Important
- Not important

If your response was important / very important...

13.a. Do you support increased funding for Horry County Public Schools, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, and Coastal Carolina University?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

14. Economic Development

To sustain and grow our community over the next several decades will require a shared vision to grow our visitor and destination market along with a diversified economy built around the positive factors of the "green economy" further enhancing our quality of life.

This issue for me is :

- Very important
- Important
- Not important

If your response was important / very important...

14.a. Do you support the creation and development of a community vision for economic and community development in partnership with the City of North Myrtle Beach, and the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation (MBREDC)?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

14. b. Do you support the efforts of the North Strand Coastal Wind Team, as an economic development initiative in partnership with the city, in establishing a community-based wind energy program and a sustainable energy plan?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

14.c. Do you support the "Building North Myrtle Beach" Initiative strategies to grow and expand our visitor destination market, and to help diversify our economy through the creation and attraction of sustainable jobs to our community?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

15. Environment and Health

According to information provided by Smoke-Free Horry and Smoke-Free North Myrtle Beach, advocates for the Smoke-Free Ordinance, the major coastal tourism destinations in South Carolina, (Beaufort County, Bluffton, Charleston, Edisto Beach, Hilton Head Island, Isle of Palms, Mount Pleasant, Surfside Beach, Sullivans Island, in addition to the major cities of Columbia, Greenville, Spartanburg, Florence, and others in S.C. totaling 42 cities and counties), have enacted smoke-free ordinances. In addition to this, the states of PA, NY, OH, and NC have all enacted smoke-free ordinances including the workplace.

This issue for me is :

- Very important
- Important
- Not important

If your response was important / very important...

15.a. Do you support a smoking ban inside public places?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

15.b. you support a smoking ban in city-owned facilities?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

15.c. Do you support a smoking ban in private places of employment?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

Make any additional comments :

Thank you for filling out the survey and for submitting your responses to the North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce Convention and Visitors Bureau! Your answers will help out our Committee in identifying and prioritizing issues to be included in our Legislative Agendas for 2012.

Submit

Photo Albums:

