

# 2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

As the voice for business in Catawba County, the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce convened a taskforce, made up of business and community leaders, to adopt a legislative agenda for 2019. The purpose for this effort was to ensure our business community's opportunities and challenges would be presented directly to our legislators to encourage them to

work efficiently and promote policy that advances and protects business in Catawba County throughout the year.

The priorities below will be integral in stimulating economic growth and fostering an environment for business success in Catawba County in 2019 and beyond.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & TALENT SUPPLY

- The Catawba County Chamber will continue to advocate for the sustainability of K-64, a collaborative approach to shaping future careers and meeting workforce demands by connecting students and employers throughout the educational curriculum ([www.k-64learning.com](http://www.k-64learning.com)).

Other priorities regarding the success of K-64 are as follows:

- The Catawba County Chamber supports the continuation, and potential expansion of, funding for dual enrollment in the Career and College Promise Program which increases college readiness and access to career opportunities and credentials for high school students.
- The Catawba County Chamber supports investments in business growth and the skills of recent high school students by incentivizing the expansion of apprenticeship programs, such as Apprenticeship NC and our local consortium, Apprenticeship Catawba.
- The Catawba County Chamber understands that education is our top economic development driver, therefore, we recognize the critical and immediate need for legislation to provide needed capital funding from the state for upgrading and/or constructing educational facilities for Catawba County Schools, Hickory City Public Schools, Newton-Conover City Schools and Catawba Valley Community College.
- The Catawba County Chamber supports legislation that optimizes our competitiveness as a premier location for military retirees and those transitioning into their next career in the civilian workforce.
  - The Catawba County Chamber supports full exemption of North Carolina state income taxes on military retirees' military pensions.
  - The Catawba County Chamber supports legislation that advances reciprocal licensing for military service members and spouses, allowing occupational or professional licenses to be honored from other states for a reasonable amount of time during transition, providing that the original license is maintained and kept current.
  - The Catawba County Chamber supports the credentialing of service members in their Military Occupational Specialties, ensuring that the training men and women in the armed forces receive is acknowledged and provides ease of transition into the civilian workforce.

## COMPETITIVE BUSINESS CLIMATE

- The Catawba County Chamber supports policies and increased flexibility for Tier I and Tier II counties that make it easier to build and redevelop commercial, industrial and residential projects.
- The Catawba County Chamber supports association health plans in order to improve the affordability of quality health insurance plans for small businesses and those they employ.

## TAX

- The Catawba County Chamber supports tax policies that encourage industrial and entrepreneurial development.
- The Catawba County Chamber opposes legislation that would reduce local revenues, including the alteration of the current sales tax distribution formula.

# MEET YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

## FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

### UNITED STATES SENATORS

Richard Burr—*Republican*  
(202) 224-3154

Thom Tillis—*Republican*  
(202) 224-6342

### UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES

Patrick McHenry—*10th District*  
(828) 327-6100  
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Virginia Foxx—*5th District*  
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## STATE GOVERNMENT

### NC SENATOR

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### NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## CITY GOVERNMENTS

### CITY OF HICKORY

Hickory City Hall  
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#### CITY COUNCIL

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Danny Seaver—*Ward 3*  
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David Williams—*Ward 4*

David Zagaroli—*Ward 5*  
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Jill Patton—*Ward 6*  
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### CITY OF NEWTON

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Anne Stedman—*Mayor*  
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#### CITY COUNCIL

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Bruce Eckard  
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### TOWN OF CATAWBA

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Donald Robinson—*Mayor*  
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#### TOWN COUNCIL

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### TOWN OF MAIDEN

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Robert L. Smyre—*Mayor*  
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#### TOWN COUNCIL

Max Bumgarner, Jr.  
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Marcus Midgett  
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### TOWN OF LONG VIEW

Long View Town Hall  
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#### TOWN COUNCIL

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Dallas Tester—*Ward 5*  
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## COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Randy Isenhower—*Chair*  
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For a complete list, visit:

[www.catawbachamber.org/advocate-for-your-business](http://www.catawbachamber.org/advocate-for-your-business)