



Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness for Georgians

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The Georgia Chamber of Commerce

- Approximately 3,400 members
- Encompassing 156 of Georgia's 159 Counties
- Representing more than 1 million employees

The Georgia Chamber of Commerce

Mission Statement

The Georgia Chamber aggressively advocates the business viewpoint in the shaping of public policy, encouraging ethical business practices and ensuring the state's future as economically prosperous, educationally competitive and environmentally responsible.

Policy Committee Process

- Policy committees add depth and expertise to the Georgia Chamber's ongoing advocacy of a pro-business agenda.
- The Georgia Chamber's Tax Policy Committee is structured to reflect the Georgia business community through committee members that are knowledgeable and experienced in tax policy.

Tax Policy

The Georgia Chamber recognizes the impact of global competition on businesses and supports tax proposals that encourage job creation and retention in Georgia.

We recognize that businesses are the key to bringing jobs, economic development and an improved quality of life for all Georgians. We also recognize that business investment decisions are seldom made in a vacuum, and are decided based on a number of economic and quality of life variables.



Competitiveness

Key Factors

- Education
- Trained Workforce
- Transportation
- Legal System
- Quality of Life
- Tax Policy

Tax Policy

The Georgia Chamber of Commerce supports changes to state tax policy that:

- are competitive with other states and internationally to encourage the location and expansion of businesses in Georgia;
- provide a sustainable, predictable and competitively neutral revenue system (one that does not unfairly single out specific industries or products);
- are balanced and draw revenue from a broad base without relying disproportionately on business revenues;
- consider the negative impact of taxing business inputs or business-to-business purchases;
- prioritize the collection of taxes legally due the state before looking to new sources;
- consider dynamic economic modeling when analyzing the impact of proposed tax changes; and
- encourage economic growth, entrepreneurship and prosperity.

Tax Policy

The Georgia Chamber recognizes that a distinct component of state tax policy is the cost of compliance.

As a result, the Chamber *supports*:

- the adoption of legislation, rules and regulations, and administrative procedures that provide for ease of compliance by tax filers and access to meaningful data based upon such filings;
- state use of technology to help automate routine processes along with funding for adequate staff and equipment to process and audit returns; and
- adequate audits to ensure proper collection and disbursement of tax revenue.

Tax Policy

To assist in a more streamlined and efficient resolution of tax disputes, the Georgia Chamber ***supports*** creation of an independent trial court over tax disputes involving the Georgia Department of Revenue.

- A tax court would also increase the uniformity of decision-making in tax cases, improve access to the judicial process and increase public confidence in the state tax system.



2010 Tax Survey

The Chamber recently surveyed our members asking for their input regarding Georgia's tax current structure and their thoughts for the Council to consider.

2010 Tax Survey

Underlying Principles

- Competitiveness
 - Rates and Application
 - Sales Tax Exemption on Energy Used in Manufacturing
 - Inventory Tax
 - Sales Tax on Construction Materials
- Continuity and Flexibility
 - Quality Jobs Tax Credit
 - Payroll Withholding Tax
 - Tax Credit Transferability



2010 Tax Survey

Underlying Principles

- Incentivize Job Creation and Investment
 - Exempt Business Inputs – i.e., energy, construction materials
 - Insurance Tax Premiums
- Accountability
 - Dynamic Modeling/Forecasting
 - Examine Exemptions
 - Sunset



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