

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
Shoals Chamber of Commerce
April, 2008

The Shoals Chamber of Commerce will actively support/lobby for the following legislative initiatives:

High Priority Issues – Federal and State:

- U.S. Highway 43: Four Lane to Tennessee
- UNA Science Building
- Patton Island Corridor Completion
- Support construction of the Memphis/Huntsville/Atlanta corridor from SR20 (US 72) West of Decatur to I 565 in Huntsville.
- Conduct meetings with the Shoals local delegation in order to seek a status report on all legislative initiatives
- Actively support the repeal of the Death Tax **(Federal)**
- Actively support the repeal of the Alternative Minimum Tax **(Federal)**
- Actively work to shorten the depreciation period for Capital Investment. **(Federal)**
- Support efforts that conform Alabama Law with the Internal Revenue Code's new domestic manufacturing deduction (Section 199) to allow such a deduction for owners of partnerships, LLCs and Subchapter S corporations. –to conform with Federal Law **(State)**
- Continue to work toward relocation of Norfolk Southern rail tracks in Colbert County.
- Work to enact Federal and State tax credits for small businesses that provide healthcare coverage for their employees, including prescription drug coverage. **(Federal, State)**

Other Priority Issues:

- West Alabama Freeway Construction
- Support efforts to create an Alabama income tax exemption of partnership/LLC earnings for out-of-state investors in qualified investment partnerships operating in Alabama. **(State)**
- Monitor efforts to provide education funding for Northwest-Shoals Community College, the University of North Alabama and Shoals area schools K-12 in Alabama at a level comparable to peer states in the Southeast, using a tax structure that is fair, based on an individual's ability to pay, and that assures accountability in the spending of education funds. Continue to support comprehensive tax reform that does not single out any particular company or industry. **(State)**
- Support Congressional efforts to enact the Sales Tax Fairness and Simplification act and Business Activity Tax Simplicity Act. **(Federal)**
- Request enabling legislation to permit the sale of draft beer in Colbert County. **(State)**
- Support incentive legislation for the entertainment industry in Alabama. **(State)**
- Continue to seek designation for the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area. **(Federal)**
- Continue to encourage Alabama Constitution reform. **(State)**

What needs to be done to help in these legislative efforts:

- Develop master list of existing relationships within our Board of Directors, and other Chamber members who know legislators, members of the executive branch, department heads, etc.
- Develop relationships with those legislators, executive branch members and department heads, etc.
- Raise \$150,000 of unencumbered funds in ShoalsPAC over the next three years.