

The Calhoun County Area Chamber & Visitors Center's Mission is to promote and sustain the economic growth of the Calhoun County Region, resulting in a community that is a dynamic place to work, visit, and live.

2025 State Legislative Agenda

Legislative Priorities

- Supporting major industries and local employers such as JSU, Gadsden State, ANAD, and RMC
- Advocating for infrastructure investments that create opportunities to develop underutilized areas of Calhoun County
- Identifying opportunities to support the development of area tourist attractions, trail expansions, etc.

Local Issues

- Enhancing Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
 - Prioritize policies that ensure reliable and effective emergency medical response across Calhoun County, improving accessibility and quality of care in both urban and rural communities
- Supporting Volunteer Fire Departments
 - Advocate for measures that recognize and reinforce the essential role of Volunteer Fire Departments in safeguarding lives and property throughout Calhoun County.
 - Encourage initiatives that build a sustainable foundation for volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention to ensure ongoing community protection.
- Addressing the Rising Stray Dog Problem
 - Champion a humane and responsible approach to animal control that balances public safety with animal welfare.
 - Support efforts that foster a community-centered approach to managing and reducing stray animal populations, promoting safer neighborhoods for all residents.

Economic Development

The Calhoun County Area Chamber & Visitors Center believes the state should invest in economic development and develop programs that result in jobs and investment.

- Monitoring proposed legislation that could adversely affect the business environment
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- Support and defend historic tax credits and exemptions
- Support legislation that helps recruit new businesses to our state and region
- Support initiatives that assist existing industries, new business recruitment, cybersecurity, and technology growth
- Support initiatives to enhance the Calhoun County Area's tourism industry
- Support commercial developments and business incubator growth
- Support initiatives that address the issue of homelessness, mental health, and affordable housing initiatives in Calhoun County
- Opposing unrealized capital gains taxes

Infrastructure

The Calhoun County Area Chamber & Visitors Center believes a robust 21st Century Infrastructure is critical in developing and expanding commerce.

- Increase Alabama's investments in Calhoun County's Area transportation infrastructure to sustain and promote economic growth, job creation, quality of life, and public safety
- Support a viable Infrastructure plan that identifies opportunities for infrastructure investments and positions the Calhoun County Area for future growth and business recruitment
- Support the expansion of fiber optics throughout the Calhoun County Area
 - Support efforts to develop a comprehensive plan for funding the expansion of fiber optics in unserved areas

Education and Workforce Development

The Calhoun County Area Chamber & Visitors Center believes a strong and integrated education system, from preschool through higher education, is vital in workforce and talent development.

- Support measures that positively affect Gadsden State Community College and Jacksonville State University
 - Support increased state funding of Dual Enrollment programs
- Support measures for increased career tech training programs
 - Expanding the number of CTE programs offered
- Advocate for the implementation of Pre-K programs in all public schools
- Support measures for higher academic standards in Calhoun County Students
- Support increasing state funding of K-12 Career Coaches and lowering the ratio of coaches-to-students
- Increasing opportunities for students to receive soft-skills training
- Support policies that could effectively increase our labor force participation rate
- Support the Create Technology and Innovation Center

Healthcare

The Calhoun County Area Chamber & Visitors Center supports funding and state policies that will positively impact healthcare for the citizens in the Calhoun County area.

- Support expanding the scope of practice for Nurse Practitioners in rural areas.
- Providing support to RMC Health System's mission of providing quality healthcare services in the Calhoun County area
- Workforce Initiatives with Community college system and funding through the Alabama Office of Apprenticeship for specific healthcare positions (nursing, surg techs, lab techs, respiratory therapy, etc)
- Support efforts to ensure EMS providers can cover all of Calhoun County

Agriculture

The Calhoun County Area Chamber & Visitors Center supports funding and state policies that will positively impact agriculture for the citizens in the Calhoun County area.

- Maintain and defend existing tax exemptions and credits
- Support legislation that keeps Alabama's agricultural industry competitive with surrounding states
- Support legislation that lowers the material cost for agricultural producers
- Increased support for vocational programs in high schools