



2025-2027 Policy Agenda

Housing

The Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce supports policies that will increase the housing supply in our region.

Specifically, we support policies that: allow for greater density along transit and mixed-use corridors, reduce/remove parking minimums, encourage infill and density, and reduce uncertainty for developers of housing.

While we advocate for an increase in overall supply, research has shown our region has a need for both missing middle and workforce housing. Housing affordability remains a major issue in the Region and may be exacerbated by Hurricane Helene.

As such, we will support policies that will help our region grow the housing supply, with a focus on addressing urgent needs such as workforce and missing middle housing.

Infrastructure

The Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce supports policies that will improve and modernize the region's infrastructure.

Specifically, we support policies that will provide investments in water and sewer systems, stormwater management, parks, roads and bridges, trails and greenways, transportation, energy, and communications and broadband.

Given that Hurricane Helene caused additional damage to systems already in need of maintenance and modernization, it is more imperative than ever that local, state, and federal governments focus funding and support for the region's infrastructure.

As such, we support policies that provide investments in our region's infrastructure, focusing on current and pressing needs, prioritizing sustainability, resiliency, and modernization, and considering the needs of future generations in investments made.

Resources and Support for Businesses

The Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce supports policies that deliver resources and support to the region's businesses.

Specifically, we support policies that reduce barriers to starting and running a business, provide access to funding and other financial resources, including grants and forgivable loans, increase investments in marketing and tourism-related programs to attract visitors to the Region, and provide programs and support for business retention and expansion.

Given that Hurricane Helene resulted in physical and economic losses for the region's businesses, that many were denied insurance claims, that many still have outstanding loans received during the Covid-19 pandemic, and that the hurricane hit during peak tourism season, the needs of the region's businesses have never been greater.

As such, we support policies at the local, state, and federal level that will help our region's businesses not just recover and rebuild but prosper in the years to come.

Workforce Development

The Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce supports policies that will support the retention and growth of the workforce in our region.

Specifically, we support policies that provide resources for training and development, career services and apprenticeships, and programs to assist individuals re-entering the workforce.

Understanding that the presence of affordable childcare and quality healthcare are essential to a flourishing workforce, we include advocacy for policies that support these initiatives as well.

As such, we support policies that encourage the retention and growth of our workforce, expand participation in the Region's workforce, and the infrastructure required to help individuals and families' flourish.