

## 2016 NASHVILLE METRO GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Chamber's purpose is to facilitate community leadership to create economic prosperity. Our Metro government legislative agenda helps fulfill this purpose by focusing on the following priorities:

### An environment where business can prosper

1. **PRIORITY ISSUE: Support job-creation efforts in Davidson County through the public/private Partnership 2020 contract between Metro government and the Chamber. Adopted in the Nashville/Davidson County operating budget, June 21.**
2. Support the need to have developable sites ready for investment in order to create jobs and build the city's property tax base.
3. Support predictable and transparent development and zoning policies that encourage development, investment and support for entrepreneurs and small businesses.  
*Related Legislation*
  - ORDINANCE NO. BL2016-219 – Forest View Drive Downzoning – A rezoning that would reduce the property owner's development rights mid-development, without the property owner's consent. This ordinance also threatens to disrupt Nashville/Davidson County's access to competitive Low-Income Housing Tax Credits in the future – a significant source of funding for affordable housing.  
Chamber Position: **OPPOSED. On July 5, the bill was deferred to November 1.**
  - SUBSTITUTE BILL NO. BL2016-234 – Regulation of Natural Gas Compressor – A change to the health portion of Metro Code to regulate the location of gas compressor stations, which is the role of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. This adds uncertainty to the distribution of natural gas.  
Chamber Position: **OPPOSED. Bill passed on July 5.**
  - ORDINANCE NO. BL2016-297 – Hickory Hollow Pkwy Downzoning – A rezoning that would reduce the property owner's development rights without the owner's consent.  
Chamber Position: **OPPOSED. On July 9, the bill was deferred to October 4.**
4. Oppose implementation of local-hire mandates on municipal construction projects. **A referendum imposing local-hire mandates was passed in Davidson County in 2015. In 2016, the Tennessee State Legislature took action to preempt cities' ability to pass local-hire mandates, nullifying Davidson County's action.**
5. Support the use of local government tax credits and incentives for economic development as additional tools to encourage the location or expansion of business in Nashville.
6. **PRIORITY ISSUE: Support responsible and sustainable fiscal policies, ensuring the long-term prosperity of the city and its people.**
  - **Support the Metro Study & Formulating Committee's 2015 recommendation to reform retiree health benefits for future city employees.**
7. Support an effective legislative body that makes decisions in a deliberate, yet timely manner that promotes consistency and predictability across the city.

## Talent development of the region's workforce

8. Support operational and capital funding for Metro Nashville Public Schools as a city budget priority.  
**Adopted in the Nashville/Davidson County operating budget, June 21.**
9. Support school reform efforts that improve graduation rates and academic achievement.
10. Support public/private partnerships that address the city's postsecondary completion and workforce needs.

## Quality of life that attracts and retains residents and workers

11. ***PRIORITY ISSUE: Support expansion of Metro Nashville's multi-modal transit systems and a dedicated funding source for regional mass transit infrastructure that has a strong business case for success.***

### Related Legislation

- ORDINANCE NO. BL2016-259 – A bill requiring the Metro Transit Authority to produce by December 31, 2016:
  - A plan for transit for Nashville/Davidson County,
  - A proposal for funding source(s), and
  - A recommendation on which transit line should be developed first.

Chamber Position: **SUPPORTED. Bill passed on July 5.**

12. Support an incentive-based approach to promoting housing affordability.

### Related Legislation

- ORDINANCE NO. BL2016-133 – A bill creating an Inclusionary Zoning program, which would require property owners seeking additional residential entitlements to provide a percentage of the new units as affordable or workforce units and receive a grant from the city to offset the cost or pay an in-lieu fee.

The bill gained Chamber support after the adoption of:

- A substitute ordinance that addressed issues raised by the Chamber,
- An amendment to align the end date to December 31, and
- An amendment to create a nine-month phase-in for the regulation.

Chamber Position: **SUPPORTED. Bill passed on September 6.**

- ORDINANCE NO. BL2016-342- An ordinance amending Title 2 of the Metropolitan Code to create an affordable and workforce housing grant program, which can be used by developers as a stand-alone incentive and can be used as the incentives promised in BL2016-133.

The bill gained Chamber support after the adoption of amendments that addressed issues raised by the Chamber.

Chamber Position: **SUPPORTED. Bill passed on September 6.**

13. Support investments in public infrastructure and entertainment that have a strong business and financial case and broaden Nashville's reputation as a livable city.
14. Support the development of the downtown core as essential to the growth of Davidson County and the region.
15. Support projects and programs that eliminate barriers to prosperity, such as poverty and homelessness reduction.
16. Support efforts to maintain our identity and brand as a welcoming, inclusive city.