










2023 METRO LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

The Nashville Chamber values our partnership with elected officials as we work together to maintain a strong quality of life, strengthen education and workforce, and work to retain and create jobs. Every year, the Chamber's board of directors adopts a State and Metro Legislative Agenda based on issues identified by our members in our annual policy survey. We share these agendas with state and local elected officials. Throughout the year, we work to provide information to our members and advocate as a collective business voice for Middle Tennessee. We are pleased to share our 2023 Legislative Scorecard, which reports how our elected leaders at the Nashville-Davidson County Metro Council have voted in the past year in four policy areas:

- Creating an environment where business can prosper.
- Promoting talent development of the region's workforce.
- Ensuring quality of life that attracts and retains residents and workers.
- Leading regional efforts to ensure economic prosperity.

METRO LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD OVERVIEW

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-  **One Percent Increase in Hotel Occupancy Privilege Tax for a New, Enclosed Stadium**
-  **Final Term Sheet for a New, Enclosed Stadium**
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-  **FY24 Metro Nashville-Davidson County Operating Budget**

Resolution Urging Nashville Voters to vote YES on 3

RS2022
1851

RS2022-1851 urged Nashville voters to vote YES on Tennessee Constitutional Amendment 3 in the 2022 November state and federal elections. Before the 2022 election, the language of the Tennessee Constitution read, "That slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, are forever prohibited by this State." Passage of Amendment 3 ended the exception to the abolition of slavery in Tennessee by replacing that language with "That slavery and involuntary servitude are forever prohibited in this State. Nothing in this section shall prohibit an inmate from working when the inmate has been duly convicted of a crime." This amendment passed as a joint resolution in 2021 with bipartisan support of both chambers of the Tennessee Legislature. Metro Council supported that effort through the approval of RS2022-1851.

RS2022-1851 was sponsored by Council Members Dave Rosenberg (35), Zulfat Suara (At-Large), Delishia Porterfield (29), Emily Benedict (7), Burkley Allen (At-Large), Russ Bradford (13), Tom Cash (18), Thom Druffel (23), Erin Evans (12), Jennifer Gamble (3), Tonya Hancock (9), Gloria Hausser (22), Angie Henderson (34), Sharon Hurt (At-Large), Courtney Johnston (26), Antoinette Lee (33), Bob Mendes (At-Large), Kathleen Murphy (24), Bob Nash (27), Freddie O'Connell (19), Sean Parker (5), Russ Pulley (25), John Rutherford (31), Sandra Sepulveda (30), Colby Sledge (17), Joy Styles (32), Jeff Syracuse (15), Brandon Taylor (21), Kyonzté Toombs (2), Tanaka Vercher (28), Ginny Welsch (16), Brett Withers (6), and Zach Young (10).

Chamber Position

The Chamber Board voted to support Amendment 3 which removed language that allowed slavery from the Tennessee Constitution. Slavery is outlawed by the United States Constitution and in Tennessee. However, like twenty other states, before the passage of this amendment, Tennessee still had language in its Constitution that allowed slavery as a punishment for crime. In business and everyday life, words matter. In policy, there are no more impactful words than those in the document governing Tennessee law so clearly removing any form of slavery from the Tennessee Constitution was critical.

Status

RS2022-1851 (Rosenberg, Suara, Porterfield, Benedict, Allen, Bradford, Cash, Druffel, Evans, Gamble, Hancock, Hausser, Henderson, Hurt, Johnston, Lee, Mendes, Murphy, Nash, O'Connell, Parker, Pulley, Rutherford, Sepulveda, Sledge, Styles, Syracuse, Taylor, Toombs, Vercher, Welsch, Withers, and Young) was adopted by the Council at its November 1, 2022 meeting. See recorded vote.

Creation of an Entertainment Commission

BL2022
1631

BL2022-1631 amended Metro Code to create the Nashville Music, Film and Entertainment Commission. The creation of this commission was a journey of passion by a number of council members and stemmed from previously passed legislation – RS2022-1494 (appropriated \$260,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to carry out a study to identify strategies to assist independent music venues in recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 and other acute stresses) and RS2022-1497 (supported efforts to revive the Music City Music Council into a sustainable and effective initiative).

This bill existed in a few different forms during metro council debate and stakeholder/community conversations, but ultimately the bill landed in a compromise balancing all forms of entertainment including the music industry, film and television industry, fashion industry, video game industry, and other creative industries. The commission will be comprised of three councils – the Music City Music Council, the Film and Television Advisory Council, and the Diversity and Equity Council.

BL2022-1631 was sponsored by Council Members Joy Styles (32), Ginny Welsch (16), Kyonzté Toombs (2), Sandra Sepulveda (30), Angie Henderson (34), Erin Evans (12), Zulfat Suara (At-Large), Jennifer Gamble (3), Kathleen Murphy (24), Delishia Porterfield (29), Burkley Allen (At-Large), and Jeff Syracuse (15).

Chamber Position

The Chamber supported BL2022-1631 because the music, entertainment and creative industries are a core economy within Nashville, and the Chamber is committed to the healthy growth of this industry. In addition, previous renditions of the Music City Music Council were heavily supported by the Chamber and the Chamber provided \$30,000 to help with the study of strategies for music venues.

Status

BL2022-1631 (Styles, Welsch, Toombs, Sepulveda, Henderson, Evans, Suara, Gamble, Murphy, Porterfield, Allen, and Syracuse) was adopted by the Council at its April 18, 2022 meeting. See recorded vote.

Non-binding Term Sheet to Finance, Construct, and Operate a New, Enclosed Stadium on the East Bank

RS2022
1827

RS2022-1827 approved a term sheet describing the terms and conditions of the agreements and transactions required to finance, construct, and operate a new, enclosed multi-purpose stadium on the East Bank, subject to the subsequent approval of final agreements by Metro Council. The non-binding term sheet provided the framework for the final agreement provided in later legislation, BL2023-1741.

RS2022-1827 was sponsored by Council Members Brett Withers (6), Kevin Rhoten (14), Sharon Hurt (At-Large), Zach Young (10), Bob Nash (27), Russ Pulley (25), Jonathan Hall (1), John Rutherford (31), Courtney Johnston (26), Gloria Hausser (22), Larry Hagar (11), Tonya Hancock (9), Joy Styles (32), and Nancy VanReece (8).

Chamber Position

The Chamber supported RS2022-1827. The Chamber heard from its members supporting the building of a new, domed stadium and its subsequent financing language. The passage of the non-binding term sheet was necessary for continued conversation on the potential development of a new, enclosed multi-purpose stadium on the East Bank.

Status

RS2022-1827 (Withers, Rhoten, Hurt, Young, Nash, Swope, Pulley, Hall, Rutherford, Johnston, Hausser, Hagar, Hancock, Styles, and VanReece) was adopted by the Council at its December 20, 2022 meeting. See recorded vote.

One Percent Increase in Hotel Occupancy Privilege Tax for a New, Enclosed Stadium

BL2022
1529

BL2022-1529 amended Metro Code by increasing the hotel occupancy privilege tax in the amount of one percent and directed the proceeds to be used for the construction of and future capital improvements to a new, enclosed stadium, and debt service related thereto.

This ordinance was possible through state enabling legislation. Increasing the hotel occupancy privilege tax by one percent for the stadium shifted a large portion of the burden of funding the stadium away from residents. It also provided a way for Metro Nashville to reallocate general fund dollars that would have been allocated to a stadium renovation towards possible quality of life uses for Nashvillians such as infrastructure, safety, and public education.

BL2022-1529 was sponsored by Council Members Brett Withers (6), Kevin Rhoten (14), Sharon Hurt (At-Large), and Robert Swope (4).

Chamber Position

The Chamber supported this ordinance increasing the hotel occupancy privilege tax by one percent for the new, enclosed stadium. It provided a way for Metro Nashville to reallocate general funds dollars that would have been allocated to a stadium renovation, a long-standing financial burden estimated at \$1.75B. This is revenue that can be used to invest in schools, infrastructure, workforce development initiatives, and other functions that improve our region's livability. The current stadium lease was not a tenable option for Nashville's fiscal health.

Status

BL2022-1529 (Withers, Rhoten, Hurt, and Swope) was adopted by the Council at its December 20, 2022 meeting. See recorded vote.

BL2023-1741 authorized Metro Government to execute and deliver an intergovernmental agreement with the Sports Authority related to the development and funding of a new, enclosed stadium. The legislation also authorized Metro Government to designate a geographic zone where 50% of state and local option sales taxes will be allocated to fund capital projects at the stadium or any onsite or offsite infrastructure necessary for the operation, approve the issuance of revenue bonds by the Sports Authority to finance a portion of the costs related to construction of the enclosed stadium, and the acquisition of the stadium campus from the Sports Authority and the lease of the new stadium site to the Sports Authority.

BL2023-1741 also authorized Metro Government's execution and delivery of a site coordination agreement relating to the interaction between the operations of the stadium and the development within certain areas around the stadium and authorized the defeasance of a portion of the Metro Government's general obligation bonds issued to fund the acquisition of the campus on which the stadium is located.

BL2023-1741 was sponsored by Council Members Brett Withers (6), Kevin Rhoten (14), Sharon Hurt (At-Large), Russ Pulley (25), Tonya Hancock (9), Courtney Johnston (26), Zach Young (10), Bob Nash (27), John Rutherford (31), Jonathan Hall (1), Larry Hagar (11), and Nancy VanReece (8).

Chamber Position

The Chamber supported the approval of the final term sheet for the new, enclosed stadium. The new agreement will ensure the early return of 66 acres of prime real estate to the city, ensuring the land can be activated to align with the city's core mission and projects. This land will be available for the city to unlock new revenue sources through thoughtful development going into the City's General Fund and a newly created Nashville Needs Impact Fund (NNIF) to address the city's most prominent needs.

The current stadium lease is not a tenable option for Nashville's fiscal health. With multiple dedicated revenue streams, a significant \$500M contribution from the state, and a backstop guarantee from the Titans on any excess construction cost, this deal alleviates more than \$1.75B in liability for Nashville taxpayers. This is revenue that can be used to invest in our schools, infrastructure, workforce development initiatives, and other functions that improve our region's livability.

Status

BL2023-1741 (Withers, Rhoten, Hurt, Pulley, Hancock, Johnston, Young, Nash, Rutherford, Hall, Hagar, and VanReece) was adopted by the Council at its April 25, 2023 meeting. See recorded vote.

Creation of Sidewalk Vending Regulations

BL2023
1647

BL2023-1647 amended Metro Code related to sidewalk vending and the clearing of obstacles from the public right-of-way. This ordinance delegated authority to the Traffic and Parking Commission to set fees and make rules and regulations for sidewalk vendors. It also authorized the Traffic and Parking Commission to take actions such as suspending and revoking permits, sending written notice of a suspension, revocation, or denial of a permit, and granting the renewal of a permit.

In addition, BL2023-1647 added language to Metro Code making it clear that vending must occur in approved locations and not interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic or create unsafe conditions. This ordinance also amends provisions related to the removal of obstructions in the right-of-way and empowers the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, Nashville Fire Department, and Nashville Department of Transportation and Multimodal Infrastructure to promptly remove any material or obstruction in the public right-of-way.

BL2023-1647 was sponsored by Council Members Angie Henderson (34), Russ Pulley (25), Kevin Rhoten (14), and Freddie O'Connell (19).

Chamber Position

The Nashville Chamber has a vested interest in promoting the Nashville region and the downtown area as a safe and thriving neighborhood for businesses, residents, and visitors. Downtown Nashville has grown over time with increased pedestrian and vehicular movement, straining the use of the public right of way and creating locations where unregulated sidewalk vending caused risks to public safety. Downtown is home to many types of businesses and the Nashville Chamber advocates for actions with accountability that ensure that the downtown core functions effectively, strengthens safety, and diversifies the downtown experience for business, residents, and visitors.

Status

BL2023-1647 (Henderson, Pulley, Rhoten and O'Connell) was adopted by the Council at its February 7, 2023 meeting. See recorded vote.

FY24 Metro Nashville-Davidson County Operating Budget

BL2023
1867

BL2023-1867, as substituted and amended, approved the annual operating budget for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville-Davidson County for Fiscal Year 2024 that included investment in education, affordable housing, transportation, and education support staff pay. BL2023-1867, as substituted and amended, was sponsored by Council Members Kevin Rhoten (14) and Jennifer Gamble (3).

Chamber Position

The Chamber supported Mayor Cooper's proposed FY24 operating budget and Council Member Kevin Rhoten's proposed FY24 substitute operating budget. The proposed annual operating budget invests in things that are important to Nashvillians, our Chamber members, and helps to maintain and strengthen Nashville's quality of life. Some highlights of the budget include \$30 million for the Barnes Affordable Housing Trust, \$125,000 for the Housing Incentive Program, \$5.4 million for the new Office of Homeless Services, and \$71.9 million for WeGo.

Status

BL2023-1867 (Rhoten and Gamble) was adopted by the Council at its June 20, 2023 meeting. See recorded vote.

2023 METRO SCORECARD

VOTING RECORD

	RS2022 1851	BL2022 1631	RS2022 1827	BL2022 1529	BL2023 1741	BL2023 1647	BL2023 1867
Bob Mendes (AT LARGE)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Sharon Hurt (AT LARGE)	✓	PNV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Burkley Allen (AT LARGE)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Steve Glover (AT LARGE)	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Zulfat Suara (AT LARGE)	✓	PNV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jonathan Hall (1)	PNV	ABS	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓
Kyonzte Toombs (2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jennifer Gamble (3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Robert Swope (4)	PNV	✗	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓
Sean Parker (5)	✓	PNV	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Brett Withers (6)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Emily Benedict (7)	✓	PNV	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Nancy VanReece (8)	NVR	PNV	✓	✓	✓	NVR	✓
Tonya Hancock (9)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zach Young (10)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Larry Hagar (11)	PNV	PNV	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓
Erin Evans (12)	✓	✓	✓	ABS	✗	PNV	✓
Russ Bradford (13)	✓	✓	ABS	PNV	✗	✓	✓
Kevin Rhoten (14)	NVR	✓	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓
Jeff Syracuse (15)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ginny Welsch (16)	✓	PNV	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Colby Sledge (17)	✓	✓	✗	PNV	✗	✓	✓
Tom Cash (18)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Freddie O'Connell (19)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Mary Carolyn Roberts (20)	PNV	✓	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓
Brandon Taylor (21)	✓	✓	✗	✓	ABS	ABS	✓
Gloria Hausser (22)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thom Druffel (23)	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓	✓	✓
Kathleen Murphy (24)	✓	NVR	✓	✓	✓	NVR	✓
Russ Pulley (25)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Courtney Johnson (26)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓
Robert Nash (27)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NVR
Tanaka Vercher (28)	✓	PNV	ABS	✗	✓	PNV	✓
Delishia Porterfield (29)	PNV	✓	✗	ABS	✓	✗	✓
Sandra Sepulveda (30)	✓	✓	✗	ABS	✗	PNV	✓
John Rutherford (31)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joy Styles (32)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Antoinette Lee (33)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Angie Henderson (34)	✓	✓	NVR	NVR	✗	✓	✓
Dave Rosenberg (35)	PNV	NVR	ABS	✓	✗	PNV	✓

✓ Supported Chamber position ✗ Opposed Chamber position

PNV Present but not voting NVR No vote recorded (absent) ABS Abstained

** Note: Council Member at Large Steve Glover resigned on March 1, 2022.

