CALHOUN COUNTY AREA
CHAMBER AND VISITORS CENTER

The Calhoun County Area Chamber & Visitors Center 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.

2023 State Legislative Agenda (In-Progress)

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
- Support and defend historic tax credits and exemptions
    - Support legislation that helps recruit new businesses to our state and region
        - Support efforts to extend the Alabama Jobs Act and increase the cap on economic incentives
- 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

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 would position Calhoun County Area for future growth and business recruitment
    - Advocate funding of Feasibility Studies for potential projects such as:
        - Widening SR-9 into a four-lane road
        - Creating interstate access to SR-9
        - Widening portions of SR-77 near the Talladega-Calhoun County line
- 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
        - Increasing need-based financial aid available
        - Increasing merit-based scholarship opportunities for high-school students taking dual enrollment
- 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

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

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
    - FL, GA, TN, and MS provide farmers with sales tax exemptions on farm equipment, while AL places a 1.5% sales tax on farm equipment purchased in Alabama
- Support legislation that lowers the material cost for agricultural producers
    - Tax credits for materials such as fencing, trailers, etc.
- Increased funding of vocational Ag. Programs in high schools