



1. Reform the South Carolina Tax System to reduce the negative impacts of ACT 388

Talking Points:

- Industrial, Commercial, Apartment, and Rental property taxes pay a disproportionate share of school operations and maintenance.
- Fast growing areas of York County require districts to develop creative funding models (impact fees) to cover additional expenses such as new school construction, which further negatively impacts business growth. This will result in continued business property tax increases on existing businesses or cause school districts to begin to restrict programs and services which will result in a decline in the overall quality of student education.
- In 2005, Industrial Property taxes were three and half times higher than homestead property; in 2018, Industrial Property is seven times higher. In 2005, Commercial and Apartment property taxes were two times higher than homestead property; in 2018, Commercial and Apartment taxes are three and half times higher.
- Since ACT 388 total revenue per student has grown at a 0.2 percent rate, while it had grown at 3.6 percent rate from 1994 to 2007.
- The negative impacts extend beyond just fast-growing districts, a comprehensive study by the Lincoln Institute on the South Carolina property tax system analyzed 10 counties and more than 20 school districts.

We support changes to the state tax system that creates a more fair, balanced, and transparent system that reduces the property tax burdens on business.

2. Strive to develop, attract, and retain a qualified talent pool to address the state's workforce shortage.

Talking Points:

- South Carolina has a historic low labor participation rate of 56.6 % (not back to pre-covid numbers) with many workers choosing not to work for a variety of reasons including but not limited to affordable housing, lack of affordable childcare, and frustration with existing hiring methodologies.
- Many job seekers don't possess the skills needed for the open jobs that exist in South Carolina.
- South Carolina has many agencies working to address this problem but lacks a comprehensive strategy or clear direction on how to address the challenges in a more collaborative way.
- **We support policies to boost the state's workforce participation, including reasonable occupational licensing reforms, second chance hiring initiatives for non-violent ex-offenders, enhancing recruitment and retention, developing initiatives that result in more affordable housing, and attainable childcare options. Additionally, an effort should be made to create a more coordinated strategy for state-wide workforce development initiatives.**
- **We encourage continued support and funding for K-12 and higher education institutions (Clinton College, Winthrop University, and York Technical College) to fill critical needs jobs, and support for workforce reskilling/upskilling initiatives, and building a more robust talent pool.**

3. Additional State Legislative areas of focus for the YCRC include:

- Encourage Economic Competitiveness
- Cultivate a Pro-Business Environment and Regulatory Climate
- Adopt Fair-Share Liability

4. Seek and expect a more civil and respectful approach to addressing challenges at the local, state, and federal level.

Talking Points:

- A lack of trust among local government entities and elected officials has hindered communication resulting in less than positive outcomes.
- State and Federal elected leaders are utilizing the media and social media more than ever to attack colleagues with different ideologies in a way that is filtering down into local political meetings such as municipal governments and school boards where citizens are questioning local elected officials with greater disrespect than in previous years.
- Many people are communicating with other people they interact with daily with less respect both in person and through social media comments.

We encourage leaders (elected and non-elected) at all levels of government, for profit business, and non-profit organizations to strive to be more respectful of others with differing views and refrain from utilizing social media to attack those that think differently.

We expect our leaders, especially our local leaders to work more collaboratively on the front-end of opportunities and challenges to have better outcomes and less “bad press” for our respected communities which invariably results in lost and missed opportunities.

We ask all citizens to communicate with others and to treat workers at any business with greater respect.
