

2019 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
& METRO NASHVILLE DAVIDSON COUNTY COUNCIL



Making your business voice count.

The Chamber values our partnership with elected officials as we work together to create jobs, develop workforce and build communities. 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 2019 Legislative Scorecard, which reports how our elected leaders at the State Legislature and Metro Nashville-Davidson County 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.

In order to create an environment where business can prosper, we help our members engage in policy decisions that directly impact their business:

LISTEN: Our annual policy survey allows our members to tell us how public policy issues impact their business.

INFORM: Our annual legislative agendas reflect the Chamber's policy positions and provides information about legislative issues important to business. nashvillechamber.com/public-policy

INFLUENCE: Middle Tennessee Business Voice offers our members a way to communicate directly with elected officials. midtnbusinessvoice.com

REPORT: Our annual legislative scorecard reports how our elected officials voted on the issues important to business in Middle Tennessee. nashvillechamber.com/public-policy

2019 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD STATE

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE BUSINESS CAN PROSPER

- ✓✓ Restrictions on Hiring Practices
- ✓✓✓ Incentives for Economic Development and Job Creation
- ✓ Guns on Private Property

TALENT DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION'S WORKFORCE

- ✓ Governor's Investment in Vocational Education Act
- ✓ State Charter School Commission
- ✓ Cost of Expungements
- ✓ Citation in Lieu of Arrest
- ✗ Pre-Trial Release
- ✓ Education Savings Accounts
- ✓ Director of Schools

ENSURING A QUALITY OF LIFE THAT ATTRACTS AND RETAINS RESIDENTS AND WORKERS

- ✓✓ Public Policy Regarding Bathrooms and Locker Rooms
- ✗ HOV Lanes

- ✓ Took action supporting Chamber position
- ✗ Took action opposing Chamber position or failed to pass legislation supporting Chamber position

The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce facilitates community leadership to create economic prosperity. Through partnerships with our members, elected officials and other organizations throughout the region, we work to ensure that business needs are a top consideration when policy decisions are made.

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE BUSINESS CAN PROSPER



Restrictions on Hiring Practices

Two bills were filed this year that would restrict the hiring practices of private employers. HB 10/SB 34 (Potts/Gilmore) would prevent employers from refusing to interview or hire a candidate based on the candidate's credit score and it would create a cause of action whereby the candidate could sue the employer. HB 56/SB 1006 (Potts/Gilmore) would criminalize the practice of employers screening applicants based on compensation history.

CHAMBER POSITION

The Chamber opposed these bills, believing private employers need all available tools with their hiring practices.

STATUS

The General Assembly took action supporting the Chamber's position. HB 10/SB 34 was taken off notice and HB 56/SB 1006 failed in a House Subcommittee.

Incentives for Economic Development and Job Creation



Incentives have been vital tools in driving economic development and job creation in Middle Tennessee. These investments are used to recruit and retain employers, promote the expansions of companies, and encourage improvements to blighted or underserved areas. Despite the effectiveness of incentives, several bills were filed this year in an attempt to prohibit or restrict them. HB 370/SB 1292 (Daniel/Pody) would make information relating to the "value of any government fee, or other form of financial benefit paid or bestowed, or agreed to be paid or bestowed, by a governmental entity to a private entity" subject to open records requests. The business community, local governments, and higher education institutions expressed concerns that the bill could potentially expose a company's confidential and proprietary information.

CHAMBER POSITION

The Chamber opposed this bill because it would have created uncertainty around the protection of companies' proprietary information.

STATUS

The General Assembly took action supporting the Chamber's position. The bill failed in a House Subcommittee.



Incentives for Economic Development and Job Creation

HB 1265/SB 513 (Holt/Roberts) was another bill that targeted economic development incentives. This bill proposed to change several statutes regarding incentives: it would require the state's Department of Economic and Community Development to require companies to meet 100 percent of the company's stated employment goals or face potential clawbacks; it would have made certain proprietary information of companies subject to inspection; it would have required clawback agreements for grants provided for training and infrastructure; it would have removed several opportunities for incentives; and it would have required redundant reports of companies who receive incentives. The business community, including the Department of Economic and Community Development, expressed concerns with nearly every provision of this legislation. After months of meetings and negotiations, the bill was significantly amended.

CHAMBER POSITION

The Chamber opposed this bill because it imposed unneeded, burdensome requirements on the Department of Economic and Community Development and on companies receiving state incentives.

STATUS

The General Assembly took action supporting the Chamber's position. The bill was amended to require clawback agreements for state capital grants; subject companies to potential clawbacks if 80 percent of employment goals were not met; and deleted some exceptions to grant qualifications that the Department of Economic and Community Development stated were not being utilized. As amended, the Department and Chamber were neutral on the bill and it passed. (Public Chapter 451; Effective Date 07/01/19)

Governor Lee joins several regional mayors at the Chamber's 2019 Governor's Address breakfast. L-R Metro Nashville-Davidson County Mayor David Briley, Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto, Smyrna Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Dickson County Mayor Bob Rial, Governor Bill Lee, Franklin Mayor Ken Moore, and Sumner County Executive Anthony Holt.





Incentives for Economic Development and Job Creation

The third and final bill targeting economic development incentives this year was HB 327/SB 355 (Howell/Gardenhire). Prior to this legislation, grants for the development of brownfield sites were only available to counties with 80,000 or more residents. This legislation would dramatically change the scope of these grants, in that they would only be available to counties with less than 336,400 residents, which would result in Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, and Shelby Counties becoming ineligible.

CHAMBER POSITION

The Chamber opposed the bill as filed because it would have prohibited the four urban counties from being eligible for brownfield development grants.

STATUS

The General Assembly took action supporting the Chamber's position. The Chamber's position moved to neutral once the bill was amended to remove any population requirement thereby maintaining the eligibility of the four urban counties. (Public Chapter 257; Effective Date 4/30/19)

Guns on Private Property



CHAMBER POSITION

The Chamber opposed this legislation since it would reduce the rights of private property owners while also potentially forcing property owners to confront persons carrying a firearm.

STATUS

The General Assembly took action supporting the Chamber's position. While the House passed the bill 61-30, the Senate deferred the bill until 2020.

TALENT DEVELOPMENT FOR THE REGION'S WORKFORCE



Governor's Investment in Vocational Education Act

Throughout his gubernatorial campaign, Governor Lee stressed the importance of vocational and career education. In his first year as governor, he introduced the GIVE Act – Governor's Investment in Vocational Education Act. Filed as HB 949/SB 805 (White/Johnson), this legislation would allow high school students to take four, fully funded, dual enrollment classes for those programs identified as high-need areas in the workforce. The qualifying courses will be identified annually by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation and these additional courses will be covered with lottery proceeds.

CHAMBER POSITION

The Chamber supported this bill in order to prepare more high school students in critical areas in the workforce.

STATUS

The General Assembly took action supporting the Chamber's position. The House and Senate passed this bill unanimously. (Public Chapter 203; Effective Date 07/01/20)

Governor Bill Lee delivered his first State of the State Address to a Joint Convention of the General Assembly on March 4, 2019. Legislative leadership presided over the meeting with (L-R) Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Ferrell Haile, Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally, House Speaker Glen Casada, and House Speaker Pro Tempore Bill Dunn pictured.





State Charter School Commission

As part of his legislative package, Governor Lee introduced legislation to create an independent body to review and approve charter school applications. As filed, HB 940/SB 796 (White/Kelsey) would create a nine-member commission that could review charter school applications in lieu of local boards of application. The Chamber and other organizations expressed opposition to the notion that locally elected boards would be removed from the charter approval process. The bill was quickly amended to create a new commission, but it would serve as an appellate body. Charter applicants will still be required to apply with local boards of education, but if denied, an applicant may appeal to the commission.

CHAMBER POSITION

The Chamber opposed this bill as filed, but once amended, the Chamber was neutral.

STATUS

The General Assembly took action supporting the Chamber's position as the legislation was appropriately amended. (Public Chapter 219; Effective Date 4/26/19)



Costs of Expungements

In 2017, the General Assembly passed a bill to lower the expungement fees for eligible convicted offenses from \$350 to \$180. HB 941/SB 797 (Lamberth/Johnson) would eliminate this fee entirely and allow individuals who are eligible for an expungement to only pay local fees. This bill was part of Governor Lee's legislative package and the reduced revenue to the state was recognized in his budget proposal.

CHAMBER POSITION

The Chamber supported this bill to enable individuals exiting the criminal justice system to be more employable and productive.

STATUS

The General Assembly took action supporting the Chamber's position, and the Senate and House passed this bill unanimously. (Public Chapter 200; Effective Date 07/01/19)



Citation in Lieu of Arrest

For low level offenses, police officers have the option of writing a citation rather than arresting an individual. The law, however, makes this discretion very difficult. HB 715/SB 587 (Faison/Lundberg) would remove unreasonable criteria from the law to provide police officers with the peace of mind to issue a citation, rather than having to make arrests if there is no likelihood of continued disorder.

CHAMBER POSITION

The Chamber supported this bill to prevent unneeded arrests, which disrupt the life and employment of non-violent individuals.

STATUS

The General Assembly supported the Chamber's position and passed this legislation with overwhelming support. (Public Chapter 316; Effective Date 5/09/19)

Across Tennessee, nearly 50 percent of local jail populations are comprised of individuals who simply cannot afford bail and many of these individuals have been arrested for low level, non-violent offenses. HB 1131/SB 409 (Curcio/Stevens) would create a rebuttable presumption that a person charged with a low-level offense will appear on the court date rather than having to post bail.

Pre-Trial Release



CHAMBER POSITION

The Chamber supported this bill to enable individuals charged with low level offenses to continue to work.

STATUS

The General Assembly did not take action to support the Chamber's position and the bill was deferred to 2020.



Education Savings Accounts

As part of his legislative package, the Governor filed legislation to create a voucher program for Tennessee students. HB 939/SB 795 (Dunn/Gresham) would provide roughly \$7,400 to eligible students to cover the costs of private school tuition, tutoring, fees, and other private educational services. The Chamber has generally been supportive of school choice options for students and parents if accountability was ensured. This legislation as filed provided accountability, but it had to be monitored and worked throughout the legislative process as the bill was amended many times.

CHAMBER POSITION

The Chamber was neutral on this bill since the legislation ultimately provided appropriate accountability for students and parents through the administration of state assessments for English/Language Arts and Math.

STATUS

The General Assembly passed this bill with close votes of 51-46 in the House and 19-14 in the Senate. (Public Chapter 506; Effective Date 5/24/19)

The Chamber supports local boards of education having full discretion and authority with selecting directors of schools. HB 301/SB 19 (Van Huss/Gresham) would erode this discretion and authority and allow local governmental bodies to require a referendum prior to the extension or renewal of a director's contract.

Directors of Schools



CHAMBER POSITION

The Chamber opposed this bill in order for boards of education to maintain control of the hiring and retention of directors of schools.

STATUS

The General Assembly supported the Chamber's position and this bill was taken off notice.

ENSURING A QUALITY OF LIFE THAT ATTRACTS AND RETAINS RESIDENTS AND WORKERS



Public Policy Regarding Bathrooms and Locker Rooms

Over the past few years, several states across the country have received negative attention through the consideration of legislative proposals that are viewed as discriminatory. This year, two bills were introduced in this vein regarding public restrooms and related facilities; one failed and one was significantly amended. HB 1274/SB 1499 (Holt/Hensley) would require the State's Attorney General to defend or pay for the defense of any school system that is sued because of a policy restricting bathrooms and locker rooms to students based on biological sex. HB 1151/SB 1297 (Ragan/Pody) would modify the legal definition of "indecent exposure" to target members of the LGBT community.

CHAMBER POSITION

The Chamber opposed these bills because they are unnecessary distractions from Tennessee's successful efforts to be a welcoming state for businesses and visitors.

STATUS

The General Assembly took action supporting the Chamber's positions. HB 1274/SB 1499 was deferred until 2020 in the Senate. HB 1151/SB 1297 was significantly amended and passed to simply add public restrooms to the list of places considered "public" under the state's indecent exposure law, without targeting specific constituencies. (Public Chapter 251; Effective Date 7/01/19)

HOV Lanes



CHAMBER POSITION

The Chamber supported strengthening HOV lane enforcement to address the region's congestion and mobility.

STATUS

The General Assembly did not support the Chamber's position and this bill was taken off notice.

2019 HOUSE INDIVIDUAL VOTE

Council Member	HB 56	HB 370	HB 545	HB 715	HB 839	HB 941	HB 949	HB 1131	HB 1274
Charie Baum (R-37)			X	✓	✓	✓	✓		X
Bill Beck (D-51)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Clark Boyd (R-46)	✓		X	✓	✓	✓	✓		X
Speaker Glen Casada (R-62)			X	✓	✓	✓	✓		X
Scott Cepicky (R-64)			X	✓	✓	✓	✓		X
John Ray Clemmons (D-55)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Michael Curcio (R-69)			NVR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Vincent Dixie (D-54)			NVR	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Bob Freeman (R-56)	X		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Johnny Garrett (R-45)			X	✓	✓	✓	NVR		X
Jason Hodges (D-67)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Darren Jernigan (D-60)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Curtis Johnson (R-68)			X	✓	✓	✓	✓		X
Sabi Kumar (R-66)			X	✓	✓	✓	✓		X
William Lamberth (R-44)			X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Mary Littleton (R-78)			X	✓	✓	✓	✓		X
Harold Love, Jr. (D-58)		✓	✓	NVR	✓	✓	✓		✓
Susan Lynn (R-57)			X	✓	✓	✓	✓		X
Bo Mitchell (D-50)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Brandon Ogles (R-61)			X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Jason Potts (D-59)	X		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Jason Powell (D-53)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Jay Reedy (D-74)			X	✓	✓	✓	✓		X
Tim Rudd (R-34)			X	✓	✓	✓	NVR		X
Mike Sparks (R-49)			X	✓	✓	✓	✓		X
Mike Stewart (D-52)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Bryan Terry (R-48)			X	✓	✓	✓	✓		NVR
Terri Lynn Weaver (R-40)			X	✓	✓	✓	✓		X
Sam Whitson (R-65)			NVR	✓	✓	✓	✓		X

✓	Supported Chamber position
X	Opposed Chamber position
PNV	Present but not voting
NVR	No vote recorded (absent)
X	Sponsored/Co-sponsored Chamber-endorsed bill
✓	Sponsored/Co-sponsored Chamber-opposed bill

Positions of legislators based on voting record and bill sponsors.

Blank spaces indicate that the legislator did not have an opportunity to vote on the bill.

2019 SENATE INDIVIDUAL VOTE

Revised in August, 2019

Senator	SB 34	SB 587	SB 797	SB 805	SB 1006	SB 1292	SB 1499	SB 1507
Steve Dickerson (R-20)		✓	✓	✓				
Brenda Gilmore (D-19)	X	✓	✓	✓	X			
Ferrell Haile (R-18)		✓	✓	✓				
Joey Hensley (R-28)		✓	✓	✓			X	
Jack Johnson (R-23)		✓	✓	✓				
Mark Pody (R-17)		✓	✓	✓		X		
*Bill Powers (R-22)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Shane Reeves (R-14)		✓	✓	NVR				
Kerry Roberts (R-25)		✓	✓	✓			X	
Dawn White (R-13)		✓	✓	✓			X	✓
Jeff Yarbrow (D-21)		✓	✓	✓				
Lt. Governor Randy McNally (R-5)		✓	✓	NVR				

✓	Supported Chamber position
X	Opposed Chamber position
PNV	Present but not voting
NVR	No vote recorded (absent)
X	Sponsored/Co-sponsored Chamber-endorsed bill
✓	Sponsored/Co-sponsored Chamber-opposed bill

Positions of legislators based on voting record and bill sponsors.





Blank spaces indicate that the legislator did not have an opportunity to vote on the bill.

*Senator Powers won a special election to fill a vacancy in this district, and he was not sworn into office until April 25th.

2019 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

METRO



CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE BUSINESS CAN PROSPER

-  Sustainable Fiscal Policies
-  Transparent Development and Zoning Policies
-   Economic Development Tax Credits and Incentives




TALENT DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION'S WORKFORCE



-  School Funding & Support for Students In Post-Secondary

ENSURING A QUALITY OF LIFE THAT ATTRACTS AND RETAINS RESIDENTS AND WORKERS

-  Public Infrastructure and Venues
-  Welcoming and Inclusive City

REGIONAL EFFORTS TO ENSURE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

-  Transportation Infrastructure
-  Downtown Core
-  Workforce and Affordable Housing

-  Took action supporting Chamber position
-  Took action opposing Chamber position or failed to pass legislation supporting Chamber position
-  No definitive action on this issue or no action recorded

FY20 METRO NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET

On May 1, 2019, Mayor David Briley filed his proposed FY20 operating budget with Council. The budget (BL2019-1624) totaled \$2.33 billion, which is an increase of \$101.5 million over the FY19 budget. The budget included a cost of living increase for Metro workers and a 3 percent increase for Metro Nashville Public School (MNPS) employees, but no step increase. Mayor Briley's budget relies on revenue from parking modernization and revenue from the future sale of the District Energy System (DES), both of which will require Council action in FY20.

After receiving and reviewing the proposed budget, Metro Council's Budget and Finance Committee, led by Council member Tanaka Vercher (District 28), held hearings for Metro departments and Metro Council held a public hearing to review the Mayor's proposed budget. If the Budget and Finance Committee makes changes to the Mayor's budget, the committee chair must file a substitute budget ordinance to reflect its proposed changes.

On June 14, Council member Vercher filed a substitute budget ordinance, which was later amended to include a property tax rate increase of 49.8 cents. This increased property tax rate would have generated about \$154 million in new revenue to provide additional funding to MNPS (a 4 percent pay increase and step increases), fill a budget gap for WeGo Transit, fill a budget gap for Nashville Public Libraries, and hire additional staff in Metro Fire, Metro Police and Metro Codes. Council member Vercher's substitute relied on the sale of DES, but did not include revenue from parking modernization. Council member Vercher's substitute, as amended, was approved at the Budget and Finance Committee.

In an unprecedented move, three additional substitute budgets were filed.

• Council members Bob Mendes (At-large) and Anthony Davis (District 7) filed a substitute that also included a property tax rate increase of 52.5 cents that would generate about \$162.75 million in new revenue. Mendes and A. Davis proposed to put the additional funding to increase pay for Metro and MNPS employees, pay for debt, replenish Metro's savings and cover minimal inflation. At the Budget and Finance Committee meeting, Mendes and A. Davis elected to support Vercher's substitute ordinance. The Mendes/Davis substitute did not receive approval of the Budget and Finance Committee and the Council members did not move the substitute ordinance to a vote at Council on June 18.

• Council member Steve Glover (District 12) filed a substitute budget that included a smaller tax rate increase of 11.1 cents with the revenue to go to a combination of pay increase and step increases for MNPS employees. The Glover substitute did not receive approval of the Budget and Finance Committee and it failed at Council on June 18.

• Council member Russ Pulley (District 25), filed a substitute budget that maintained the bulk of Mayor Briley's budget, while making minor changes to address requests of Council members. The Pulley substitute did not receive the approval of Budget and Finance Committee and Pulley withdrew the substitute budget at Council on June 18.

On June 18, the Metro Council met to debate and vote on the Metro FY20 Budget. After significant debate, Council member Vercher's substitute, as amended, was moved to a vote and failed by one vote (20 votes for and 18 against, but 21 votes were needed for the budget to be adopted). When the substitute budget failed, the budget proposed by Mayor Briley was enacted.

The Chamber took no position on the proposed property tax increase. This information is included in the scorecard as the issue of increasing the property tax rate to generate more revenue for Metro is likely to continue in coming years.

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE BUSINESS CAN PROSPER



Sustainable Fiscal Policies

In 2013, Mayor Karl Dean appointed a Study and Formulating Committee to assess the system of benefits for current and future Metro employees. The committee concluded its work in 2015, finding that Metro's retiree health care obligations are not pre-funded, but are managed on a "pay as you go basis," which had generated a projected liability of \$2.6 billion at that time. Metro retiree health benefits payments grew by 360 percent from 2002 to 2014. The Chamber regards this growing healthcare liability as a threat to Metro's financial security and its ability to meet the needs of the city in the future.

STATUS

No bills were filed on this issue.



Transparent Development and Zoning Policies

A lack of clear definition, transparency and predictability around the development process can create barriers to investment by making it difficult for businesses to operate or expand. BL2016-219, sponsored by Council members Fabian Bedne (District 31) and Karen Johnson (District 29), proposed to rezone property on Forest View Drive by cancelling a portion of the Forest View Park Planned Unit Development and "downzoning" the property – reducing its development entitlements from duplex zoning to single-family only zoning – without the consent of the property owners. This bill, initially proposed in 2016, was deferred numerous times. As a result of the delay, the affordable housing development proposed for the site was cancelled.

CHAMBER POSITION

Support predictable and transparent development and zoning policies that encourage development, investment and support for entrepreneurs and small businesses.

STATUS

The Chamber opposed BL2016-219. The Chamber does not generally take a position on zone changes, however the downzoning, if adopted, would set a precedent for future development by suggesting development entitlements that were lawfully gained could be diminished or stripped.

BL2016-219 (Bedne, K. Johnson) was withdrawn at the August 21, 2018, Council meeting.



Economic Development Tax Credits and Incentives

Designed to generate positive economic returns by creating jobs and generating new tax revenue, economic development tax credits and incentives are valuable investments critical to maintaining a competitive business environment in Nashville/Davidson County.

RS2019-1609, as amended, sponsored by Council members Tanaka Vercher (District 28) and Freddie O'Connell (District 19), approved economic and community development incentive grants for AllianceBernstein, L.P., a New York-based global investment management firm relocating its headquarters to Nashville. The firm expects to create 1,050 jobs in Nashville in a \$70 million investment. It is important to note that RS2019-1609 was the first incentive proposal since the passage of the "Do Better Bill" (BL2017-983) – regulation adopted by the Metro Council requiring businesses seeking incentives to provide more information about employee wages, hiring, etc. and set benchmarks on these items. If a company does not meet the benchmarks, the Council could, per the "Do Better Bill," diminish or cancel the agreed upon incentives. AllianceBernstein included all the required information per that legislation.

RS2019-1644, as amended, sponsored by Council members Tanaka Vercher (District 28) and Freddie O'Connell (District 19), approved economic and community development incentive grants for Amazon, Inc. Nashville will be home to Amazon's Eastern U.S. hub when Amazon opens its Operations Center of Excellence in downtown. Amazon expects to create 5,000 jobs in Nashville and over \$600 million in capital investment. RS2019-1644 was also subject to the "Do Better Bill" (BL2017-983) – regulation adopted by the Metro Council requiring businesses seeking incentives to provide more information about employee wages, hiring, etc. and set benchmarks on these items. If a company does not meet the benchmarks, the Council could, per the "Do Better Bill," diminish or cancel the agreed upon incentives. Amazon included all the required information per the legislation.

CHAMBER POSITION

Support the use of local government tax credits and incentives for economic development as additional tools to encourage the relocation or expansion of business in Nashville.

STATUS

The Chamber supported RS2019-1609, incentives for AllianceBernstein, L.P. Metro Council took action supporting the Chamber's position. The resolution was unanimously adopted on March 5, 2019.

The Chamber supported RS2019-1644, incentives for Amazon's Operations Center of Excellence. Metro Council took action supporting the Chamber's position. The resolution was passed on March 19, 2019.

TALENT DEVELOPMENT FOR THE REGION'S WORKFORCE



School Funding & Support for Students in Post-Secondary

In order for Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) to offer the programs and support necessary to boost academic performance and close the student achievement gap, it needs appropriate funding from local, state and federal sources.

MNPS submitted a request for a \$962.9 million budget for the school district; this represents a \$76.7 million budget increase with the majority of the increase dedicated to 10 percent pay raises for teachers and support staff. Mayor Briley's budget, BL2019-1624, included a \$28.2 million increase for school, which could fund 3 percent pay raises.

MNPS also provides capital improvement requests through the Capital Improvements Budget (CIB). The CIB, Bill BL2019-1654 sponsored by Council members Tanaka Vercher (District 28) and Kevin Rhoten (District 14), is a planning tool to prioritize and coordinate investments in long-term, durable improvements to be provided by Metro government for Nashville-Davidson County.

Mayor Briley's FY20 operating budget (BL2019-1624) also included \$1m for Nashville GRAD (Nashville Getting Results for Advanced Degrees), a program that will provide wraparound academic and career advising and financial assistance to cover costs for textbooks, transportation, technology fees, industry certification fees, and emergency needs for full-time students at Nashville State Community College and Tennessee College of Applied Technology. The program is anticipated to assist 400 freshmen in its first year.

CHAMBER POSITION

Support operational and capital funding for public education as a city budget priority.

STATUS

The Chamber accepted the operating budget bill and supported the capital improvements budget.

Metro Council adopted the CIB bill, BL2019-1654, on June 11, 2019.

On June 18, 2019, Metro Council adopted Mayor Briley's proposed Metro Budget for FY20 (BL2019-1624).



Council members at Council meeting on June 18. From left to right - Council members Doug Pardue, Bill Pridemore, Nancy VanReece, Anthony Davis and Brett Withers.

ENSURING A QUALITY OF LIFE THAT ATTRACTS AND RETAINS RESIDENTS AND WORKERS



Public Infrastructure and Venues

Investing in public infrastructure is critical to improving the quality of life in the community. From entertainment and convention venues to investments in multi-modal transportation and below-ground infrastructure – Nashville-Davidson County makes many infrastructure investments to support a growing city and build facilities and venues that promote economic development and improve quality of life.

In November 2017, Metro Council approved legislation to issue \$225 million in revenue bonds for the Major League Soccer (MLS) stadium project. This vote was critical to place Nashville as a top contender for an MLS expansion team. One month later, in December, Nashville was awarded one of the expansion teams. However, the construction of the stadium was contingent upon the passage of the following legislation from Metro Council in September 2018:

- 1.* Substitute Bill BL2018-1289, sponsored by Council Member Colby Sledge (District 17). This legislation (1) approved the demolition of certain buildings and structures at The Fairground Nashville for the construction of a new Major League Soccer Stadium; and (2) imposed a privilege tax on the sale of tickets to events at the new Major League Soccer Stadium. This tax will be used to cover stadium expenditures.
- 2.* BL2018-1290, sponsored by Council Member Colby Sledge (District 17). This ordinance rezoned ten (10) acres of property at The Fairgrounds Nashville to permit a mixed-use development (residential units, hotel, and office space).
- 3.* BL2018-1291, sponsored by Council Members Colby Sledge (District 17), Tanaka Vercher (District 28), and Fabian Bedne (District 31). This ordinance: (1) declared the ten acres of property at The Fairgrounds Nashville as surplus property; and (2) approved the execution and delivery of the ground lease between the Metropolitan Board of Fair Commissioners and Nashville Soccer Holdings Development (MLS team owners).
- 4.* RS2018-1328, sponsored by then-Council Member Jim Shulman (At-Large) and Council Member Colby Sledge (District 17). This resolution issued general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$50 million. \$25 million is for improvement and demolition of certain building and facilities at The Fairgrounds Nashville and the remaining \$25 million will provide infrastructure necessary for the construction of the MLS stadium.

The construction of the MLS stadium included a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA), which is the first in Tennessee. The CBA is a contract signed by Stand-Up Nashville, a coalition of community organizations and labor unions, and Nashville Soccer Holdings Development. This agreement established that the developer will provide the local community or neighborhood with benefits and amenities such as a \$15.50-per-hour minimum wage for stadium workers, guaranteed affordable housing at the mixed-use development, community services such as child care, safeguards for construction workers, and a committee that will oversee the goals of the agreement.

The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce was a strong advocate of all four pieces of legislation because this MLS opportunity was benefit for the entire region, one that creates public infrastructure projects that enhance economic development and quality of life, just as Nissan Stadium, Bridgestone Arena, Music City Center, and First Tennessee Park have. However, the Chamber was concerned that Metro Council made the passage of this legislation that will create numerous short and long-term jobs opportunities from construction, retail, restaurants, and soccer stadium and fairground activities contingent upon the signing of the CBA between two private entities.

CHAMBER POSITION

Support investment in public infrastructure and entertainment venues that have a strong business and financial case and broaden Nashville's reputation as a livable city.

STATUS

On September 4, 2018, Metro Council took action supporting the Chamber's position with passage of all four pieces of legislation related to the MLS stadium.



Welcoming and Inclusive City

A welcoming and inclusive environment is vital to building a global city that attracts and retains businesses, workers, visitors and investment from all over the world.

In 2018, Metro government engaged Griffin & Strong, P.C., an Atlanta-based law and public policy firm, to conduct a Disparity Study of Metro's existing Procurement Non-Discrimination Program (PNP). This program was created in 2008 by legislation following the 2004 Metro Government Disparity Study. The purpose of the 2018 study was to examine Metro Nashville's procurement of construction, construction related professional services, other professional services, non-professional services, and goods for FY 2013-2017. The study concluded that there were statistically significant disparities in its prime and subcontracting with women- and minority-owned businesses and that the disparities are likely attributed to the race and/or gender of the firm owners.

BL2018-1419, as amended, was sponsored by Council members Tanaka Vercher, Sharon Hurt, Scott Davis, John Cooper, Nancy VanReece, Jeff Syracuse, Freddie O'Connell, Jacobia Dowell, Burkley Allen, Bob Mendes, Brenda Haywood, Larry Hagar, Kathleen Murphy, DeCosta Hastings, Anthony Davis, Brett Withers, Mary Carolyn Roberts, and Erica Gilmore. This legislation approves the Equal Business Ordinance, legislation drafted by the Mayor's Minority Business Advisory Council, which charges the city to outline annual race and gender procurement goals for Metro government based on market availability and creates minority contracting goals for specific city projects.

Mayor David Briley, in his FY20 operating budget (BL2019-1624), included funding for implementation of the Equal Business Opportunity ordinance.

CHAMBER POSITION

Support efforts to maintain our identity and brand as a welcoming, inclusive city.

STATUS

On April 20, 2018, Mayor David Briley signed an executive order forming the Minority Business Advisory Council (MBAC). The Council will meet quarterly and is charged with submitting an annual report outlining the challenges and opportunities for minority business growth as well as proposals to improve, among other areas, contracting opportunities with Metro, entrepreneurship, access to workforce training and talent, technological support, and access to capital. The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce serves on this Council.

The Chamber supported the Equal Business Opportunity ordinance, BL2018-1419.

2018 NASHVILLE METRO COUNCIL INDIVIDUAL VOTE

Council Member	BL2018-1289 MLS stadium - demolition and privilege tax	BL2018-1290 MLS stadium rezoning	BL2018-1291 MLS ground lease	RS2018-1328 General obligation bonds for MLS	BL2018-1419 Equal Business Opportunity	BL2018-1289 Incentive for AllianceBernstein	RS2019-1644 Incentive for Amazon	Bill BL2019-1654 FY20 Capital Improvements Budget	Substitute BL2019- 1624 (Vercher) FY20 Operating Budget*
John Cooper (at large)	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	NVR	X
Erica Gilmore (at large)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NVR	✓	NVR	✓
Bob Mendes (at large)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NVR	✓
Sharon Hurt (at large)	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jim Shulman (at large)	✓	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓	✓		
Jonathan Hall (1)	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Decosta Hastings (2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	ABS
Brenda Haywood (3)	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	PNV	✓	✓
Robert Swope (4)	✓	✓	X	PNV	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Scott Davis (5)	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Brett Withers (6)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anthony Davis (7)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nancy VanReece (8)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Bill Pridemore (9)	✓	✓	✓	✓	NVR	✓	PNV	NVR	X
Doug Pardue (10)	X	✓	X	PNV	PNV	✓	✓	NVR	✓
Larry Hagar (11)	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Steve Glover (12)	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Holly Heuzo (13)	X	✓	X	PNV	PNV	✓	PNV	NVR	X
Kevin Rhoten (14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Jeff Syracuse (15)	✓	✓	✓	✓	NVR	✓	X	NVR	X
Mike Freeman (16)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Colby Sledge (17)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Burkley Allen (18)	✓	PNV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Freddie O'Connell (19)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mary Carolyn Roberts (20)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NVR	X
Ed Kindall (21)	✓	PNV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sheri Weiner (22)	✓	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓	✓	✓	X
Mina Johnson (23)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Kathleen Murphy (24)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NVR	✓
Russ Pulley (25)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NVR	X
Jeremy Elrod (26)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Davette Blalock (27)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Tanaka Vercher (28)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NVR	✓	✓	✓
Delishia Porterfield (29)	NYE	NYE	NYE	NYE	NYE	NYE	NYE	✓	✓
Jason Potts (30)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NVR	✓
Fabian Bedne (31)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	ABS	NVR	✓
Jacobia Dowell (32)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Antoinette Lee (33)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓	✓
Angie Henderson (34)	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X
Dave Rosenberg (35)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓	Supported Chamber position
X	Opposed Chamber position
PNV	Present but not voting
NVR	No vote recorded (absent)
ABS	Abstained
NYE	Not yet elected

* The Chamber took no position on Metro's FY20 operating budget. This vote count reflects whether council members voted for or against Council member Vercher's substitute budget as amended. When the substitute budget did not secure 21 votes, it failed and Mayor Briley's budget was adopted.

REGIONAL EFFORTS TO ENSURE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY



Transportation Infrastructure

Nashville-Davidson County has long been a critical hub in moving goods throughout the southeast and the country. Today, this is matched with a need to move talent around Davidson County and the region – allowing Nashvillians to conveniently commute to work and education. Nashville and the Middle Tennessee region are thriving and are expected to continue growing, adding almost 1 million new residents to the region by 2040. New development is, however, expected to double commute times over the next 25 years. In order to meet the transportation needs of current and new residents and visitors, keep pace with future growth and mitigate future traffic congestion, Nashville and the region must invest in infrastructure that encourages rapid, mass transportation.

STATUS

No bills were filed on this issue.

Downtown Core



Downtown Nashville is the civic, cultural and economic hub of the region and is now home to over 10,000 residents. It is a major economic engine for the county through sales and property tax collections, which continue to grow. The Capital Improvements Budget (CIB), is a planning tool to prioritize and coordinate investments in long-term, durable improvements to be provided by Metro government for Nashville-Davidson County. In past years, the CIB has included a proposal to build a downtown Nashville flood protection system. That project is not included in this year's CIB, leaving the issue unresolved for another year.

STATUS

No action was taken on this issue.



Workforce and Affordable Housing

Workforce and affordable housing are needed in Davidson County to retain and attract residents and workers. The Metro Social Services 2018 Community Needs Evaluation found that in 2017, over 73,000 households in Davidson County were considered “cost burdened,” meaning they spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing expenses. The Chamber seeks to improve affordability by increasing the supply of housing and expanding transit service across the region to provide affordable and reliable access to neighborhoods and jobs.

In March 2019, Mayor Briley introduced the “Under One Roof 2029” initiative. The goal is to invest \$750 million over the next 10 years in affordable housing in Nashville, with \$500 million of that coming from the city. The initiative is expected to create at least 10,000 new units. There are 3 elements for this initiative:

- 1.** \$350 million investment of city funds in the Metro Development and Housing Agency to accelerate the Envision process and, in turn, add more than 5,000 new units on MDHA properties. This includes adding approximately 1,000 deeply affordable units (~20% increase). MDHA will also preserve and revitalize its existing 2,800 deeply affordable units, complementing the 5,000 new units.
- 2.** \$150 million investment of city funds in the Barnes Fund – representing a 50% increase above current funding levels, which is projected to help fund the creation of at least another 5,000 affordable housing units throughout the city.
- 3.** \$250 million challenge to the private sector to step forward with matching dollars. In an effort to better facilitate private investment in affordable housing, the Mayor’s Office and MDHA are exploring a number of avenues.

STATUS

No bills were filed on this issue.





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