

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Leading Businesses.  
Leading Communities.™



416 North Ashley Street P.O. Box 790 Valdosta, GA 31603  
229.247.8100 FAX 229.245.0071 ebennett@valdostachamber.com  
Contact: Erika Bennett

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**For Immediate Release**

## Chamber Supports E-SPLOST

Valdosta, GA—The Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce encourages you to vote ‘Yes’ for the E-SPLOST referendum on March 15. The decision to support E-SPLOST was made by the Chamber’s Government Affairs Council (GAC), which is represented by Chamber members who volunteer throughout the year on pro-business legislation to ensure that Valdosta-Lowndes County remains a community where businesses can thrive.

The GAC’s Education & Workforce Development Policy Committee recently met to discuss the Chamber’s position on the upcoming E-SPLOST referendum. Those in attendance took part in a round-table discussion with Valdosta City Schools Superintendent, Dr. Bill Cason, Lowndes County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Steve Smith and Sam Allen, Citizens for Excellence in Education Chair. After careful consideration the policy committee came to a unanimous decision—to support the continuation of the special purpose local option sales tax for education.

To have a world class workforce, we need a community that is united and committed to providing a world class education that can compete with the best in the world, not just Georgia. The E-SPLOST will continue to provide our schools with necessary funding to ensure that Valdosta and Lowndes County can provide the highest quality of education possible by making improvements to existing school facilities, purchasing technology, safety equipment, textbooks, school buses and much more. Quality schools promote a better future for our students and economic growth for our community.

Walter Hobgood, Chair of the Education & Workforce Development Policy Committee, presented this position to the GAC Executive Committee on Thursday, who supported this decision. The GAC focuses on legislative issues that directly impact our local economy and the ability to grow business. All Chamber members can participate in this collaborative effort to advocate for business at the local, state and federal level. Please visit [www.ValdostaChamber.com/GAC](http://www.ValdostaChamber.com/GAC) for more information.

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