



ELECTED OFFICIAL ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS POLICY

I. Objective of Policy

The mission of the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce *“is to improve the economy of Bastrop and thereby, the quality of life for all its citizens through economic, community, and leadership development.”* The primary method of accomplishing this task is through advocacy with local government and elected officials. With this in mind, the following policy has been established by the Board of Directors.

II. General Information

Chambers of Commerce have authority under state and federal law through our 501(c)6 status to represent our membership in public policy debates. Chambers may legally endorse candidates for public office, but the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce has historically NOT endorsed political candidates. We have chosen instead to use our initiative, BastropVotes.com to educate and inform our membership and the community at-large on candidates running for public office. We may lobby and take positions on actual or proposed legislation. We have and will continue to take positions on issues and/or ballot propositions that effect our business community.

III. Current Elected Board Members

If an elected member of the Board decides to run for public office, the Board of Directors will request a Letter of Resignation effective upon their filing date. The Bastrop Chamber of Commerce does not want the appearance of having a “Chamber Candidate”. We want to preserve and maintain our independent “Voice of Business” for our business community in Bastrop and Bastrop County.

IV. Future Board Members

If an individual is a member of the Chamber and occupies an elected office, they will not be considered for an Elected position on the Board of Directors. Again, the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce does not want the appearance of having a “Chamber Candidate”. We want to preserve and maintain our independent voice.

V. Appointed Board Members

The Bastrop Chamber of Commerce must maintain effective relationships at all levels of government – City, County, State and Federal. Therefore, our Bylaws allow up to eight (8) Appointed Board Members that are non-voting members of the Board. In normal circumstances, they are representatives from the City, Bastrop EDC, School District and County. In times of disaster or other special circumstances, the Board of Directors may recommend other Appointed Board Members. An example might be during time of

disaster, someone from Bastrop County Long Term Recovery Team (BCLTRT) or other organization that they see fit to maintain a constant and open dialogue for the betterment of the community at-large.