

Playbook for Prosperity

Americans for Prosperity-Alabama's 2025 Legislative Agenda

AFP-Alabama's 2025 Legislative Agenda, "*Playbook for Prosperity*," is a strong plan to help policymakers to continue to make Alabama the best place to live, work, and raise a family. To do that, we encourage state leaders to adopt proven reforms that make quality health care more affordable and accessible, continue to implement education reforms, oppose tax increases allowing Alabamians to keep more of their hard-earned paychecks, and sensibly remove unnecessary government red tape & regulations.



REGULATORY REFORM

Regulatory reform is needed in Alabama to reduce the burden of outdated and overly complex rules that hinder business growth and economic development. Streamlining regulations can make it easier for new businesses to start and existing businesses to expand, leading to more jobs and increased investment in the state. Regulatory reform would also help ensure that rules are tailored to current needs, improving efficiency and making it easier for individuals and companies to comply without facing excessive costs.

- **REINS (Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny) Act:** This policy aims to ensure that state agencies do not implement regulations that have significant economic or social impacts without proper Legislative approval. It empowers Lawmakers to maintain control over major regulatory decisions, promoting transparency and accountability in the rulemaking process. By requiring Legislative review of high-impact regulations, the REINS Act helps prevent costly, burdensome rules that could stifle economic growth or burden citizens.
- **Administrative Rules Sunset:** Sunsetting administrative rules is needed to ensure that regulations remain relevant and effective over time, preventing outdated or unnecessary rules from hindering innovation and progress. It encourages regular review and accountability, allowing Lawmakers to assess whether a rule still serves its intended purpose or if it needs to be updated or removed. This process helps reduce government overreach, promotes efficiency, and ensures that regulations adapt to changing circumstances.
- **Occupational License Reductions & Reform:** Occupational license reform is needed to remove unnecessary barriers that prevent skilled workers from entering the job market. Many licensing requirements are overly complex and often don't reflect the actual skills needed for the job, limiting opportunities for people, especially in low-income communities. Reforming these regulations can boost economic mobility and help address workforce shortages by allowing qualified workers to more easily find employment.



EDUCATION

We have made great progress toward empowering every parent to find the education that best suits their child's unique needs with the passage of the CHOOSE Act in 2024. Alabama should continue to be a leader in education innovation.

- **CHOOSE Act Funding:** As the CHOOSE Act grows in enrollment, the Legislature must prioritize fully funding this critical program that empowers families and students. Investing in educational freedom fosters competition and drives overall improvements in education quality that benefit all students.



TAXES & SPENDING

One-time federal money is going away and just like families across Alabama must, state government has to live within its means. This means refocusing our spending priorities while reimagining how the government operates. Policymakers should rein in state spending and return as many dollars as possible to taxpayers through meaningful and transformative tax reform.

- **Oppose Tax Increases; Prioritize Tax Reform:** Lawmakers should oppose tax increases to prevent additional financial strain on residents and businesses, particularly in a time when many are already dealing with rising costs. Higher taxes discourage investment and job creation, slowing down economic growth and reducing the state's competitiveness. Instead, by lowering taxes on all citizens, Alabama can create a more favorable environment for entrepreneurship, attract new businesses, and ensure that residents have more disposable income to support local economies.
- **Long-Term Pension Reform:** Long-term pension reform in Alabama is crucial to ensure the financial sustainability of the state's retirement systems, which face growing liabilities and larger budget requests from the Legislature each year. Without reform, rising costs could strain the state budgets, reducing funds available for essential services. Implementing comprehensive changes can protect retirees' benefits while promoting fiscal responsibility and economic stability.



HEALTH CARE

Health Care is too expensive and too complicated. That's why policymakers must enact reforms that are proven to lower costs, increase access, and personalize health care. We must cut needless government red tape to increase access to quality health care at a price Alabamians can afford.

- **Repeal Certificate of Need (CON):** This law allows an unelected board and agency bureaucrats to decide if your community deserves a new medical service or health care facility. That's not right. To transform health care in Alabama, we must fully repeal the CON law to usher in new, quality services for Alabamians. Many states are recognizing the need to remove these barriers; for example, South Carolina recently eliminated all CON laws except in one area. It's time for Alabama to follow suit, making health care more affordable and accessible, particularly in underserved areas.
- **Oppose Medicaid Expansion:** Policymakers should continue to oppose Medicaid expansion in Alabama, including the "so called" public-private expansion. Medicaid was never designed to be a primary insurance provider for able-bodied consumers, but rather a temporary solution for individuals and families who need it. Restoring Medicaid to its original intent to serve as a safety net for the truly vulnerable and restructuring of the program to eliminate wasteful spending and protect taxpayers are important reforms. Achieving affordable and accessible health care with a patient driven focus is a priority, however there is no one solution to this crisis and Medicaid expansion would only place additional burdens on an already broken system by adding more individuals to the program at a cost to taxpayers.