



# **SC Chamber Presentation to CAPCA**

Oct. 23, 2025



# 2025 Legislative Session Recap



# **Bills Signed Into Law**

- **FY2025–26 Budget:**
  - 90 day permitting proviso
- **H.3309 – South Carolina Energy Security Act**
  - Increases energy generation through an “all of the above” approach
  - Common sense regulatory and permitting reforms to maintain the state’s unprecedented economic growth
- **H.3430 – Tort Reform/Liquor Liability Compromise**
  - Allow juries to consider all parties involved in an accident when allocating fault
  - Eliminates the “gross negligence” and alcohol exceptions to modified joint and several liability (fifty percent threshold)
  - Provides relief to a hospitality industry struggling with increased liquor liability insurance rates





# 2025 Grassroots Survey Data Analysis

Input from diverse, local business leaders is key to developing our robust competitiveness agenda. The annual grassroots tour is your chance to be heard and make your mark on the business community's 2026 legislative priorities.

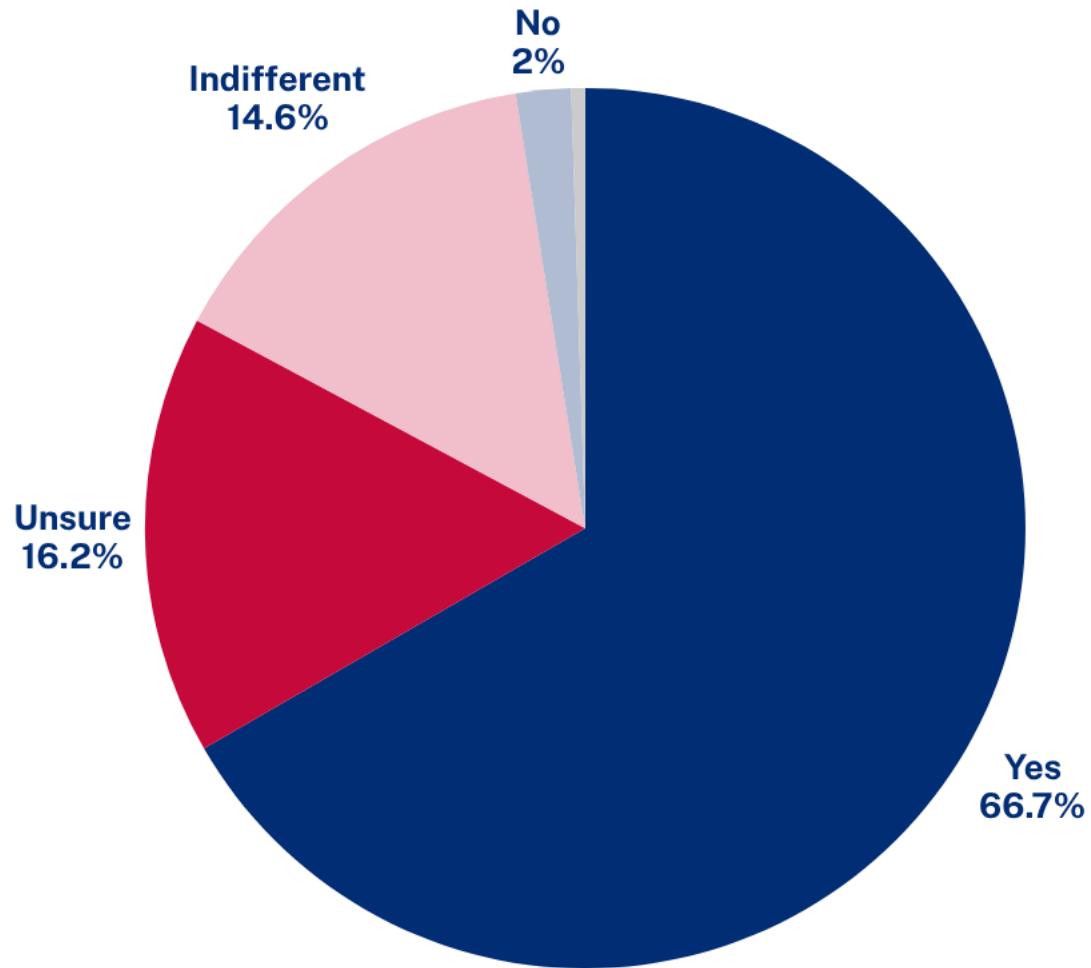
# 2025 GRASSROOTS

SURVEY



255

RESPONSES



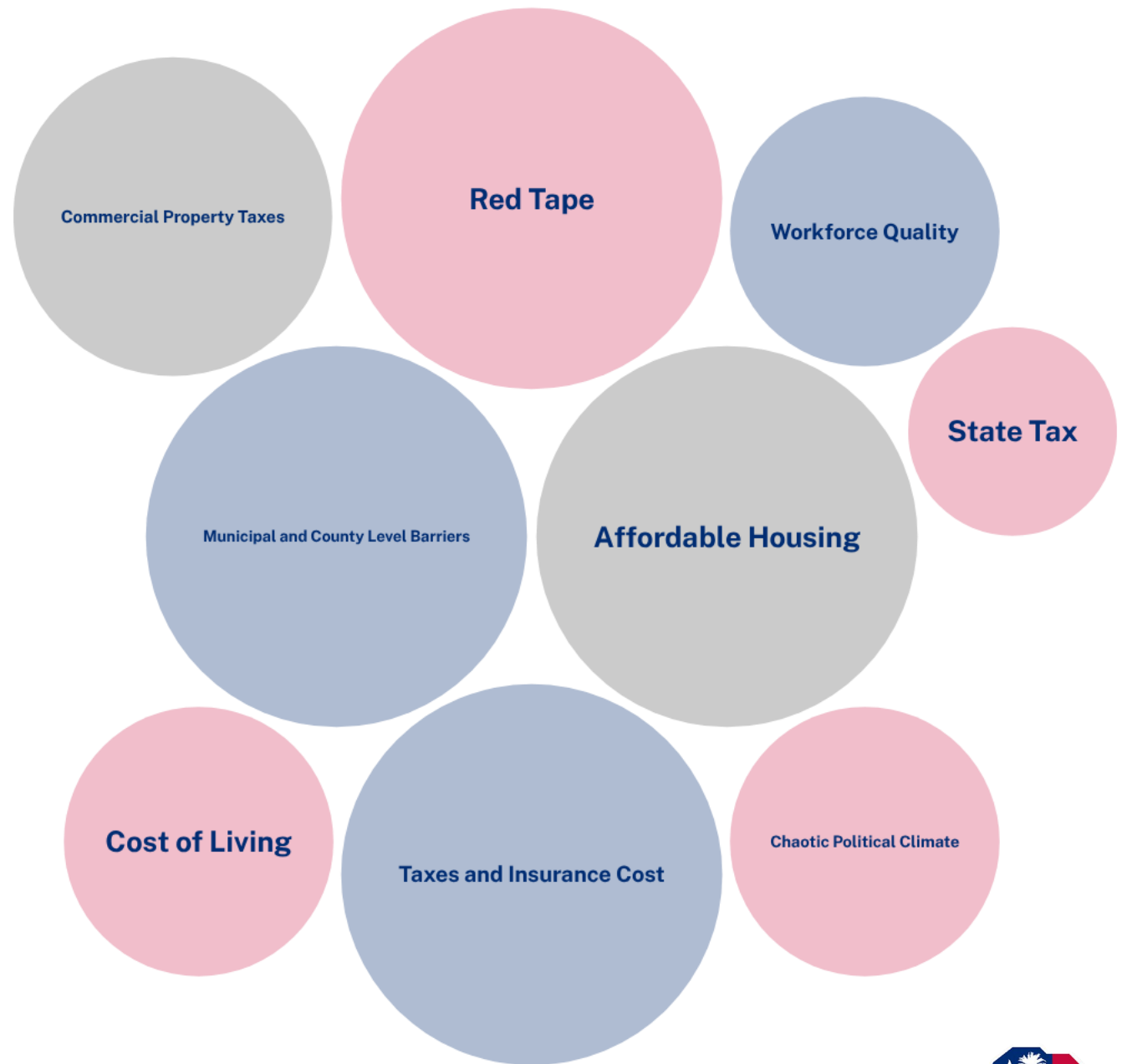
## QUESTION:

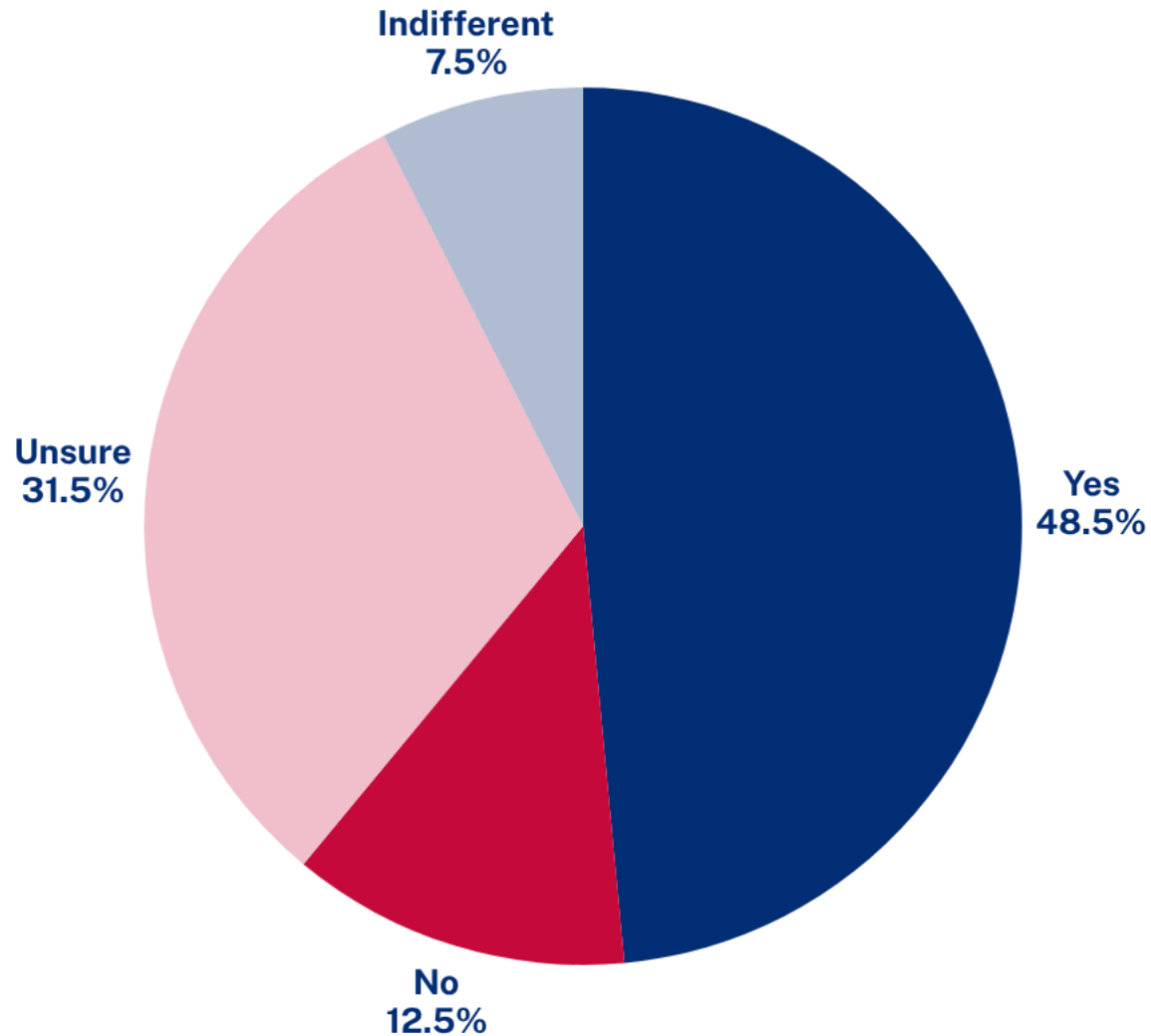
IN YOUR OPINION, IS SOUTH  
CAROLINA A GOOD STATE TO  
START A BUSINESS IN?



# QUESTION:

IF YOU ANSWERED NO TO THE  
PREVIOUS QUESTION, WHY IS  
THAT?



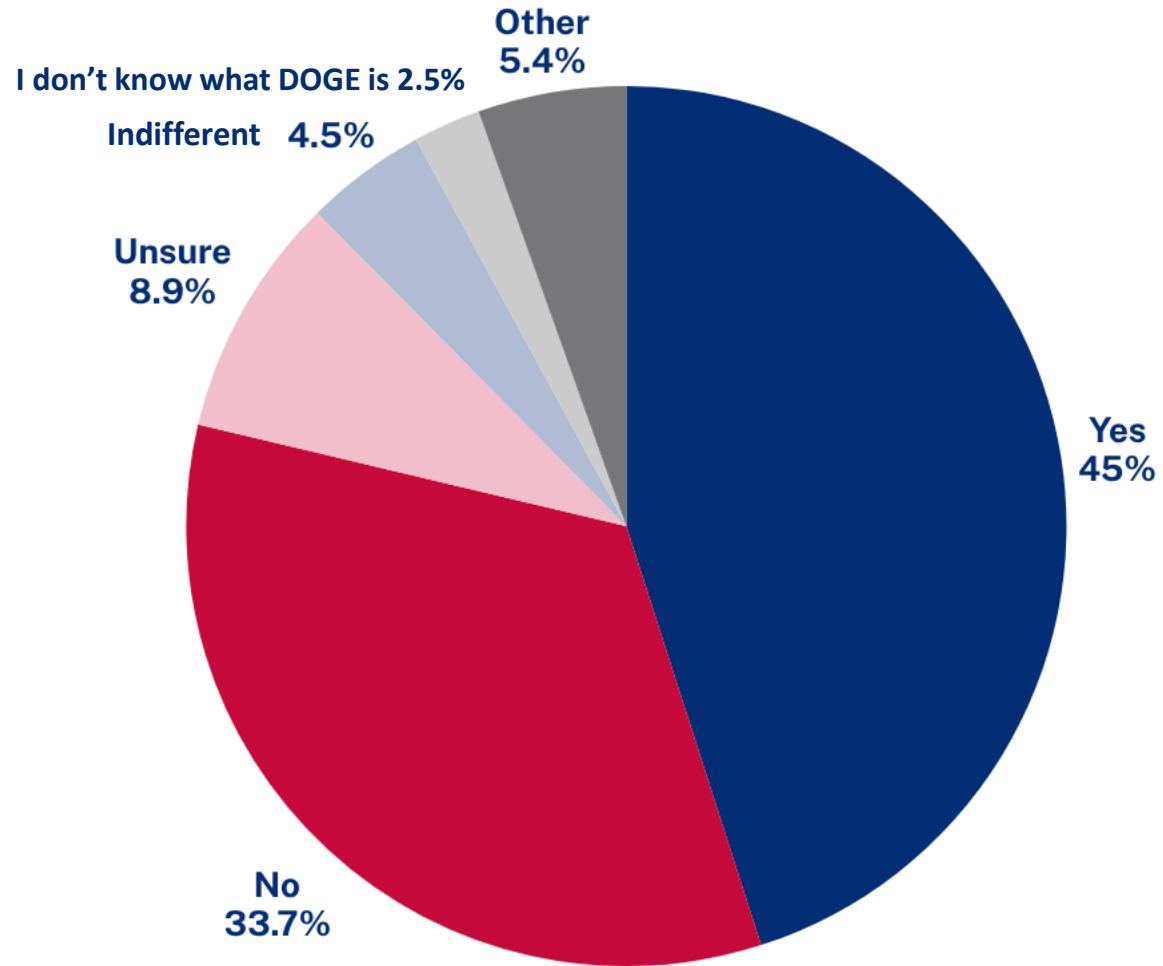


## QUESTION:

**S.C. HAS OVER 83,000  
REGULATIONS. TO CUT RED  
TAPE, SHOULD STATE  
AGENCIES BE REQUIRED TO  
ELIMINATE TWO  
REGULATIONS FOR EVERY  
NEW ONE PROPOSED?**







## QUESTION:

**SHOULD THE S.C. GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY ESTABLISH A  
DOGE-STYLE COMMISSION  
TO SLASH STATE SPENDING?**



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT 41%

INCOME TAX REFORM 26%

REGULATORY REFORM 9%

CHILDCARE 9%

OTHER 8%

LAWSUIT REFORM 8%

## QUESTION:

WHAT SHOULD BE THE TOP  
PRIORITY FOR THE BUSINESS  
COMMUNITY IN THE 2026  
LEGISLATIVE SESSION?





# Looking Ahead to the 2026 Legislative Session



# **2026 Regulatory Related Priorities**

## **Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act (H.3021)**

- Passed House unanimously in February, Senate priority in 2026.
- Aims to cut red tape and reduce government overreach by:
  - 2 for 1 requirement for regulations
  - 7-year shot clock for all regulations
  - Anti-deference (*Chevron*)

## **State NEPA Assignment**

- Likely a recommendation from the DOT Modernization Ad Hoc Committee.
- 8 states already have in some capacity.
- Allows the state to assume responsibilities for federal environmental review, consultation, and compliance.



# Potential 2026 Regulatory Issues

## **WaterSC**

- Continuing to meet monthly in order to complete State Water Plan by end of year.
- Surface Water Study Committee
- Regulated community position is to avoid making any changes to current law as data doesn't prove them necessary.

## **“DOGE”**

- A group called DOGESOC has launched and some of their policy priorities are to:
  - Re-purpose a minimum of 25,000 jobs from public to private sector.
  - Cut 84,000 regulations by at least one half.





# **Other Potential 2026 Issues**

## **Taxes**

- Income Tax Reform (H.4216)
- Business Personal Property Tax Relief
- Manufacturing Property Tax Exemption Cap Increase (S.439)
- Conformity to OBBA

## **Infrastructure Funding**

- Gas tax indexing, EV fee increase, tolls, new resident fees, impact fees.

## **Additional Tort Reform**

- Med. mal., construction defect, time-limited settlement demands

## **Childcare**

- Tax credits, property tax relief, regulatory reform, etc.



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**BLUEPRINT 2035**

**A Roadmap for South Carolina's Economic Future**



# Approach

## Progress To-Date

**40+**

Interviews Completed

**200**

CEO Survey Respondents

**8**

Focus groups completed



Policies & Strategies  
Analyzed



Data Profiling



Benchmarking

# Emerging Blueprint Themes



## 3. Compete in a High-Growth, Low-Carbon Economy

Lead in EVs, renewables, life sciences, and tourism innovation, underpinned by stable policy and R&D capacity.

## 2. Build & Retain the Future Workforce

Develop the skills, pipelines, and talent strategies for a high-tech, high-value economy.

## 4. Bridge the Urban–Rural Divide

Ensure every community can access opportunity via equitable education, healthcare, transport, and digital access.

## 1. Close the Infrastructure Gap

Fund and deliver transport, utilities, broadband, and energy systems that keep pace with growth.

## 5. Modernize the Business Climate

Reform tax, incentives, and regulation to attract both industry and innovation-driven sectors.







**SOUTH CAROLINA  
MANUFACTURERS  
+ COMMERCE**





**Questions?**