An illustration on the left side of the page featuring a red ribbon, a white paper airplane, a black pen, and a wooden gavel, all set against a teal background.

NCACPA Adopts Guiding Principles for Public Policy

By Robert Broome, CAE

Our dedicated volunteer leaders, grassroots advocates, and professional lobbyists work together to make NCACPA the most trusted resource for lawmakers on issues and policies impacting the accounting profession and the business climate in North Carolina.

Through its advocacy and awareness activities, NCACPA strives to create opportunities, avoid costs, and secure savings for our members and the individuals, businesses, and communities they serve.

On May 12, 2022, the NCACPA Advocacy Resource Group adopted the following Guiding Principles for Public Policy. These guidelines are intended to be a practical tool to help analyze and define where NCACPA stands on future legislative and regulatory proposals.

NCACPA Guiding Principles for Public Policy

PHILOSOPHY

It is the philosophy of NCACPA that each of our advocacy activities should fulfill at least one of the following priorities:

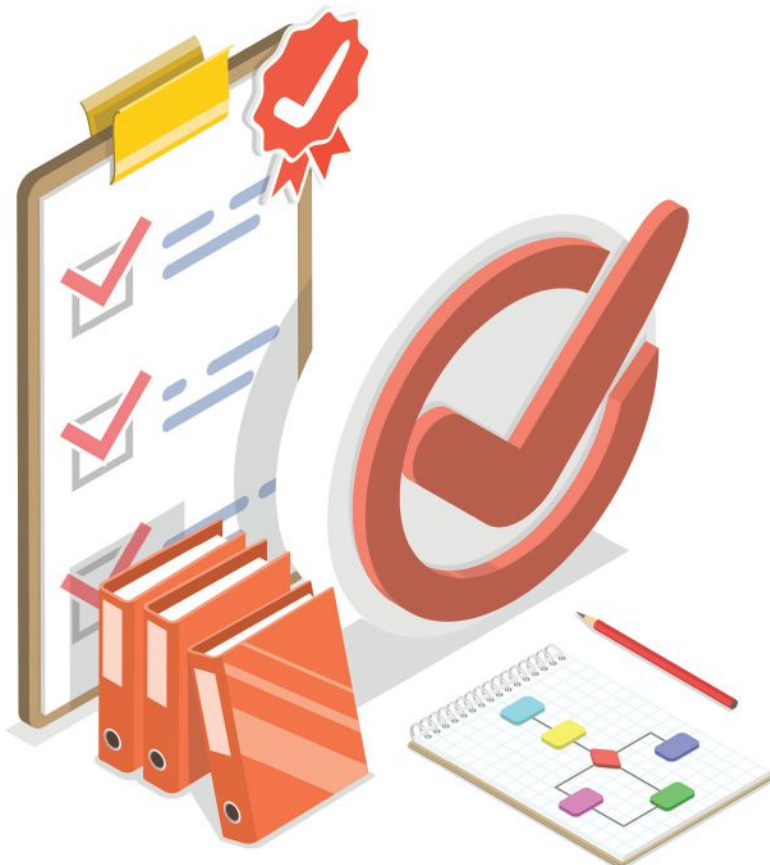
- **Protect the CPA Designation and Services:** The laws and regulations governing CPAs and their services should protect the value and integrity of the CPA license. All paths to licensure should adhere to the education, experience, and examination requirements as established by the Uniform Accountancy Act in evaluating jurisdictions for substantial equivalency. Due to the specialized education, training, and expertise of CPAs, services traditionally restricted to CPAs should generally continue to be so. We work to promote certainty in CPAs' work, and we work to prevent unreasonable or burdensome requirements for CPAs.

- **Advance the CPA Designation and Profession:** To ensure a sound future for the accounting profession, we support accounting education, communicate the value of the CPA brand through media relations activities and public outreach, and proactively seek opportunities to promote the CPA designation.
- **Champion Technical and Ethical Standards:** The laws and regulations governing CPAs and their services should not put CPAs at risk of violating the uniform professional or ethical standards developed by independent standard-setters. Laws and regulations should be written to reflect the appropriate standards and should not attempt to legislate standards, thus compromising the integrity of the independent standard-setting process.
- **Promote Sound Fiscal Public Policy:** Laws and regulations impacting economic and financial sustainability should adhere to sound public policy.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR TAX POLICY

NCACPA developed guiding principles to use as a framework when developing positions on tax policy. These guidelines recommend that North Carolina tax laws and regulations meet the following guiding principles:

- **Conformity:** North Carolina's tax laws should conform with federal tax laws whenever possible. Consideration should be given to any lag time for North Carolina to adopt federal tax changes, and the complexity and uncertainty such a delay creates for North Carolina taxpayers.
- **Simplicity:** Tax laws should be simple so that taxpayers understand the rules and can comply with them correctly and in a cost-efficient manner.
- **Transparency:** Taxpayers should know who and what is being taxed and why.
- **Equity:** Similarly situated taxpayers should be taxed similarly.



- **Certainty:** The tax rules should clearly specify when a tax is to be paid, how it is to be paid, and how the amount due is to be determined.
- **Accountability:** Accessibility and visibility of information on tax laws and their development, modification, and purpose are necessary for taxpayers.
- **Security:** Tax administration must protect taxpayer information from all forms of unintended and improper disclosure.
- **Competitiveness:** North Carolina's tax structure should enhance the state's regional, national, and global competitive position and should not unduly impede or reduce the productive capacity of the economy.

If you have questions or want more information about how you can be involved in the association's advocacy efforts, please contact NCACPA Director of Advocacy Robert Broome at rbroome@ncacpa.org.

GOVERNMENT FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY PHILOSOPHY

NCACPA will inform and educate members, the public, and lawmakers about financial facts related to the government and promote the use of the following principles:

- **Sustainability:** Promote economic and financial sustainability on a long-term basis.
- **Transparency:** Government financial information should be transparent and understandable to decision-makers and the public at large.
- **Stewardship:** Responsible planning and management of public resources is critical at all levels of government.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY POLICY PHILOSOPHY

NCACPA supports legislative and regulatory proposals that contribute to a healthy and sustainable environment for business and industry, create opportunities for economic growth, and promote a financially stable future for North Carolinians.

NCACPA may amplify or enhance our advocacy efforts by forming or joining coalitions with organizations that share a commitment to our policy priorities.

FINANCIAL LITERACY PHILOSOPHY

NCACPA supports initiatives to promote instruction in personal financial literacy, including maintenance of the statute requiring completion of a full-credit course focused solely on Economics and Personal Finance by all high school students before graduation. NCACPA supports the appropriation of public funds necessary to ensure that the intent and provisions of this requirement are carried out.

HUNDREDS OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS IMPACT YOU AS A CPA EVERY DAY.

Imagine if your elected officials didn't know just how critical these issues are to you.

The NC CPA Political Action Committee is the only PAC in North Carolina dedicated to representing the interests of the accounting profession.

With your participation in the nonpartisan NC CPA PAC, you help ensure that CPAs always have a strong, united voice in the legislative process.

By helping to elect lawmakers who share your priorities, you are protecting your business and your livelihood.

NCACPA'S RECENT LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY WINS:

- Passing a state income tax deduction for wages associated with the federal Employee Retention Credit.
- Cutting the state's late tax payment penalty in half.
- Securing state funding to train teachers of NC's high school Financial Literacy course.
- Simplifying documentation for amended returns for taxpayers impacted by PPP expense deductibility.
- Advocating for federal recognition of Accounting as a STEM field.
- Enacting equitable tax treatment for pandemic relief grant recipients.
- Expanding eligibility for Business Recovery Grants to businesses previously excluded because of their tax structure.
- Convincing the NCDOR to temporarily suspend collection activities related the PPP expense addback, pending the filing of an amended 2020 return.
- Helping CPAs cut through red tape with NCACPA's first-ever IRS Problem-Solving Day in partnership with the IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service.

Please make your voluntary financial investment in the NC CPA PAC today



NORTH CAROLINA
CPA  **PAC**
your voice in action