



Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama

WHO WE ARE

The Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama, PARCA, is Alabama's trusted source for non-partisan, non-ideological research, founded in 1988 by former Governor Albert Brewer.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

State and community leaders make better-informed decisions when provided with unbiased, nonpartisan data and resources about the topics they care about the most.

HOW WE WORK

We conduct *nonpartisan research* on issues affecting the people of Alabama so state and community leaders, and others, can make better-informed decisions based on facts, not rhetoric.

We *independently evaluate* the efficacy of public programs and services.

We offer technical and research assistance for public and nonprofit partners to help them integrate the use of *accurate data* into their work.

We engage in *meaningful dialogue* with state and community leaders and others on the topics Alabamians care about the most.

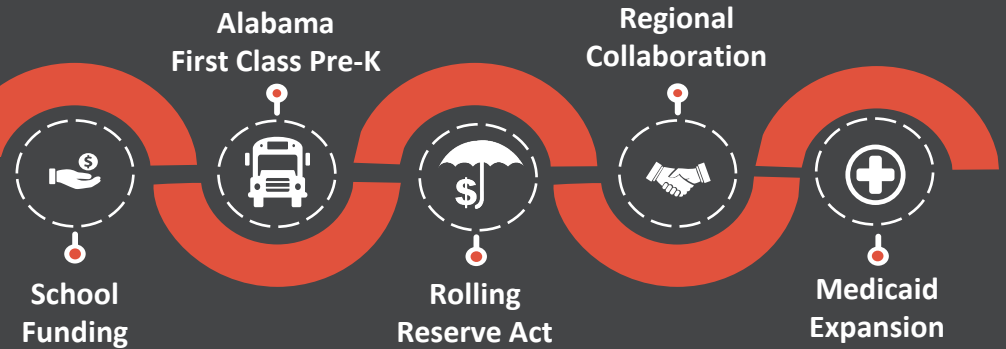


WHY WE MATTER

Good leaders use good information to make sound policies. This is what PARCA provides: trustworthy, non-ideological data, policy research, and evaluation so that public decisions might be made, and public money, both tax dollars and charitable donations, might be spent, informed by fact, not rhetoric.

Major Projects

PARCA's research informs major policy debates of the day and is relied upon policymakers and policy organizations across the political spectrum.



School
Funding

Rolling
Reserve Act

Medicaid
Expansion

CONTACT US



Major Accomplishments

PARCA is stubbornly nonpartisan and non-ideological. We do not endorse, advocate, or support candidates, policy positions, or political ideas. Rather than arguing for an outcome, our research defines issues, explains the context, and offers options to inform the decision-making of state and local leaders. Sometimes, a policy decision is to take *no* action. Other decisions are made at the administrative or staff level and, while important, are not apparent to most people. When a decision culminates with a vote, the journey to that vote may take years. Consequently, pointing to “wins” can be a challenge. However, taking a long view, we can point to projects and research which have had a significant impact.

- PARCA research on local support for schools led to the proposal and adoption of Amendment 778, requiring a minimum of 10 mills of local support for schools. PARCA worked with the Alabama Departments of Education and Revenue to determine necessary changes in local tax collections to comply with the Amendment.
- PARCA’s study of court costs helped curtail the perpetually increasing uncollectable court costs to pay for the operation of the justice system.
- PARCA conducted proof-of-concept research for Alabama’s First Class Pre-K and continues to conduct annual reviews and evaluations of the program.
- PARCA worked with the Alabama Legislature to design the Rolling Reserve Act, which has ended proration in the state’s Education Trust Fund.
- PARCA assisted the City of Montgomery, Jefferson County, and the state develop SMART budgeting practices.
- PARCA research, in collaboration with the Business Education Alliance and others, led to the restoration of funding for mentors for first-year teachers, tightened quality standards for career technical education offerings, renewed investment in the Alabama Reading Initiative, and encouraged the development of the Alabama Math Initiative.
- PARCA research led to the creation of the Legislature’s Joint Budget Task Force.
- PARCA research on regional collaboration has identified opportunities for improved collaboration and more efficient public spending in Jefferson County, the Shoals, and the Wiregrass, turning cooperation into a goal rather than a threat.
- PARCA’s long work on the Alabama Constitution, including our own reorganized version of the Constitution with amendments organized by county and a catalog of local acts, helped lead the way to the reorganization and recompilation of the Alabama Constitution in 2022.
- PARCA is currently conducting the only major research studying the implementation of the state’s 2019 Literacy Act and offering recommendations to improve the delivery of literacy instruction.



PARCA, the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama, will hold its annual policy forum on March 8, 2024, in Birmingham, Alabama. The working title is Housing Alabama's Workforce and it will explore workforce housing challenges and opportunities.

PARCA is a statewide nonpartisan nonprofit research center designed to provide objective and unbiased policy research and data analysis for leaders of Alabama's governments, schools, and nonprofits. Our research is focused on government processes, public education, public finance, and workforce development.

PARCA is Alabama's trusted source for independent research and data analysis, respected by leaders in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, and trusted across the political spectrum.

Since 1996, PARCA has hosted an annual statewide meeting exploring a subject of statewide importance. The meeting begins with morning policy sessions and concludes with the Governor Albert P. Brewer Legacy Lunch and an address from the sitting Alabama governor.

In recent years, policy sessions have explored municipal government, state budgets, mental health, corrections, workforce development, the role of the modern governor, early literacy, and childcare. The meeting draws a politically, economically, and professionally diverse mix of 350+ business and civic leaders, elected officials and candidates, state and local government employees, and nonprofit leaders.

To date, our speakers are:

- Meghan Venable Thomas, Ph.D., Director of Community Development, City of Birmingham
- Amanda Loper, AIA, LEED AP, Principal, David Baker Architects
- Mary Ellen Judah, Executive Director, Neighborhood Concepts, Inc.
- Kay Ivey, Governor, State of Alabama



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Research Council
of Alabama**

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Director
Advanced Economic
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* Executive Committee
+ Ex Officio



2024 Annual Forum
 Housing Alabama's Workforce
 Friday, March 8, 2024, 9:00 AM
 The Harbert Center
 2019 4th Avenue North
 Birmingham, AL 35203
 205-226-8800



Please park in the deck on 4th Avenue North, across from the Harbert Center. We will validate your parking. The Harbert Center opens at 7 AM. Speakers should arrive by 8:30. Please look for Marci or Ryan when you arrive.

Time	Length	Speaker	Activity/Topic	Tech	Power Point
8:00 AM	60	NA	gathering	music	slide deck #1
8:50 AM				10 minute warning	
8:55 AM				5 minute warning	
9:00 AM	10	Tyrone Fenderson, PARCA Board Chair	Welcome & Intros, introduce Ryan	podium mic	Annual Meeting title slide
9:10	10	Ryan Hankins PARCA E.D.	Define topic & intros	lavalier mic #1	slide deck #2
9:20	30	Navigate Housing	What is Workforce Housing, Why does it matter?	lavalier mic #2 roving audience mics	slide deck #3
9:50	10		Status of Workforce Housing in Alabama	lavalier mic #1	
10:00	20	Break		music	slide deck #1
10:15				5 minute warning	
10:20	45	Mary Ellen Judah, Megan Venable- Thomas, TBD	Innovations in Alabama	5 handheld mics + 2 roving mics	Annual Meeting title slide
11:05	25	Amanda Loper	Innovations around the US	lavalier mic #2	slide deck #4
11:30	25	Jim Stoddard	Wrap-Up		
11:55	5	Ryan Hankins	transition to lunch	lavalier mic #1	
3	180				

2024 Governor Albert Brewer Legacy Lunch

Time		Speaker	Item	Tech	PowerPoint
12:00	15	NA	Lunch - until everyone is served and many are finishing lunch	NA	lunch title slide
12:15	5	Tyrone	Welcome, recognize board & past Chair, introduce civil servant award	podium mic	lunch title slide
12:20	10	Ryan	Year in Review	lavalier mic #2	slide deck #5
12:30	5	Tyrone	Introduce Gov. Ivey	podium mic	lunch title slide
12:35	20	Gov. Ivey	Remarks	podium mic	lunch title slide
12:55		Tyrone	Closing		slide deck #6



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