

Alabama Secretary of Commerce Greg Canfield

Greg Canfield has served as secretary of the Alabama Department of Commerce since July 2011, making the former businessman and state lawmaker from Vestavia Hills the state's top-ranking economic developer. Canfield also serves as chairman of the Alabama Economic Development Alliance, an organization set up to implement Accelerate Alabama, the state's strategic growth plan adopted in 2012 that targets 11 key sectors for expansion opportunities.



With Canfield at Commerce, economic development activities in Alabama during 2012 and 2013 resulted in capital investment approaching \$10 billion and 38,000 announced new jobs. Alabama also has been ranked as a top state for business by economic development-focused publications such as Site Selection and Business Facilities magazines.

As Commerce Secretary, Canfield is responsible for advancing the department's key priorities, which include facilitating recruitment and expansion projects, expanding export opportunities for Alabama business, helping small businesses grow, and raising the state's profile in the film and entertainment industry. AIDT, the state's highly regarded job training agency, is a division of Commerce.

Under Canfield, Commerce has worked with its economic development allies across Alabama to target industrial and advanced manufacturing projects, while increasing a focus on securing high-paying knowledge-based jobs in the research, engineering, and design fields.

Canfield graduated from Huffman High School in Birmingham and attended the University of Alabama and UAB, where he earned a finance degree in 1983. He began a career in sales with Purolator Corp., a Fortune 500 company. At Purolator, he served as Southeastern Regional Sales Manager before becoming Regional Administration Manager with responsibility for the region's budgetary process. Canfield later served as a National Account Manager for Transus Freight Systems, overseeing territory from Alabama to New Jersey.

Canfield entered the insurance and financial services field in 1990. Three years later, he opened his own business, marketing insurance services to businesses and individuals. He sold Canfield Insurance & Financial Services Inc. in 2008 and joined J.H. Berry Insurance in Birmingham.

As president of the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce, Canfield launched the organization's Business Development Committee, which promoted the community for commercial investment. In 2000, he was instrumental in the development of Vestavia's first long-range economic and land use plan.

Canfield was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 2006, serving for nearly five years. In January 2011, he became chairman of the House's Commerce & Small Business Committee.

Alabama Governor Robert Bentley appointed Canfield as director of the Alabama Development Office (now Commerce) on July 18, 2011.