



2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce

Our legislative agenda focuses of the following priorities:

An environment where business can prosper
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the establishment of a mechanism to fill judicial vacancies that keeps Tennessee’s appellate judges out of the partisan political cycle. • Support the successful implementation and expansion of “impact to commerce” analysis on fiscal notes. • Support the lowest possible unemployment insurance tax rates to make Tennessee more competitive for existing and relocating businesses. • Support the right of businesses to enforce personnel policies regarding guns in the workplace.
Talent development of the region’s workforce
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the continued implementation of the Common Core State Standards and the corresponding PARCC assessment to preserve rigorous K-12 academic standards. • Maintain an annual teacher evaluation system that includes student performance in order to improve instruction in the classroom. • Oppose school voucher legislation that does not provide “real choice with accountability;” support school voucher legislation that requires participating students to take the same state-mandated tests as public school students, provides voucher amounts sufficient to cover the cost of participating schools, and contains additional design elements to ensure successful implementation. • Support the expansion of dual enrollment as a strategy to increase college credit-earning opportunities for high school students and help Tennessee meet its college completion goals. • Support investments in higher education that increase college completion and promote affordability for students. • Support strict accountability for charter schools by automatically revoking the charter of schools that are placed on the state’s “Priority Schools” list, which is the lowest-performing 5 percent of schools in Tennessee. • Support local control of charter school authorization except in the case of successful appeals, in which the state board would become the chartering authority when it overrules a local school board’s charter application denial.
Quality of life that attracts and retains residents and workers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level, as well as efforts to maintain our identity and brand as a welcoming, inclusive city, region and state.
Regional efforts to ensure economic prosperity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the expansion of transit systems in the Nashville region and a dedicated funding source for regional mass transit infrastructure that has a strong business case for success. • Support predictable and transparent planning and zoning policies that promote economic growth. • Oppose municipal annexation policies that impede local development