

2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

**The Chamber's purpose is to facilitate community leadership to create economic prosperity.
Our legislative agenda helps fulfill this purpose by focusing on the following priorities:**

An environment where business can prosper
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the establishment of a consistent state policy regarding local minimum wages for private businesses, leaving the federal government to set the minimum wage level.• Consider, as part of the analysis of proposed legislation, the financial impact of each bill on businesses and jobs within Tennessee.• Support moving from a court-based to an administrative system to resolve workers' compensation disputes.• Support the proposed modification for appointment and retention of the state's appellate judges, along with a temporary extension of the current system, to ensure a predictable business environment and keep these officeholders out of the political campaign cycle.• Support the federally-funded expansion of Medicaid in Tennessee to alleviate and prevent increased health care costs to businesses.
Talent development of the region's workforce
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain an annual teacher evaluation system that includes student performance in order to improve instruction in the classroom, with the Tennessee Department of Education ensuring the availability of all necessary data in a timely manner.• Preserve the current system for selecting school superintendents, in which these leaders are appointed by an elected school board to ensure a clear and accountable governance structure.• Make publicly available on the Tennessee Department of Education's website the full ACT report of each school district and high school, and incorporate improvement on ACT into the state's accountability system.• 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 so that these credit-earning opportunities for high school students help Tennessee meet its college completion goals.• Support investments in higher education that increase college completion and promote affordability for students.• Support a default closure mandate for charter 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 appeals, in which the state 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.• Preserve the rights of business and property owners to prohibit firearms on their property.
Regional efforts to ensure economic prosperity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the expansion of Metro Nashville's transit systems and a dedicated funding source for a regional mass transit infrastructure and system that has a strong business case for success.• Support predictable and transparent planning and zoning policies that promote economic growth.

Approved: 1/30/2013
Revised: