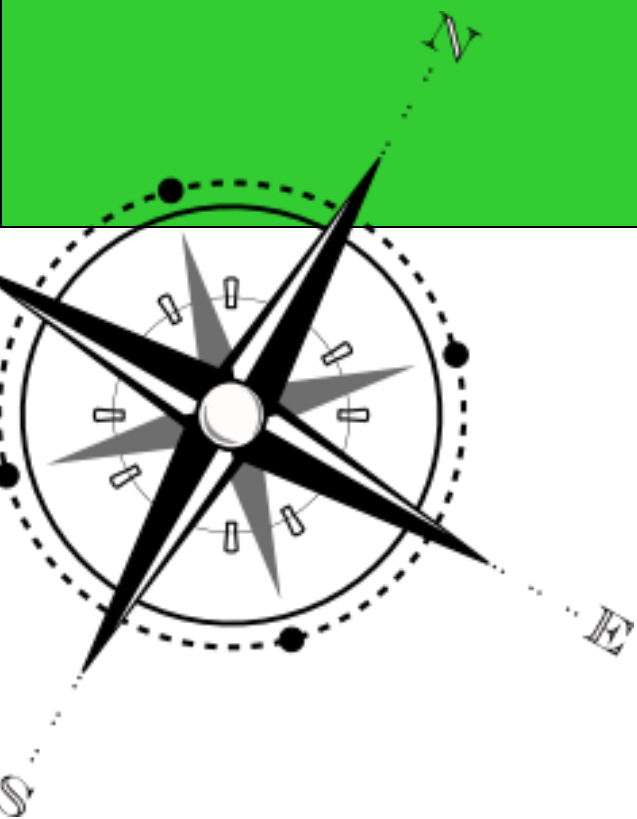

Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce



2011 Legislative Issues
- Moving Forward in the Right Direction -

2011 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

HEALTHCARE

The Chamber recognizes that health insurance affordability and access continue to be an issue for business, especially small business.

The Chamber supports:

- Legislation that ensures employers are able to provide affordable and sound health insurance to employees
- Legislation to oppose the federal healthcare mandate requiring North Carolinians to purchase health insurance or face taxes and/or fines.

Pitt County Memorial Hospital/UHS

As a provider of health and wellness services, as well as a major economic engine in the community, PCMH plays a major role in the economic growth and development of our community in addition to access to quality health services.

The Chamber Supports:

- Opposing further Medicaid provider cuts
- Supporting North Carolina Hospital Association's assessment proposal to access matching federal dollars to help offset the more than \$1.1 billion that hospitals lose in caring for the uninsured. The proposal would cost the state nothing and would add an additional \$43 million to the State's coffers.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Chamber believes that life-long education is a driver of economic development. By striving to create a workforce that has the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the business needs of North Carolina, education will become the force behind business in the Tar Heel State.

NC Public School System

Public schools can produce a workforce that sustains our state and helps secure the economic future of NC.

The Chamber supports:

- Legislation that provides equitable and adequate K-12 funding
- Shorten school board terms from 6 to 4 years
- Reduce the number of school board members from 12 to 9 – one (1) from each of the six (6) districts and three (3) at-large
- Have new school board members take office 30 days after their election as opposed to the current unnecessary gap

East Carolina University

The ECU School of Dental Medicine is developing a national model for dental education that will recruit students from rural, underserved communities, provide students with an innovative curriculum needed to work in those areas and create 8 to 10 dental /oral health delivery centers in dentally underserved communities across the state.

The Chamber supports:

- \$3.5 million of recurring operating funds (FY 2012) for the ECU School of Dentistry

Pitt Community College

A trained and competitive work force is necessary to combat the extended recession, attract new industry and support existing business. The nationally ranked Community College Customized Training Program is arguably one the best incentives in the state's economic development toolbox

The Chamber supports:

- \$2.8 million in recurring funds (FY 2012) for enrollment growth

2011 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Chamber is an advocate of developing and implementing a comprehensive statewide economic development plan that focuses on creating jobs of the future, business retention, and incentives for high-growth companies.

The Chamber Supports:

- Reducing the regulatory burden on small business
- Limiting tax increases (under the new Health Care Reform Law) on small business owners to make it affordable to provide insurance for themselves and their employees.
- Opposes “Card Check” legislation and any other union-friendly legislation, including collective bargaining
- Continued efforts to ensure NC remains a right-to-work state

RE-DISTRICTING

The Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce promotes and supports the fastest growing community in Eastern North Carolina. There is agreement among business, industry and area leaders that “gerrymandered” legislative districts would be a hindrance to the future leadership role that is incumbent upon Greenville-Pitt County to take in efforts to enhance the quality of life for all Eastern North Carolinians.

The Chamber Supports:

- Representation for Pitt County reflective of its size as one of North Carolina’s most largely populated counties so that is represented on a par with communities of like size around the state.
- Maintaining the integrity of Pitt County as the economic, cultural, educational, and medical hub of Eastern North Carolina by keeping the Pitt County populous as a majority in any designated district.
- District lines with significant geographical boundaries to provide a clear understanding to citizens as to whom their representatives are.
- Concise, single member districts



This Legislative Agenda is driven by input from the Chamber's Legislative Issues Committee, results from a membership-wide survey and reflects the Greenville business community's 2011 legislative priorities.