

# 2012 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## **The Roane County Chamber of Commerce strongly recommends, encourages and supports the following Legislative initiatives:**

**As one of the most pressing needs, ensuring that all portions of Roane County are included in the same reapportioned Federal Congressional and State Senate and House legislative districts.**

### **Education**

We understand that the State is under severe financial constraints, but we feel strongly that education funding needs to be a priority and request that, at a minimum, you work to maintain the 2011-2012 funding levels for all Tennessee education segments (PreK-12 and Higher Education) for budget year 2012-2013

### **Economic Development & Tourism**

Development, expansion, and restoration of key economic drivers involving industrial, retail and tourism development efforts.

- Adequate funding to complete Phase III building requirements of the Roane State Exposition Center to enhance Roane County tourism and agricultural activities.
- Funding to local governments for land acquisition, infrastructure support, and building construction to meet industrial development recruitment and retention needs.
- Revision of state laws to allow financial incentives to be made available for retail businesses.
- Additional funding for the expansion and continued upgrade of the Plateau Partnership Park to enhance regional economic development.
- Additional funding as required to complete restoration and development of the Princess Theater complex in Harriman, so as to enhance tourism to Roane County.
- Expand funding of the State's tourism branding campaign and target it to specific regions and counties for appropriate tourism marketing materials.
- New funding for construction of a Conference/ Convention Center to enhance tourism to Roane County.

### **Transportation & Infrastructure**

Two key highway projects, some critical road expansions and a new bridge to support growth locally.

- Complete the widening of Highway 70 from Kingston to Rockwood to better serve our transportation requirements.
- The timely widening of Highway 61 between Harriman and Oliver Springs to help facilitate and ease movement of employees and suppliers between the two cities.
- Construction of a new bridge across Caney Creek to replace this aging and inadequate structure, so as support growth of the many housing developments in that area of the county.
- Expansion of New Hope, Post Oak, Valley Road, and Caney Creek Roads into Rockwood to improve our transportation infrastructure.



*Chamber of Commerce*