

# BUSINESS CLIMATE



## ENVIRONMENTAL

- Encourage the adoption of reasonable standards which protect the environment and foster business and industrial growth.

## LEGAL & REGULATORY CLIMATE



- Firmly support the concept of local control and the principle that all branches of state government should focus their efforts on issues with statewide implications.
- Recognize the need for smart regulations to ensure workplace safety and protect public health, but support a regulatory system that is fair for everyone and evaluates the impact new regulations will have on jobs and small businesses.
- Strongly support the individual's right to "Employment at Will" while receiving fair and equal compensation for work performed.
- Specific pay and benefit decisions should be left to individual companies without mandates from the state/federal government; well defined and fair State/Federal programs including Unemployment Compensation, Workers Compensation, and Federal Minimum Wage should be administered ensuring states remain competitive in the economic development area.
- Advocate for more streamlined and efficient permitting processes to position Virginia and Tennessee to be more competitive in the global economy.



## TAX

- Committed to pro-growth, pro-job tax policies at both the local and state level to preserve our states' competitiveness while opposing narrow business taxes which impose excessive burdens on specific industries or individuals.
- Support approaches that improve Virginia and Tennessee's business tax climate index rankings.

# INFRASTRUCTURE: ADEQUATE & RELIABLE FUNDING

## TRANSPORTATION



- Support the expansion of AMTRAK to and through Bristol, supporting funding and planning efforts to develop this expansion. Promote the connectivity of VA and TN in Bristol as a critical development for passenger rail along the entire eastern seaboard.
- Support the reliable funding of a safe and efficient transportation system that effectively moves people and goods and fosters economic growth for a competitive economy while recognizing that new forms of revenue, increases in revenue, and elimination of wasteful spending may be needed to provide this funding.

## BROADBAND, HOUSING & UTILITIES



- Support investments in our state's broadband, airport, electricity, transit and housing infrastructure to meet current and future demands and enhance resiliency, and advocate for legislation that streamlines processes to be more efficient and business friendly.
- Address affordability across all income levels and all housing types by expanding and preserving the existing housing supply.
- Providing adequate water/wastewater infrastructure is paramount to the continued success of our region. Extending public water supply to areas that are currently underserved will allow for the development of new areas for affordable housing.

## ENERGY



- Strengthen energy security by modernizing the electric grid through a balanced and diverse energy portfolio, expedited infrastructure development, expanded baseload generation, advanced storage solutions and resilient systems that ensure reliable, affordable and uninterrupted power for our growing economy.

# HEALTHCARE: GOOD HEALTH IS GOOD BUSINESS



- Prioritize access & affordability
- Support reforms that lead to more value-based, quality-focused and coordinated care.
- Advocate for innovative solutions to expand healthcare coverage that reduce healthcare costs for Virginia and Tennessee's business community
- Advocate for growth in the healthcare talent supply
- Support regulatory mechanism to control costs, restrict duplicative services and protect safety net providers.
- Support increasing access to behavioral health care (including community-based care), improving quality, expanding crisis care, growing the behavioral health workforce and addressing the needs of our most vulnerable.