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## 2009 Legislative Agenda

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### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the  
Greater Raleigh Chamber of  
Commerce is to sustain and  
further develop a thriving  
economy and to enhance  
our community's  
quality of life.

Rev. 1 2009  
Printed on FSC and SFI certified Cougar®; 10% recycled content



**The Chamber**  
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce

Building a  
Thriving Economy  
and Enhancing  
our Quality of Life



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## 2009 Legislative Agenda



Enhance the business climate  
and quality of life in the Triangle.

## Overview

The Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Legislative Agenda represents the Chamber's commitment to creating an improved business climate and quality of life for Raleigh, Wake County and the Research Triangle region of North Carolina. Our agenda addresses the key concerns of our 2,700 member firms, which represent two-thirds of the private sector employment in Wake County.

The issues in this agenda are based on feedback received from surveys of the Chamber's membership. Volunteers and staff also offered specific expertise and perspectives in order to thoroughly evaluate these issues and their potential impact on businesses and the community.

The Chamber's Board of Directors adopted the agenda in early 2009, empowering staff and volunteer leadership to communicate these positions to key policymakers at the local, state and federal levels.

The Chamber strongly believes these legislative recommendations will lead to a thriving economy for local businesses and an enhanced quality of life for area citizens.

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## Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce Legislative Agenda

### EDUCATION

- ◆ Continue funding for the North Carolina Community College System's BioNetwork initiative, which includes Wake Tech Community College
- ◆ Support North Carolina State University's capital request to assist with future research and development projects
- ◆ Oppose additional unfunded state mandates on local school districts
- ◆ Support efforts to address teacher quality and retention concerns
- ◆ Fully fund university research in the region's identified cluster industries, including: Bioenergy Initiative (NCSU), Research Competitive Fund (UNCGA); Entrepreneurship and Regional Cluster-based economic development (NCSU); and Automotive Plug-In Technology (NCSU)

### TARGET CLUSTER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

- ◆ Support efforts to strengthen the state's ties to the military and defense industry, including the Defense and Security Technology Accelerator
- ◆ Increase funding for community colleges for customized industry training and equipment

### TRANSPORTATION

- ◆ Continue phase out of the Highway Trust Fund transfer to the General Fund
- ◆ Support the efforts of the 21st Century Transportation Committee and the NCDOT Transformation

## Research Triangle Regional Legislative Agenda

### Regional Competitiveness

- ~ Support competitive salaries for K-12 teachers, community college instructors and university professors
- ~ Oppose efforts to weaken North Carolina's right-to-work status, such as allowing public employees the right to collectively bargain

### Job Creation/Retention

- ~ Support continued investment in the Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG)/One North Carolina
- ~ Appoint a Blue Ribbon Committee to research expanding support for small business
- ~ Support adding digital media and entertainment/serious gaming industry to tax credits offered to the film industry

### Green/Health/Water

- ~ Expand renewable energy tax credits to include energy saving retrofits and construction
- ~ Create a study commission to review ways to incent small businesses to provide quality health care for employees
- ~ Ensure regional, long-term and collaborative efforts when creating rules that affect water supply

### Transportation

- ~ Allow local communities to tax themselves (with voter approval) to fund transportation infrastructure
- ~ Support a funding mechanism for investments in commuter and regional rail throughout the state