

STATE POLICY PRIORITIES

Judicial System

The Greensboro Partnership encourages the General Assembly to fund the judicial branch at the recommended minimum of 3% as identified by the John Medlin Commission. This lack of funding has meant our judicial system is not on par with that of other regions. A well run judiciary is important to the quality of life in our communities.

Small Business

One North Carolina Fund

We support the continuation of the One North Carolina Fund for the development of technologically innovative small businesses by matching Federal SBIR grant funds.

Health Insurance for Small Businesses

Small Businesses employ over 49% percent of the workforce but cannot always provide the needed benefit of health insurance for their employees. We support the request for a pilot project allowing the Piedmont Triad Chambers of Commerce to provide group health insurance to their members.

Education

A strong public school system means better educated students and a healthier economy. We need commitment from every level of government to recognize the magnitude of needs facing public schools and to collectively provide the resources necessary to ensure their success.

The Greensboro Partnership supports the following education initiatives:

State Sales Tax Exemption for Purchases by Local School Boards

Reinstating the sales tax exemption for local school districts on purchases. Such a law would have provided \$2.2 million to Guilford County Schools in 2006.

Adequate Funding

Lack of adequate funding to Guilford County Schools has resulted in deferred maintenance and cutting educational staff positions. We support an increase in state and local funding for public schools to ensure we are providing students a sound and basic education.

CITY AND COUNTY PRIORITIES

Downtown Greenway – Greensboro

This 4.8 mile proposed walking and biking trail will loop around downtown and connect existing and planned trails in the city and the county. It will promote fitness, connectedness and well-being for our residents and visitors in an aesthetically pleasing environment. The Downtown Greenway provides a unique opportunity for Greensboro, as it is the only one of its kind in the state and one of the few in the country.



FEDERAL PRIORITIES

Greensboro Transit Authority

GTA is forwarding a request of \$16 million for federal assistance to relocate and expand their maintenance and operations center. Passenger transportation remains an important function for Greensboro's growing workforce and this new facility will ensure adequate storage room for vehicles and enhanced maintenance facilities for this growing fleet. Additionally, we support the matching funds for this project of \$2 million from North Carolina and \$2 million from the City of Greensboro.

Lieberman/Warner Bill – S2191

The Greensboro Partnership does not support this legislation. Competitive energy prices are vital to a growing economy and economic development. Under this legislation customers, business and residential, in our region would be unfairly affected. The impact on our regional economies would be decidedly negative. We suggest following the principles of the successful 1990 Clean Air Act.

Education Priorities

The Greensboro Partnership supports full funding for the No Child Left Behind Act and its Title I components. Without full funding this mandate is overwhelming the education system and severely limiting the ability to educate our children. Additionally, we support amending the No Child Left Behind Act as recommended by the National School Boards Association and the Council of Great City Schools.

Additionally, the Greensboro Partnership supports full funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.



2008 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Greensboro Partnership serves as principal economic and community development organization in Greensboro, North Carolina. Its mission is to strategically develop a vibrant community that creates, expands and attracts business while advancing the quality of life for all. The Greensboro Partnership supports the following projects it deems as important to the vitality of the Greensboro community.

Critical Transportation Policy Concerns

Greensboro is poised to experience rapid growth — growth that can be attributed to the perfect synthesis of location, infrastructure and a skilled workforce. Our continued success depends on having the resources to maintain a reliable infrastructure helping companies connect to their customers across the country while continuing to attract thriving companies like FedEx and UPS.

Transportation funding continues to diminish. North Carolina must be proactive in evaluating its transportation policy and adapting to the changing needs of the state.

We appeal to our elected leaders in the State and Federal Governments to make the following policy changes to ensure our region remains competitive.

- > Change the Equity Formula to meet the needs of growing regions.
- > Eliminate the Highway Trust Fund transfer to the General Fund.
- > Allow more financing and revenue flexibility to meet the needs of cities, counties, and regions.
- > Change North Carolina's status as a donor state to increase our ability to maintain and grow our transportation system.

N.C.A&T/UNCG Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering

\$3 million increase in continued operating funds for the N. C.A&T/UNCG Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering (JSNN). This project received \$60.8 million in funding authority in the FY07-08 budget.

Funding authorized by the General Assembly in the 2007 Session provides for the capital costs associated with this project as well as \$1.4 million in recurring funds for operations. To be competitive, JSNN must be in a position to attract faculty. At the current funding level, JSNN is deficient in the necessary operating dollars to build a competitive staffing program which has been a stalling point in recruitment of the Dean. Additionally, funding is needed for the program's complete success.

N.C.A&T/UNCG Joint Primary Data Center

\$46 million funding request for the development of a Joint Primary Data Center

This is a collaborative effort to build a Joint Primary Data Center (JPDC) at the south campus of the Gateway University Research Park in Greensboro. This is one of the top two projects for both Universities. Building one large joint data center will amount to as much as \$56 million in savings for the State of North Carolina. The Joint Primary Data Center will also become an important recruiting tool for businesses considering Greensboro as an option to locate their businesses.

International Civil Rights Center and Museum

\$3 million funding request for the International Civil Rights Center and Museum

This endeavor, which partners with the Smithsonian Institute, will become a focal point of the community by providing an economic and educational benefit to the tourist industry of Greensboro, Guilford County, the Piedmont Triad and the State of North Carolina. This funding will add to funds raised by the community towards the completion of this project.

High Point Furniture Market

\$2.6 million request of recurring appropriations for Marketing of the High Point Furniture Market

We support the High Point Furniture Market as a vital part of Guilford County's continued economic development. With a global reputation as the most productive business event in the home furnishings industry, the High Point Market is estimated to have a total economic impact of \$1.2 billion annually on the State of North Carolina. Currently, the state provides \$875,000 recurring revenue and a one year allotment of \$1 million. In addition, NCDOT is supporting transportation initiatives by allocating \$1.2 million. It is essential that the High Point Market maintain its current global leadership position and protect the valuable economic contribution it makes to the state of North Carolina.

