



Legislative Update

July 2009

Thank you for your continued interest in the Greensboro Partnership's Governmental Affairs Department. This edition contains an update of the 2009 Legislative Agenda, policy issues of interest and other informational items. If you have a policy issue, which concerns your business, we would like to hear from you. Please contact the Governmental Affairs staff and alert us to your concern.

Sincerely,

Jason Cannon
VP, Governmental Affairs

10th Annual State of Our Community Luncheon

This year's Greensboro Chamber of Commerce Annual State of Our Community Luncheon plans to be different than all those past. Instead of speeches, we decided to shake things up with a panel discussion. We have confirmed Mayor Yvonne Johnson, City of Greensboro; Chairman Skip Alston, Guilford County Board of Commissioners; and Chairman Alan Duncan, Guilford County Board of Education to serve as our panelists. Chuck Burns, Chair of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce Operating Group, will moderate. The questions presented to the panelists will be designed to provoke long-term ideas around the future of Greensboro and Guilford County. Register today for this informative event and gain valuable insight into our elected officials' ideas for the future.

Event Info

Koury Convention Center/Sheraton Four Seasons
3121 High Point Road
Greensboro, North Carolina 27407
August 26, 2009
Noon-1:30PM

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!

2009 Greensboro Partnership Legislative Agenda

Budget Update

The beginning of the new fiscal year was July 1, 2009 and, of course, a state budget for FYs 2009-2011 was not in place. A continuing

Upcoming Events

REGISTER TODAY

August 26- State of Our Community Luncheon, Koury Convention Center

September 2 - JobExpo, Four Seasons Town Center (corrected date)

October 7 - Women's Executive Connection, Proximity Hotel

October 14 - City Council Candidate's Forum, Empire Room

October 29 - Annual Elected Officials Reception, Revolution Mills

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

This Act is intended to assist the recovery of the United States economy. There are many ways in which it intends to do this. One is grants for various concerns such as low income housing, workforce development and energy related initiatives. Another is investment in the ailing infrastructure such as highways and bridges. Take time to learn more

resolution authorizing the continued operation of state government at 85% of FY 08-09 spending until July 15th was approved on June 30.

As recent as yesterday, progress with the Appropriations negotiations has reportedly been made with House and Senate conferees finding agreement on many funding areas. In previous weeks, differences in the areas of education spending, health and human services, and justice and public safety had stalled progress between negotiators.

The Finance negotiations, however, remain deadlocked due primarily to the very different plans the House and Senate have for generating the new revenue expected in the final budget. The House plan raises the sales tax ¼-cent, makes various corporate tax changes (i.e. mandatory combined reporting), increases the income tax on the state's highest wage earners, and taxes some limited services (i.e. labor on auto repairs and maintenance). The Senate is adamantly opposed to the majority of these tactics. The Senate plan actually lowers the sales tax as well as the corporate and personal income taxes but increases the tax base by taxing numerous services that have never before been subject to sales tax. Both plans would generate approximately \$1 billion in new revenue for FY 09-10.

On Tuesday, July 7, the Governor announced a new revenue package proposal generating \$1.6 billion in new revenue for FY 09-10, stating that such a measure was necessary in order to avoid unacceptable cuts to public education. The proposal includes a one-year temporary sales tax increase of 1 cent; a cigarette tax increase of fifty-cents per pack; beer, wine and liquor tax increases; a sales tax base expansion to cover new services ranging from cosmetic surgery to car repairs; individual income tax rates would actually fall slightly for all but the very wealthiest; and the corporate tax rate would fall by an entire percent in 2011 (from 6.9% to 5.9%). Essentially, the Governor's new proposal is a combination of the House and Senate plans currently under debate.

Over the weekend, House and Senate budget negotiators did agree upon broad taxing and spending parameters to approve an overall budget of \$18.9 billion and \$990 million in new taxes. How this new revenue will be generated and spent must still be negotiated. As a result, a final budget will not be in place prior to the expiration of the current continuing resolution on July 15th. Last night, the Senate passed a second continuing resolution ("CR") providing funding at 84% of FY 2008-09 funding levels to remain in effect until a final budget is passed (i.e. no expiration date is stipulated). The House must now consider this CR but will likely insert an expiration date and return it to the Senate for concurrence. The CR must be finalized prior to Wednesday at midnight in order for the State Government to continue to function.

We will, of course, continue to monitor the budget situation closely and remain hopeful that our funding initiatives (i.e. Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering funding, National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center Grant funds, and Sales Tax Exemption for Flight Simulators), which are tied in with the ongoing budget negotiations, will receive favorable consideration.

Jordan Lake Stormwater Rules

HB239 was ratified and sent to Governor Perdue to be signed on June 24, 2009 and was signed into law on June 30, 2009. This bill allows more time to reach the reductions in phosphorous and nitrogen by the point source regulators in the Haw River Basin. This law went into

about this Act by clicking [here](#).

Local Update

Urban Loop Locator

In an effort to make information about the Urban Loop more accesible, the City of Greensboro now has an Urban Loop Locator. For additional information about the Greensboro Urban Loop and to use to urban loop locator, click [here](#).

Land Development Ordinance

As you may know, the City of Greensboro Planning Department undertook a rewrite of the Land Development Ordinance to update the ordinance to fit the current needs of the City. The Development Ordinance rewrite has generated several text amendments and below are links to the upcoming amendments.

[Downtown Design Overlay District](#)
[Highway Noise Mitigation](#)
[Family Care Home Spacing](#)

Check out all of the amendments to the Development Ordinance by clicking [here](#).

effect upon being signed by the Governor.

One concern that still remains is the affect these rules will have on new development and the costs that will be incurred in order to comply with the rules. We are working diligently to address this concern and lower the proposed impact.



The Greensboro Partnership is the principal economic and community development organization in Greensboro, NC. The Partnership works to strategically develop a vibrant community that creates, expands and attracts business while advancing the quality of life for all. The Greensboro Chamber of Commerce, Greensboro Economic Development Alliance, and Action Greensboro are all members of the Partnership.

Visit us online at:

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