

**Prince William County-  
Greater Manassas  
Chamber of Commerce**

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**Prince William Regional  
Chamber of Commerce**

**2010**

**State  
Legislative  
Priorities**



**Prince William County-Greater Manassas  
Chamber of Commerce**

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**Prince William Regional  
Chamber of Commerce**

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**The Chambers believe the top priority of the Prince William delegation to the Virginia General Assembly must be to promote economic development in Prince William and the Commonwealth. We challenge the delegation to work together and with fellow legislators to achieve the goals identified within.**

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## **Transportation**

Virginia's transportation system is in crisis. Funding transportation is a state responsibility and the General Assembly must work to secure significant, new, dedicated, reliable transportation revenues to erase the Commonwealth's crippling transportation deficit, which threatens Virginia's long-term prosperity.

*The insert card provides more information on the Chambers' position and funding priorities.*

## **Energy & the Environment**

Diverse options are necessary to ensure Virginia's future energy needs are met affordably. The Chambers support:

- Reliance on a broad range of reliable energy sources
- Incentives to encourage the research, development and implementation of new sources
- Incentives to promote conservation, new technologies and the increased efficiency of existing technologies.
- Streamlining regulations that slow the use of new energy sources and technologies.

The Chambers also support the consideration of offshore drilling, both to increase energy supplies and provide possible new state revenue sources.

## **Education & Workforce**

Northern Virginia higher education institutions and high-quality Prince William public schools educate tomorrow's workforce and attract quality businesses. Funding for George Mason University's Prince William campus and Northern Virginia Community College's two Prince William campuses along with full funding of K-12 state mandates is essential to maintain the region's competitive economy.

*The insert card provides more information on the Chambers' position and funding priorities.*

## **Health Care**

Businesses struggle with rising health insurance premiums, and some smaller firms have been forced to stop providing this benefit to employees. To lower costs and increase small business options, the Chambers support:

- Government initiatives to allow and promote private industry solutions.
- A review of state regulations to ensure they do not unnecessarily add to health insurance costs or prohibit cost-saving measures.

## **Effective Government**

- The Chambers believe **Tax Measures** must allow businesses to build capital and encourage its investment and support reforming – or eliminating – the BPOL tax.
- The Chambers support state policy that require **Uniform Real Estate Tax Rates** for residential and commercial properties, without additional exemptions or deferrals and call for the elimination of the remaining commercial real estate tax differential of HB 3202.
- The Chambers oppose any new **Unfunded Mandates** on localities by the Commonwealth.
- The Chambers support incentives for **Mixed-Used Development** while opposing **Impact Fees, Adequate Public Facility Ordinances or Levels of Service** legislation.
- The Chambers oppose any changes to the **Dillon Rule**.
- The Chambers oppose changes to the Commonwealth's **Right to Work** statutes.
- The Chambers oppose any expansion of the Commonwealth's **Unemployment** system.
- The Chambers support a Constitutional amendment to allow a **Governor** to serve **two consecutive terms**.
- The Chambers believe **Regulations** must not place an undue responsibility on business and must be practical in their implementation.

## **Transportation and Education are two essential priorities of the Prince William County-Greater Manassas Chamber and the Prince William Regional Chamber.**

### **Transportation**

Virginia's transportation system is in crisis. Funding transportation is a state responsibility and the General Assembly must work to secure significant, new, dedicated, reliable transportation revenues to erase the Commonwealth's crippling transportation deficit, which threatens Virginia's long-term prosperity.

- The Chambers support bonds, public-private partnerships, General Funds, allocation formula changes, tolls and other currently used mechanisms, but believe they are inadequate individually and collectively to address well documented needs.
- The Chambers believe fiscal and political realities dictate that the Commonwealth's transportation needs cannot be met without new, reliable revenues in the form of dedicated taxes and/or fees.

The Chambers direct our legislators to pursue these top transportation priorities in the 2010 legislative session:

#### ***Interstate Projects:***

- Widen I-66 from the Gainesville Interchange (Route 29) to Route 15.
- Reconstruct the I-66/Route 15 interchange.
- Widen I-66 between the Capital Beltway and Route 15.
- Proceed with the Environmental Impact Study for the Western and Eastern Transportation Corridors.
- Advance the I-95 HOT lanes public-private partnership project to construction.

#### ***Primary Highways:***

- Assign a high construction priority and advance the construction of the comprehensive plan alignment of the Tri-County Parkway and Bi-County Parkway (Route 234 ByPass from I-66 to Route 50 in the vicinity of Dulles Airport).
- Fund the unfunded portions of the Route 1 widening and re-construction project, including the bridge over Neabsco Creek.
- Widen Route 28 from Manassas south to Route 29 in Fauquier County.
- Advance Route 28/Wellington Road interchange to construction
- Funding final planning, design and construction of Route 29/Linton Hall Road interchange

#### ***Transit:***

- Extend VRE from Manassas to Gainesville and Haymarket.

## **Education & Workforce**

Northern Virginia higher education institutions and high-quality Prince William public schools educate tomorrow's workforce and attract quality businesses. Full funding for education is essential to maintain the region's competitive economy.

- The Chambers support George Mason University's continued growth as a top tier research institution.
- The Chambers believe Northern Virginia Community College's professional and technical programs provide essential workforce training, which will strengthen our area as it experiences BRAC.
- The Chambers support placing a greater emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education for K-12 public schools.
- The Chambers support full state funding of its mandates for K-12 public schools, particularly the Standards of Quality (SOQs) and Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

The Chambers direct our legislators to pursue these top education priorities in the 2010 legislative session:

### ***Funding Initiatives:***

- \$64 million for design and construction of academic and wet lab space at George Mason University's Prince William campus to include incubator space that will facilitate new company formation in the bio-science field.
- \$3.5 million to complete the planning and design of the Workforce Development Center at the Woodbridge Campus of Northern Virginia Community College
- \$38 million to complete the design and build the 84,000 square foot Phase III academic building on the Woodbridge Campus of Northern Virginia Community College.
- \$2.5 million for the final design and construction of the support services facility on the Woodbridge Campus of Northern Virginia Community College.
- Full funding for the establishment and operation of the Governor's School at Innovation Park.

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