

Conyers-Rockdale Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee 2010 Legislative Platform

Purpose: *Operating on behalf of the Conyers-Rockdale Chamber of Commerce and representing the business community of the Conyers and Rockdale communities, our task is to guard, protect and promote the well-being and future interest of our community's business and life.*

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (Natural Resource Management, Infrastructure, Transportation, Healthcare & Education)	
Healthcare reform -- Conyers-Rockdale Chamber of Commerce calls on the US Congress and US Senate to open the discussion on health care to the public. Health care bills that overly burden American businesses will only hurt the economic environment that we are currently in and increase unemployment and business failures. A health care law that will affect every citizen, every business and 1/6 of the American economy must be done in the open without special deals for certain states.	Support
Maintain Current Medicaid "Fee for Service" reimbursement rates and hold accountable the Care Management Organizations (CMO) for Maintaining Adequate and Active Provider Network. .	Support
Identify a sustainable, balanced source of funding that will allow Georgia to build and maintain a comprehensive, multi-modal transportation system that can safely and efficiently move both people and freight within and through our state.	Support
Fund Georgia's Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Plan to support successful long term planning of this finite resource.	Support
Continue to support the expansion of domestic resources for energy in an environmentally – responsible manner in order to reduce reliance on foreign sources of energy.	Support
Clarify the roles, responsibilities and training requirements for school board members in order to ensure that Georgia's public schools benefit from the best possible leadership	Watch
Provide continued support for the Georgia Work Ready program so that our communities are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow.	Support
TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Business Incentives, Revitalization & Taxation)	
Specific, business and occupation taxes; corporate net worth tax; repeal. This bill repeals the annual corporate net worth tax.	Support
Timely release of appropriate economic development project information to allow Georgia to compete for new jobs and investment	Watch
Maintain and increase when possible the appropriations for REBA, Quick Start and OneGeorgia EDGE programs to enable Georgia to close the deal on highly competitive projects. OneGeorgia program should have same level of flexibility as the REBA program.	Support
Prospect information and competitiveness: Support legislation to provide for the timely release of information concerning economic development clients of state and local agencies so that Georgia's opportunity to effectively compete for new jobs and investment is preserved.	Watch
Ensure that local development authorities have the tools necessary to recruit companies and close deals.	Support
Increase Water Supply: Restore the \$40 million originally budgeted for the Reservoir Program and look at other ways to increase our water supply. Maintain Rockdale County's ability to control and use its own water supply.	Support
Work with state leaders to ensure that business is not disproportionately burdened as Georgia's budget deficit is addressed and that any new taxes or fees are considered with	Support

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regard to how they will affect our state's competitiveness, encourage local job growth and stimulate the economic recovery.	
Renew the cap on sales tax for energy used in manufacturing process.	Support
Prevent Georgia companies from being subjected to the expense and burden of multiple sales tax audits.	Support
GENERAL BUSINESS (Labor, Employment, Benefits & Technology)	
Exclusive remedy; Uphold workers' compensation as the exclusive remedy for workplace injuries.	Support
Employment at will doctrine; Just as employees have no legal obligation to remain with a company, companies should be able to hire and fire without government interference, so long as they do not discriminate against protected classes. It supports the right of small business to effectively manage its workforce. (Watch/Oppose Federal Card Check)	Support
Ad valorem tax; businesses; tangible personal property; provide exemption. This legislation would provide an exemption from the ad valorem tax on the tangible personal property constituting the inventory of a business.	Watch
Consumer reporting agencies; identical report to consumer and creditor. This bill would require consumer reporting agencies to automatically provide a consumer the identical report provided to a potential creditor who makes an inquiry concerning the consumer's file with such agency.	Support
Mandatory drug testing of applicants for unemployment benefits.	Support
Change Georgia's employment covenant laws so that employment agreements are enforceable in a court of law and are no longer an impediment to economic development.	Support
Enforce Georgia's right to work laws so that no employee is forced to join a union as a provision of labor.	Support