

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

**Prince William Regional  
Chamber of Commerce**



*The Chambers support vigorous economic development, which creates and sustains quality jobs and supports income growth for our Commonwealth. We believe that governmental actions must be those that will promote long-term economic growth. We also believe it is important that the Commonwealth adopt financial processes that will lead to efficient and effective government. The Chambers furthermore urge the Prince William delegation to the General Assembly to take a leadership role to adopt the following measures that will lead to solid economic growth.*

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## **Transportation**

The Chambers believe an adequate transportation system is the most critical factor for continued economic prosperity. Therefore the Chambers advocate:

- **An Equitable Highway Allocation Formula**  
Base the allocation formula on population, road usage demands and/or need.
- **Creative Funding Mechanisms**  
Including the continued use of matching funds, bonding, user fees, toll roads and public-private partnerships, including HOT lanes.
- **Technology**  
Including teleworking and such intelligent transportation systems on Virginia's roads and

highways as well-timed traffic signals and automated overhead toll collection.

The Chambers also urge the state to request Homeland Security Dollars to use in extending and widening the High Occupancy Vehicle lanes through Fredericksburg.

We continue to support these specific transportation initiatives —

### **Interstate Projects:**

- Fund the I-66/Rt. 29-211 interchange in Gainesville.
- Widen I-66 from the 234 By-pass to Rt. 15.
- Build additional river crossings on the Potomac River.
- Proceed with the Environmental Impact Study for the Western and Eastern Transportation Corridors.

### **Primary Highways:**

- Extend the Rt. 234 By-Pass from I-66 to Dulles Airport including acquiring the right-of-way for future mass transit.
- Fund the interchange at Rt. 1 and Rt. 234.
- Construct the Tri-County Parkway, including acquiring the right-of-way for future mass transit.
- Widen Rt. 28 from Manassas south to Rt. 29.

- Complete the widening of Rt. 234 from Manassas to Montclair.
- Widen Rt. 123 from Fairfax to Prince William County, including the bridge over the Occoquan River.
- Fund the Rt. 1 construction.

### **Mass Transit:**

- Extend VRE from Manassas to Gainesville, Haymarket and into Fauquier County.
- Enhance VRE to Woodbridge and Manassas.
- Expand the VRE parking facilities in Manassas, Manassas Park and Woodbridge.
- Conduct a full study of enhanced mass transit improvements for the I-66 and I-95 corridors.

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### **Efficient and Effective Government**

The Chambers urge implementation of laws that mandate fiscally responsible practices and the consideration of new measures that add to the government's ability to fund priorities that will lead to economic growth. Therefore we advocate:

- Implementation of a strategic plan that includes benchmarking techniques, development of measurable objectives, and public reporting requirements of the Roadmap legislation passed by the 2002 General Assembly session.

- Implementation of legislation that requires development and publication of agency budgets that present detailed information on the way in which each agency has spent the money allocated to it.
- A requirement that agencies justify budgets based on program objectives rather than previous year's spending.
- Future legislative measures that mandate fiscally sound practices in government agencies, including consequences for noncompliance.
- Expansion of the Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee's responsibility to collect and analyze agency financial information to improve the legislature's understanding of agency spending needs.

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## **Tax Policy**

The Chambers urge you to:

- Reverse the accelerated sales tax reporting requirement for payment of estimated sales taxes.
- Continue current sales tax exemption for nonprofits.
- Preserve the current sales tax exemption for services.
- Repeal the BPOL tax.

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## Education

The Chambers recognize that high-quality public schools and higher education institutions are essential to providing an educated workforce and attracting quality businesses. We believe that state colleges and universities must be a priority, believing that higher education must remain of a high quality and affordable to Virginia's students. To this end, the Chambers support —

### Higher Education:

- Creating a dedicated funding source for higher education, while maintaining and, when possible, increasing state funding levels for Northern Virginia higher education institutions, particularly George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College.
- Funding George Mason University's request for \$5 million for the Performing Arts Center.
- Funding George Mason University's request for \$2.7 million for planning of the 2nd phase for Bull Run Hall.
- Funding the Belmont Bay Life Science Center as part of the Virginia Science Museum.

## **K-12 Education:**

- Updating the Standards of Quality (SOQs) to meet actual staffing requirements and then providing full funding.
- Complete and final restoration of the “Cost of Competing” salary differential for all Northern Virginia school divisions.
- Allowing local school boards to decide the annual opening date for their schools.
- Opposition to independent taxing authority for elected school boards.

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## **Miscellaneous**

- The Chambers oppose any new mandates that are not fully funded by the Commonwealth.
- The Chambers oppose impact fees, adequate public facility ordinances or levels of service legislation.
- The Chambers oppose any changes to the Dillon rule.

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