

2011



Research Triangle  
Economic Development  
Legislative Action Agenda

## WHO WE ARE

The Research Triangle Regional Partnership's 2011 Legislative Action Agenda was developed and endorsed by a coalition of chambers and economic development organizations located in the 13 counties that make up the Research Triangle region. These organizations represent the voice of the region's private sector, from small business to Fortune 500 companies.

## JOBS AGENDA

The Research Triangle Regional Partnership and its partners lead the economic development efforts in the 13-county region. We form the front line of recruiting and retaining jobs in our respective communities. Our goal is to improve the job creation environment for the region and state.

Like the rest of the state, the Research Triangle region has suffered significant job losses during the recent recession, but we are seeing signs of improvement.

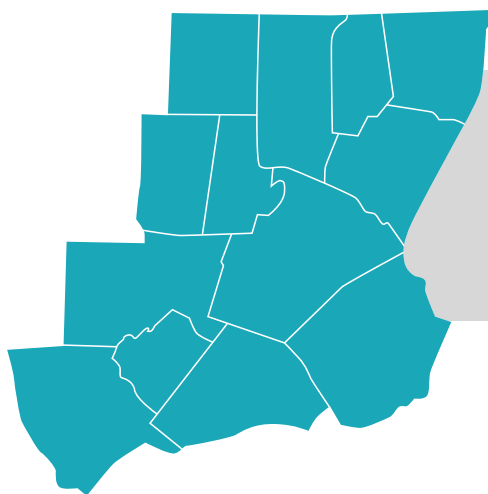
The Research Triangle Regional Partnership and the endorsing organizations continue their success in recruiting jobs to our state. Over the past five years, the Research Triangle region has led the state in job creation. State investments in education, transportation, and economic development strategies have allowed our state to remain an attractive place for business and industry.

This legislative agenda includes the recommendations of the front line organizations that work to recruit and retain jobs and investment as their core mission. The agenda also acknowledges the many challenges faced by the General Assembly during this legislative session.

## WHY THIS AGENDA IS IMPORTANT

This agenda was created for one reason—jobs. "The Shape of Things to Come™" is the Research Triangle Regional Partnership's five-year economic development growth plan, designed to generate 100,000 new jobs in five years and to increase employment in all 13 counties. The plan will be accomplished by utilizing three strategies: business growth, product development, and regional collaboration. The plan has been in place for 18 months, and positive results have already been realized.

We have developed a legislative agenda that supports this plan and progress toward established job creation goals. Your decisions will have a direct impact on our ability to create economic prosperity for each and every citizen. We ask for your support of the following agenda.



### RESEARCH TRIANGLE REGION

CHATHAM DURHAM FRANKLIN GRANVILLE  
HARNETT JOHNSTON LEE MOORE ORANGE  
PERSON VANCE WAKE WARREN

## ISSUES

Education has been a competitive advantage for the state and region and needs to be protected as a top priority.

North Carolina's competitive position is dependent upon a strong K-20 education system. The Research Triangle Park was built upon a well-trained, knowledgeable work force. Competition in the global economy is increasing, even as government resources remain challenged.

While addressing the budget gap, we encourage our legislators to recognize the importance of our K-12, community college, and university systems as a key competitive asset as we work to recruit and retain jobs. We ask the General Assembly to take appropriate steps to protect this vital asset.

Economic development and creation of new jobs and investment is a top priority. We support maintaining economic development initiatives, including regional programs, small business support, and performance-based incentives.

With unemployment at unusually high numbers across the state, North Carolina cannot afford to walk away from the job recruitment competition. Even states with no income taxes, like Texas, are competing for jobs through the use of performance-based incentives.

Support the North Carolina Founders Tax Credit.

North Carolina must encourage investment in the local economy. The Founders' Small Business Startup Tax Credit would invite angel investors to remain in North Carolina. The Founders Tax Credit would establish a new tax exclusion for capital gains on stock acquired by founders and investors in qualifying North Carolina start-up companies. Basing eligibility for such a "founders' credit" on the state's existing Qualified Business Venture Tax Credit would effectively target the proposed incentive to investors in start-up companies with disproportionate potential for rapid growth and high job creation.

Oppose efforts to weaken North Carolina's right-to-work status, such as allowing public employees the right to collective bargaining.

North Carolina benefits from our right-to-work status, as companies are looking to flee states with high unionization rates. Additionally, we encourage the legislature to oppose efforts to make collective bargaining a right for state employees. We encourage the legislature to express their opposition to federal laws which may supersede state laws on collective bargaining.

Undertake a comprehensive review of the regulatory environment to identify areas that impede or slow job growth and business success.

Government regulation generally increases the cost of doing business. In this economic climate, we encourage the legislature to review those regulations, which prohibit economic activity in an effort to facilitate and expedite job growth. Examples include undue environmental regulation, unneeded administrative permitting delays, barriers to business to negotiate reduced health care/health insurance cost, and others identified through business community input.

## ENDORISING CHAMBERS

### **Apex Chamber of Commerce**

220 N. Salem St.  
Apex, NC 27502  
919.362.6456

### **Benson Area Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 246  
Benson, NC 27504  
919.894.3825

### **Cary Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 4351  
Cary, NC 27519  
919.467.1016

### **Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 2897  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
919.967.7075 x21

### **Chatham County United Chamber of Commerce**

1609 E. 11th St.  
Siler City, NC 27344  
919.742.6130

### **Franklin County Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 62  
Louisburg, NC 27549  
919.496.3056

### **Fuquay - Varina Chamber of Commerce**

121 N. Main St.  
Fuquay - Varina, NC 27526  
919.552.4947

### **Garner Chamber of Commerce**

401 Circle Drive  
Garner, NC 27529  
919.772.6440

### **Granville County Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 820  
Oxford, NC 27565  
919.693.6125

### **Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce**

300 W. Morgan St., Suite 1400  
Durham, NC 27702  
919.682.2133

### **Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 2978  
Raleigh, NC 27602  
919.664.7000

### **Greater Smithfield-Selma Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 467  
Smithfield, NC 27577  
919.934.9166

### **Henderson-Vance Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 1302  
Henderson, NC 27536  
252.438.8414

### **Hillsborough/Orange County Chamber of Commerce**

102 N. Churton St.  
Hillsborough, NC 27278  
919.732.8156

### **Holly Springs Chamber of Commerce**

344 Raleigh St., Suite 100  
Holly Springs, NC 27540  
919.567.1796

### **Knightdale Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 601  
Knightdale, NC 27545  
919.266.4603

### **Moore County Chamber of Commerce**

10677 Highway 15-501  
Southern Pines, NC 28387  
910.692.3926

### **Morrisville Chamber of Commerce**

260 Town Hall Drive, Suite A  
Morrisville, NC 27560  
919.380.9026

### **Research Triangle Regional Partnership**

PO Box 80756  
RDU International Airport, NC 27623  
919.840.7372

### **Roxboro Area Chamber of Commerce**

211 N. Main St.  
Roxboro, NC 27573  
336.599.8333

### **Sanford Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 519  
Sanford, NC 27330  
919.775.7341

### **Wake Forest Chamber of Commerce**

350 S. White St.  
Wake Forest, NC 27587  
919.556.1519

### **Warren County Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 826  
Warrenton, NC 27589  
252.257.2657

### **Wendell Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 562  
Wendell, NC 27591  
919.365.6318