



Report evaluates Tennessee highway funding options

UT study says governor's plan provides more economic, long-term benefits.

The Tennessee General Assembly has two roadway funding proposals this session to address long-term funding of its infrastructure.

A report recently released by UT's Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) reviews the broader economic impacts of each.

The report, *Evaluating Options for Funding Tennessee's Infrastructure Needs*, compares the two proposals and focuses on their economic impact, fiscal soundness, and effects on the state's bond rating.

"The important thing is that we have an opportunity to address the longer-term infrastructure funding problem," said Don Bruce, research professor with the Boyd Center and author of the report. "Investments in human capital and infrastructure are key to the state's economic development. While Tennessee has made significant progress with major education investments, infrastructure is lagging a bit behind because of the inability of gas tax revenues to fully support the state's needs."

The per-gallon tax on motor and diesel fuel is based on quantities of fuel and not prices, so the revenue stream is not able to grow with the economy.

"Additionally, improvements over time in overall fleet fuel effi-

ciency, aided by the emergence of electric and hybrid-fuel vehicles, have resulted in slower growth in fuel demand over time. The resulting revenue stream is not able to keep pace with increasing demands on our highways," the report says.

Gov. Bill Haslam's Improving Manufacturing, Public Roads and Opportunities for a Vibrant Economy (IMPROVE) Act calls for increasing gas and diesel tax rates while offsetting the cost of business taxes, grocery food sales taxes, and the Hall Income Tax.

The alternative proposal, known as the Hawk Plan, would earmark a percentage of existing general sales tax revenues solely for infrastructure projects.

The proposals share two features: both provide needed funds for infrastructure and neither results in a net increase or decrease in overall taxes.

Bruce said, "While both proposals would generate similar levels of revenue for infrastructure spending, the IMPROVE Act carries potential for an additional economic benefit through the adjustment in business taxes.

"Specifically, the additional impact would arise when Tennessee businesses choose to have their taxes based solely on the percentage of their sales that occur in Tennessee, instead of the traditional three-factor formula that also considers their property and payroll."

Bruce added that the IM-
See **GAS TAX** on Page 3

How will a \$278 million annual increase in Tennessee's highway investment impact the state?

The IMPROVE Act would bring in \$278 million in new dollars to the state for projects while limiting the impact on the average Tennessee motorist to approximately \$4 a month.

An annual \$278 million increase in highway and bridge construction investment in Tennessee would have an immediate impact on all sectors of the state economy, yielding the following annual benefits:

- an additional \$709.3 million in economic output as businesses throughout the economy sell more goods and services to both other businesses and consumers,
- \$363.0 million in value added, which contributes to Tennessee's GSP, and
- 6,217 jobs created or supported across all sectors of the economy.

These workers would earn over:

- \$210 million in wages. Over half of these jobs are outside of the construction sector.
- \$25.6 million in additional federal and state revenues, including:
 - \$653.2 thousand in state payroll taxes
 - \$16.1 million in federal payroll taxes
 - \$8.8 million in state sales taxes

In addition to the benefits of the construction activity, Tennessee businesses and drivers would see economic gains for years to come. Targeted investments would improve roadway safety, reduce operating costs for local businesses and increase mobility for all system users. These longer run benefits and improved efficiency would help drive productivity growth.

Nashville tapped as pilot city for food-saving project

BY KATE COIL

Nashville Mayor Megan Barry is calling on leaders in the city's culinary scene to help tackle the twin issues of food waste and food insecurity.

Barry issued the Mayor's Food Saver Challenge on Feb. 1 in North Nashville neighborhoods with the goal of expanding the program citywide. The program challenges area restaurants to reduce the amount of food wasted in their kitchens by helping feed the 110,000 food insecure residents in Metro Nashville.

"Our local restaurants have helped put Nashville dining on the map, to where we're now recognized nationwide as a culinary destination city. But we know that too much of that good food is going to waste—and good money along with it," Barry said. "Nashville's restaurants have the creative ingenuity to demonstrate to the rest of

the country how to keep more of our world-class dishes on people's plates and out of the landfill."

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), 40 percent of all food in the U.S. goes uneaten with 95 percent of that food waste – approximately 133 billion pounds of food - ending up in landfills or incinerators each year. Uneaten foods at retailers, restaurants and homes cost Americans \$161 billion annually or roughly \$1,500 per year for a family of four. By merely diverting 15 percent of the country's wasted food, the number of food insecure Americans could be cut in half.

Darby Hoover, senior scientist at NRDC, said when food goes into the trash more than just a meal is wasted.

"Of course, we aren't just wasting that food," she said. "We are wasting the water, energy, See **FOOD** on Page 3

TML Legislative Conference March 20 - 21

Transportation funding, the budget surplus, and cuts to the Hall Income Tax are just a few of the hot topics to be discussed during TML's Annual Legislative Conference, slated for March 20-21 in Nashville.

A host of state officials are lined up to speak, including Gov. Bill Haslam, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, House Speaker Beth Harwell, Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris, House Majority Leader Glen Casada, Senate Finance Chair Bo Watson, House Finance Chair Charles Sargent, Senate State and Local Chair Ken Yager, House Local Chair Tim Wirgau, and Tennessee State Comptroller Justin P. Wilson, among others.

Conference registration opens at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 20, followed by a buffet lunch at 12 noon.

The conference will kick off at 1 p.m. and run through 4 p.m. on Monday afternoon.

On Tuesday, March 21, things will get underway at 7:30 a.m. with a breakfast served until 8 a.m. The conference program will begin at



Gov. Bill Haslam



Lt. Gov. Randy McNally

8 a.m. and continue until 10 a.m.

The two-day conference provides an excellent forum to network with other municipal officials and interact with your legislators. Those in attendance are encouraged to attend legislative committee meetings while in Nashville.

The voice of Tennessee's municipal governments must be heard in the legislative process, and the TML Legislative Conference is a great opportunity to communicate that message.

For information regarding registration and hotel reservations, visit www.TML1.org



House Speaker
Beth Harwell

School bus seat belt bill garners bipartisan support in State House



State Rep. JoAnne Favors, D-Chattanooga, has introduced a bill requiring seat belts for school buses following the deadly November 2016 crash that killed six elementary school students. Bipartisan support for the bill includes two lawmakers from Knoxville, where two students and a teacher's aide were killed in a bus wreck in 2015.

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

Following a deadly incident in Chattanooga, a bipartisan group of lawmakers are hoping a new bill requiring safety restraints on school buses will gain more traction in the legislature this session.

Rep. JoAnne Favors, D-Chattanooga, filed House Bill 395 to address school bus seat belt safety following the Nov. 21 bus crash that killed six students from Chattanooga's Woodmore Elementary.

"I am hoping this will minimize a situation like that occurring

again," Favors said. "A lot of people are concerned for the safety of our children."

The bill would require safety restraint systems on any Tennessee school bus ordered or purchased by all public and private schools or school systems intended to transport students to school, extracurricular activities and other school events. Sen. Todd Gardenhire, R-Chattanooga, is carrying the Senate companion bill, but also told the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* he is waiting for the final investigation recommendations from the National Transportation Safety

Board.

Other lawmakers who have signed on as sponsors for the bill include Rep. Gerald McCormick, R-Chattanooga; Rep. Patsy Hazelwood, R-Signal Mountain; Rep. Eddie Smith, R-Knoxville; and Rep. Rick Staple, D-Knoxville. In 2015, two young Knoxville students, a teacher's aide and the bus driver were killed in a crash when their bus collided with a second bus. It was later revealed that the bus driver had been texting while driving.

This is not the first time a mandatory seat belt bill for school buses has been introduced to the General Assembly. Two other bills were killed due to objections from bus operations and another because of the high cost to upgrade buses. Favors said current House Speaker Beth Harwell introduced a similar seat belts measure a decade ago. Favors said her own bill is modeled on one proposed by former Rep. Joe Armstrong in 2014.

"I am hoping the legislature will be more receptive to this bill than they have been in the past," Favors said. "I have gotten a lot of support from my fellow legislators and stakeholders including educators, physicians and engineers. After all, it took federal legislation before seat belts were put into automobiles."

A federal requirement approved by the National Transportation Safety Board in 2015 has already set a date of July 1, 2023, as when school buses across America must have three-point seat belts. This was a reversal from a previous ruling by the NTSB that found seat belts may only have a minimal
See **BUS** on Page 3



Volunteers with the Nashville Food Project distribute cooked meals to food insecure residents. The organization is working with the city of Nashville, local restaurants and retailers to cut down on food waste and ensure all Nashvillians have access to healthy food. The group serves an estimated 3,000 meals a week.

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BRENTWOOD

The city of Brentwood's Finance department has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 25th consecutive year. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. The award represents a significant achievement by the city finance department and the city manager's office, who both put a tremendous amount of work into the preparation of the annual operating budget along with the six-year capital improvements program. In order to have received the award, Brentwood published a budget document that met minimum program criteria, an operations guide, a financial plan, and included an effective communication medium to the public.

CLEVELAND

Real estate is booming in the Cleveland area according to officials with the River Counties Associations of Realtors. The group recently met with the Cleveland/Bradley County Economic Development Council to discuss real estate development in the area. The number of units sold in 2016 was up 13 percent from 2015, representing \$25 million more in sales. The average number of days properties are on the market is also down 13 percent with listing prices up 2 percent and sell prices up 3 percent. The average price range for a home in Bradley County is \$168,000 list price, versus \$165,000 sale price.

COLLIERVILLE

The Collierville Police Department has begun using online platform Nextdoor as a communication and public engagement tool to inform local residents about public safety issues and receive feedback from residents about safety concerns. The public agency account allows the department to post on community pages, read replies, message privately with users and better target local residents with outreach. The department will use the platform to post about topics ranging from road closures to safety tips to department news. Nextdoor allows neighbors to connect in a private social network to share anything from classified ads to public safety information. Since launching in 2011, the website has been used by more than 124,000 neighborhoods in the U.S. including 67 in Collierville.

COLUMBIA

The city of Columbia was recently awarded credit rating of AA+ by Standards and Poor's (S&P) credit rating agency, one of the three major internationally recognized credit rating agencies. The AA+ rating is an increase from the city's previous Moody's Investors' Service rating and one level below S&P's highest rating of AAA. City officials made a bond rating presentation to S&P at the firm's New York headquarters, the working group's objective increasing the city's bond rating. Several factors in particular led S&P to issue the improved outlook for the city, including ongoing improvement in overall local economic conditions and a diverse economic base, strong financial management and planning, the city council's commitment to balancing financing city operations and capital needs while maintaining sufficient cash reserves in a flexible manner, and

positive residential and commercial growth trends in the city and surrounding region. The city plans to use proceeds from the \$9 million bond issuance for two multi-million dollar capital projects, including a new fire station to replace the recently demolished fire station on Nashville Highway and \$6.5 million in sports park improvements including a new soccer complex and facilities at the city's premier Ridley Sports Complex.

COOKEVILLE

Digital Dream Forge, a software testing service business, has announced it will locate to a Cookeville facility at 879 West Jackson Street. Based in Scottsdale, Ariz., the company provides testing services for software developers and publishers in the fields of entertainment, education and business. The Cookeville location will be the company's first outside of Scottsdale. The company plans to hire between 40 and 80 employees by the end of the year and cited the strong pipeline of talent from Tennessee Technological University as one of the reasons they picked Cookeville. Digital Dream Forge's clients include Atari, Nook and eCornell.

DAYTON

La-Z-Boy will invest approximately \$26 million during the next three years and create 115 jobs in Dayton. The upholstery furniture manufacturer, marketer, and retailer will be expanding its current facility as well as adding a new Innovation Center and logistics facilities. With this expansion, the company will develop, manufacture and distribute La-Z-Boy products. The company has been located in Rhea County for more than 40 years – since 1973 – and is the largest employer in the county with 1,400 employees. In 2012, *Industry Week* magazine named the Dayton facility one of the 10 best plants in North America.

ETOWAH

The city of Etowah has opened a brand new recycling center on Sun Rise land near the city's public works department building. The new center will accept a much wider variety of items than previously taken in by the city, including electronics, latex-based paint, cardboard, paper, plastic, and used motor oil. Aluminum cans brought to the center will also be donated to the local Boy Scout troop. As a result of the new center, the city may also be able to host a hazardous household waste disposal event, tentatively scheduled for April.

GREENEVILLE

Greeneville citizens will be able to keep cool this summer thanks to a new splash pad recently installed at the former site of the city's EastView Pool. The new EastView Recreation Center will provide colorful playground equipment for the splash pad, including buckets that dump water and a large, walk-through loop. The center will also have a shaded area for parents and guardians. Underground jets, nozzles and a recirculation system have already been installed and are ready to turn on. The cost of the project came to around \$251,000, \$125,000 of which the city paid for with a Local Parks and Recreation Fund Grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Parks and Recreation Department crews and contractors from Powell-based Howlett Equipment Company worked to convert the former EastView Pool to a 3,000 square-foot play area through the warm weather months in 2016.

JOHNSON CITY

The results of Johnson City's 2016 Citizen Survey are in, and 84 percent of respondents think Johnson City provides an excellent or good quality of life. Conducted by the city in conjunction with the National Research Center (NRC), the survey identified safety as a primary area of focus with 73 percent of respondents indicating that a safe community is essential. Fifty-one percent of respondents also considered additional transportation improvements a priority. Areas that have seen a significant increase in excellent or good

ratings since the city began the every-other-year survey in 2012 include: storm drainage (43 to 70 percent), paths/walking trails (36 to 62 percent), welcoming citizen involvement (42 to 58 percent), and land use/planning/zoning (36 to 52 percent). Excellent or good ratings were also high for overall appearance of Johnson City (76 percent), services provided by Johnson City (80 percent), and those who would recommend Johnson City as a place to live (90 percent). The survey was mailed to 2,000 random households in October, with an online survey available as well.

KODAK

KaTom Restaurant Supply, Inc., will expand in the Kodak community of Sevier County, investing approximately \$3 million and creating 100 new jobs during the next three years. The restaurant equipment supplier has grown from a local store to one of the largest suppliers in the country. Founded in 1987, KaTom Restaurant Supply works with more than 700 vendors, offering customers access to hundreds of thousands of essential pieces of foodservice equipment and supplies. From 2008 to 2015, KaTom Restaurant Supply was recognized as one of the fastest-growing companies in the U.S. In 2015, KaTom Restaurant Supply ranked No. 42 on Inc.'s list of the 50 fastest-growing, woman-led companies in the country. In 2012, KaTom moved to a 20-acre campus and 100,000-square-foot headquarters in Kodak. As part of its new expansion, KaTom Restaurant Supply will add 10,000 square feet to its existing presence in Sevier County, where the company's operations include headquarters, warehouse and distribution as well as call center functions. The additional space will accommodate additional hires in all three areas.

MURFREESBORO

The city of Murfreesboro has received the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the sixth consecutive year. The award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. The GFOA guidelines are helpful in developing a budget document that is readable, understandable, and tells the story of the programs and activities of the City. In order to receive the Distinguished Budget Award, a governmental unit must satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation that includes: a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories as well as the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

NASHVILLE

Forrester Research, Inc., will move its newest office to Nashville, investing \$2.8 million and creating approximately 120 new jobs during the next three years. Forrester is one of the most influential research and advisory firms in the world with 15 offices worldwide in North America, Europe and Asia. The company is one of the 50 Best Places to Work in the U.S., according to job and recruitment site Glassdoor's 2017 rankings. With this expansion, Forrester will be growing its inside sales and support team using Nashville as a strategic hub.

NASHVILLE

SmileDirectClub, LLC, officials announced the company will invest \$4.5 million and create approximately 440 jobs in Nashville during the next five years. The orthodontics is expanding in two Nashville locations, adding office and customer service personnel in its new downtown Nashville headquarters at 414 Union Street, and creating jobs at a new manufacturing and distribution center in Antioch. Founded in 2014, Nashville-based SmileDirectClub is a leader in teledentistry. The company uses cloud-based technology to connect patients with a network of state-licensed dental professionals who provide ongoing, remote orthodontic treatment. SmileDirectClub works with an

Restoration work begins at historic Niota depot, city hall



Tim Kimsey grouts tile near the Niota Depot, which also houses the Niota City Hall. The 163-year-old train depot survived both the Civil War and the wrecking ball, becoming the oldest standing depot in Tennessee and the only surviving Civil War-era depot along the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad line. Listed as one of the top 10 most endangered sites by the Tennessee Preservation Trust in 2015, the depot is being restored through an initial TDOT grant of \$182,000 and a subsequent TDOT grant of \$196,800 with a 20 percent local match from the McMinn County Commission. The depot first appeared in the historical record in 1858 as the "Mouse Creek depot." (Photo by Angela Lewis / *Chattanooga Times Free Press*)

Brentwood FD receives pet masks



The Brentwood Fire and Rescue Department recently received a donation of 15 pet oxygen masks from Tennessee-based Invisible Fence as part of Project Breathe Week. The goal of the project is to reduce the number of fire-related pet deaths nationwide. Industry sources estimate between 40,000 and 150,000 pets die in fires each year due to smoke inhalation. Some 13,500 pet oxygen masks were donated to fire departments across the country as part of the program.

Work continues on Gallatin's new outdoor swimming pool



Workers brave the cold weather to construct a new outdoor pool with a splash pad feature at the Tommy Garrott Aquatics Center in Gallatin. Named for late mayor and city councilman Joseph "Tommy" Garrott, the facilities are part of the Gallatin Civic Center and are expected to open to the public this spring.

orthodontic lab to custom-make a series of clear plastic aligners that gradually shift patients' teeth into the desired position without in-office visits.

OLIVER SPRINGS

The town of Oliver Springs is moving forward with significant upgrades to the area's sewer system after receiving a grant and loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The town was awarded a \$2.99 million Rural Development grant and a \$4.47 million loan to help meet system requirements set by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The new money will help finance repairs to the gravity sewer system and eight pump stations. These repairs will improve the water quality of Poplar Creek and eliminate numerous overflows that occur when heavy rainfall takes place.

SMYRNA

The town of Smyrna has received \$720,000 in federal grant money through the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Phase I of the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) for an Advanced Traffic

Management System (ATMS), which will incorporate the traffic signals along Sam Ridley Boulevard/State Route 266, Nissan Drive/State Route 102, Enon Springs, and a portion of Lowry Street/Highway 41, Todd Lane, Old Nashville Highway, and Rock Springs Road through single and multimode fiber. The fiber will be routed to a Traffic Operations Center in town hall. Smyrna also received a grant for an additional \$737,600 through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program to complete Phase II, which will incorporate traffic signals along the remaining portion of Lowry Street/Highway 41, Lee Victory Parkway/State Route 102, and remote signals and intersections across the town. Both phases will include traffic signal controllers, CCTV camera system, vehicle detection, and multi-agency use of traffic communications system for effective incident and traffic management. ITS is an operational system of various technologies that, when combined and managed, improve the operating capabilities of the overall transportation system.

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY
Tennessee Town & City (ISSN 00403415, USPS 539420) is published semi-monthly except in the months of June and December 19 times per year by Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Capitol Blvd, Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219-1894. Subscription rates: \$6 per year to members, \$15 to nonmembers, \$1 a copy. Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Tennessee Town & City, 226 Capitol Blvd, Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219-1894.

Official publication of the Tennessee Municipal League. Publisher: Margaret Mahery (mmahery@TML1.org); Editor: Carole Graves (cgraves@TML1.org); Phone: 615-255-6416. Advertising: Publisher reserves the right to reject any advertising deemed unacceptable. Fax classified ads to TT&C: Attention Carole Graves at 615-255-4752, or e-mail cgraves@TML1.org. Fax advertising copy to TT&C: Attention Debbie Kluth at 615-255-4752, or e-mail to dkluth@TML1.org. Opinions expressed by non League officials or staff do not necessarily reflect policies of TML.

School bus seat belt bill garners support

BUS from Page 1
positive impact.

The National Association of Pupil Transportation, an organization for bus owners and operators, estimates outfitting school buses with seat belts could cost between \$7,000 to \$11,000 per bus. A fiscal analysis on a 2015 bill aimed at requiring seat belts on school buses in Tennessee estimated it could cost the state \$49.77 million total or roughly \$5.53 million per year during the next decade. The Fiscal Review Committee also found that the collective expenses for school districts could increase by \$33.18 million a year or a total of \$265.48 million over eight years.

However, Favors said the cost should not prevent the bill from getting the support it needs.

"You can't put a price on a child's life," Favors said. "I am a retired registered nurse. I worked in emergency rooms and took care of trauma victims for years. No child needs to face something of that magnitude."

If the bill passes, Tennessee would not be the first state to require seat belts on school buses. Various seat restraint laws are already in effect in California, Florida, Louisiana, New Jersey, New York, and Texas. At least 16 other states have pending legislation regarding safety restraints on school buses.

In addition to The National Highway Safety Board, proponents of seat belts for school buses include the American Academy of Pediatrics and National Safety Council. Opponents of such proposals include owner-operator groups such as the nonprofit Na-



Rep. JoAnne Favors

tional Coalition for School Bus Safety (NCSBS) while the National Association of Pupil Transport believes the decision should be left to individual schools or school districts.

In addition to Favors' bill, Rep. David Hawk, R-Greeneville, introduced House Bill 322, which raises the minimum age for school bus drivers from 21 to 25 and imposes new requirements on school systems, bus drivers, and contractors such as enhanced training and communication.

Hawk's bill is based on a proposal by Gov. Bill Haslam, who included \$350,000 in his budget proposal for two new department of education positions specifically to oversee work and training activities for bus drivers.

Favors has also introduced a similar bill – with a Senate companion sponsored by Sen. Lee Harris, D-Memphis – that would raise the age of drivers from 21 to 25 but grandfathering in current drivers under the new age limit.

Favors' bill would also make military veterans and law enforcement officers exempt from the age requirement.

Governor's plan provides more long-term benefits

See **GAS TAX** on Page 3

PROVE Act would reduce business taxes for Tennessee companies—especially manufacturers—that produce in state but sell primarily out of state, creating the potential for companies to expand and create more jobs.

The report considers the long-term fiscal soundness of both proposals. By raising gas tax rates and reducing the sales tax on grocery food, the IMPROVE Act would shift more of the tax burden to higher-income households and out-of-state taxpayers, the report notes.

"As household income grows, spending on gas grows more quickly than spending on grocery food," said Bruce.

The report cites Tennessee Department of Revenue data showing

that slightly more than half of diesel taxes are paid by out-of-state companies.

Bruce said it is also important for state policy makers to consider the potential impacts of the two plans on the state's bond ratings and longer-term recession readiness.

Further earmarking of the sales tax, which is the state's main revenue source, would not necessarily be viewed favorably by the ratings agencies and would also reduce fiscal flexibility in the event of a future economic downturn, according to the report.

Tennessee is not alone when it comes to dealing with sluggish gas tax revenues. Nineteen states have raised gas tax rates since 2012, and 21 states are considering increases this year. Tennessee's last gas tax increase was in 1989.



Employees of Lifepoint Health work to sort food donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank, another organization working with the city of Nashville and local restaurants to reroute food waste to those who need it most. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) hopes programs like the one Nashville is piloting can be used to help other cities find ways to reduce food waste.

Nashville tapped as pilot city for national food-saving project

FOOD from Page 1

land, chemicals, labor and other resources that go into growing, storing and transporting food. That is a huge challenge financially and environmentally. It translates to consumers' pockets. We are trying to elevate awareness so people have more knowledge of the issues and how to properly shop for, store, cook, prepare and dispose of food waste."

Hoover said the organization selected Nashville in 2015 as its pilot city for developing high-impact local policies and on-the-ground actions to address food waste. The Waste Reduction and Recycling subcommittee for Mayor Barry's Livable Nashville Committee has been collaborating with NRDC's Nashville Food Waste Initiative to set measurable goals and recommendations to increase composting and reduce food waste generated in Davidson County across municipal, residential, and commercial sectors.

"Food waste is the largest single component of landfills at about 21 percent," she said. "When food scraps go into landfills, it produces methane – a harmful greenhouse gas. We aren't just wasting food but also creating environmental problems. There is a big efficiency challenge here."

Meanwhile, Hoover said one in eight Americans is food insecure, meaning they do not know where their next meal might be



One of the Nashville Food Project's food trucks brings food to neighborhoods across the city, providing fresh fruits and vegetables to residents who may not otherwise be able to afford them. Meanwhile, 21 percent of landfill waste consists of uneaten or unused food.

coming from. The Mayor's Food Saver Challenge is one method Nashville is using to breach the disconnect between how much food winds up in landfills and the number of people in the city going without meals.

One of the reasons the NRDC chose Nashville for this project because they felt other cities would find Nashville relatable.

"We have been working with the idea that cities are a powerful actor in solving issues with food waste," Hoover said. "Nashville is a city that has a lot of momentum and goodwill, but not necessarily the knowledge to tackle this issue. Nashville is a city with already so much going on, so many people with good ideas, and a lot of projects already on the ground. We feel like Nashville is a city other cities can look to and say 'they're a leader here, but they are a leader in something we think we can take on.'"

The Metro-Nashville Department of Public Works' Solid Waste Division and the NRDC Nashville Food Waste Initiative have partnered with local organizations such as The Nashville Food Project and the Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee to implement the program.

"When you look at the food system you have to look at the chain that supplies food from farmers to distributors to grocery stores and restaurants to consumers," Hoover said. "What we have found is that the consumer piece is where a lot of waste occurs while the grocery and restaurant is where the second-most waste occurs."

Both the Nashville Food Waste Initiative and the Mayor's Restaurant Challenge focus on landfill-diversion strategies based on the U.S. EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy, which outlines, in rank order, the most effective management strategies for wasted food that offer the greatest amount of environmental, social and economic benefits.

The Mayor's Challenge was launched at the James Beard Foundation's Chef Advocacy Training in Nashville where 21 well-known local chefs received training, led by national experts, on strategies to reduce restaurant food waste. Participating chefs included celebrity chef and owner of Chauhan Ale & Masala House Maneet Chauhan,

former Cochon Butcher owner and current 21c Museum Hotels head chef Levon Wallace, "Chopped" star and Nashville restaurateur Jeremy Barlow, The 404 Nashville chef Matt Bolus, and Deb Paquette, a restaurateur and the first woman in Tennessee to qualify as a certified executive chef.

"From my 25 years of experience in the restaurant industry, I know there's a lot we can do in our kitchens to save more food, as well as money," said Seema Prasad, owner of Miel. "No chef wants to see their hard work end up in the trash. This challenge can potentially be a catalyst for change throughout the city."

As part of the challenge, restaurants are asked to measure their food waste, set a food-waste reduction target, and work to reduce their food waste over a three-month time frame. Participating restaurants are also asked to implement practices from a menu of options to prevent food waste, donate food and/or recycle food scraps; and report on progress at the start and finish of the Challenge.

The NRDC said cities play a critical role in mitigating America's food waste and is working through the Nashville Food Waste Initiative to develop strategies and practical tools to serve as models for other U.S. cities of all sizes.

"Food waste and food insecurity really transcend urban and rural boundaries. It's really everywhere," Hoover said. "Part of what we are doing in our broader work is creating a toolkit for cities because we don't have the reach to work with every city – as much as we would like to. We are working to create a toolkit to help cities implement strategies to prevent food waste, increase food rescue and donations, and recycle food scraps."

Hoover said the toolkit will work to help find cities way of meeting their own food waste challenges.

"Our goal for that toolkit is to help cities figure out which strategies work for them, sample policies and programs they might enact, and select templates on how to assess how much food is going to waste and where that waste is coming from so food waste can be better targeted in their community," she said.

Next Tennessee: Transportation

A transportation plan for the next generation of Tennesseans

Plan Details

962 Projects | **IN ALL 95** Counties

All projects complete, under construction, or under contract by **2030**

94% of backlog projects under construction within six years | **56%** of interstate projects under construction within six years

Plan Includes

- 45 projects to improve interstates in Tennessee
- 89 projects to improve access in rural communities
- 51 projects geared toward creating economic opportunities
- 162 bridges replaced on state highways
- 526 bridges replaced on county roads

Cities and counties to receive **40%** more funds to address local transportation issues

Additional **\$39** Million for cities

Additional **\$78** Million for counties



PEOPLE

State Rep. Raumesh Akbari, D-Memphis, has been elected as the chair of the state legislature's Black Caucus for the 110th Legislative Session.



Rep. Raumesh Akbari

Elected to Tennessee House of Representatives in 2013, Akbari previously served as the vice-chair of the Tennessee Black Caucus in 2015. A graduate of Cordova High School in Memphis, Akbari earned a bachelor's degree in African American studies from Washington University in St. Louis and a juris doctorate from the St. Louis University Law School.

Ann McGauran has been unanimously appointed the state architect for Tennessee by the Tennessee State Building Commission.



Ann McGauran

She is the first woman to serve in the position since it was created in 1955. A senior architect and facilities management professional with more than 25 years of experience, McGauran earned her bachelor's degree in architecture from Auburn University and a master's in healthcare management from Vanderbilt University. She has worked in the private sector with entities including Vanderbilt Medical Center and joined the Tennessee Department of General Services in 2014, most recently serving as executive director of business operations in the STREAM Division. Her duties as state architect include support to the building commission, providing oversight for all state capital projects and real estate transactions that are under authority of the State Building Commission, to assure compliance with state statutes and policies.

Keith Radford has been appointed to fill the seat on the Gleason Board of Mayor and Aldermen left vacant by Alderman Marcus Hopper. Radford was sworn in on Feb. 9 after Hopper announced he would be leaving the board to attend the Tennessee State Trooper Academy. Radford will hold the seat until the next general election in August 2018.



Keith Radford

Jayne Place Simmons will join Gov. Bill Haslam's senior team as special assistant to the governor for strategy and policy, taking over from Stephen Smith.



Jayne Place Simmons

Simmons, who currently serves as chief of staff for the Tennessee Department of Education, is returning to the governor's office where she previously served during his first term as an education policy analyst. Simmons started the new position on Feb. 13. A former high school math teacher, Simmons earned a Master's of Public Policy in Education from Vanderbilt University and a bachelor's degree in public policy from The College of William and Mary. She has volunteered as a tAchieves mentor for the past four years.

Stephen Smith has been selected as the new senior advisor to Gov. Bill Haslam, serving as a top advisor and strategist for the administration and assisting the governor with day-to-day activities.



Stephen Smith

Smith joined the governor's staff last July and has helped shape his 2017 NextTennessee legislative agenda, taking on the lead role in

developing the governor's plan to increase broadband access to Tennessee's unserved citizens. In his new role, Smith will lead the administration's efforts on the IMPROVE Act, the governor's comprehensive plan to cut taxes on food and manufacturing while updating how the state provides Tennesseans the safe and reliable transportation network needed to support future job growth.

Oak Ridge City Councilwoman **Ellen Smith** has been appointed to the National League of Cities (NLC) 2017 Energy, Environment and Natural Resources (EENR) federal advocacy committee.



Ellen Smith

This committee has the lead responsibility for developing NLC's federal policy positions on issues involving air quality, water quality, energy policy, national wetlands policy, noise control and solid and hazardous waste management. Smith has a bachelor's degree in geology from Carleton College in Minnesota and a master's in water resources management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In addition to serving on the Oak Ridge City Council, she has also served on the city's environmental quality advisory board.

Martha Taylor, the town recorder and finance director for the town of Huntingdon, has retired from her post after more than 45 years of service to the community.



Martha Taylor

Taylor began work with the town in 1970 and has since worked under six mayors during her tenure. In addition to working with department heads to oversee the town's budget, Taylor helped oversee town upgrades such as downtown revitalization, and projects such as the Kelly Sports Complex, and the Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center, and the Carroll County Recreational Lake.

Matt Wright has been appointed to serve the seat on the Lakeland Board of Commissioners left vacant by former Commissioner Sherri Gallick following a unanimous vote. Wright will serve out the remainder of the term until 2018. He has previously served on the Lakeland School Board and as a board member of the Lakeland Economic Development Corporation. He is the owner of Lakeland-based MarketVex Marketing Solutions. He earned bachelor's degree in business from Liberty University.



Matt Wright

Rolfe selected as TECD Commissioner

Nashville business executive Bob Rolfe has been selected as the new commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) by Gov. Bill Haslam.

An innovative business leader, Rolfe, has more than three decades of experience in business and investment banking in Tennessee.

"Bob Rolfe has spent his career growing companies and creating jobs, and he will bring incredible experience and energy to our work of making Tennessee the No. 1 location in the Southeast for high quality jobs and ensuring that success is felt throughout the state," Haslam said. "Bringing someone of Bob's caliber to this position says a lot about the momentum we have right now in Tennessee, and I know that will continue to flourish under his leadership."

Rolfe comes to the administration from Medical Reimbursements of America (MRA), a 250-employee Franklin company that provides



Bob Rolfe

specialty reimbursement solutions for more than 500 hospitals and health systems across the country. As chairman and CEO, he led the development and rollout of the first technology-based solution dedicated exclusively to the resolution of complex accident claims.

In 2011, Rolfe co-founded West End Holdings, a Nashville-based private equity partnership that acquires and manages underperforming companies, transforming their operating and financial per-

formance. He spent the first 18 years of his career as an investment banker at J.C. Bradford and Co.

"As a lifelong Tennessean, it is an honor to have the opportunity to serve our governor and the citizens of our great state," Rolfe said. "After spending many years working in the business community, I look forward to applying my energy and efforts toward recruiting additional capital investment and jobs across the state of Tennessee."

A native of Nashville, Rolfe received his executive MBA from the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt and his bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama. An active member of the Nashville community, he currently serves on the advisory board of Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

Rolfe joins the administration on March 1. He replaces Randy Boyd who left ECD earlier this month to return to the private sector.

Yager to chair Fiscal Review Committee

State Sen. Ken Yager (R-Kingston) has been elected by his colleagues to lead the General Assembly's Fiscal Review Committee which serves as the watchdog for all state government spending. The action was taken earlier this month as the committee met to organize their business for the 110th General Assembly.

Yager has served on the Joint Fiscal Review Committee since 2009. He also serves as chairman of the Senate State and Local Government Committee, and is a member of the Senate Energy, Agriculture and Tourism Committee.

The bi-partisan Fiscal Review Committee, which was established



Sen. Ken Yager

in 1967, conducts a continuing review of the financial operations of state government. This includes the preparation of estimates for state tax revenue and lottery pro-

ceeds for budgeting purposes. It also reviews non-competitive state contracts and is responsible for preparing and distributing the fiscal notes that show how proposed legislation would impact state and local governments financially.

"Fiscal Review is the vehicle for the General Assembly to have oversight in the fiscal affairs of Tennessee," said Sen. Yager. "I am honored to have the confidence of my peers who elected me and look forward to running the committee in a fair and impartial manner."

Also elected was State Rep. Mark White (R-Memphis) who will serve as vice-chairman of the committee.

Municipal Leagues from across the country advocate for city priorities



More than 35 executive directors and local leaders from 20 state municipal leagues across the country traveled to Washington, D.C., earlier this month for an inaugural fly-in to advocate for city priorities on Capitol Hill and with the new Trump Administration. At meetings and a briefing on Capitol Hill, state municipal league partners, local elected officials, and NLC lobbyists advocated for top legislative priorities, including the tax exemption for municipal bonds, reinvestment in municipal infrastructure, and internet sales tax fairness. Together, the group ensured that federal decision-makers heard loud and clear that local leaders are ready and eager for Washington to focus on hometown priorities. Margaret Mahery, executive director of the Tennessee Municipal League, and Charles "Bones" Seviens, president and CEO of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, were among those who attended meetings with members of Congress to discuss potential areas of future collaboration between the administration and cities.

WAUFORD

J. R. Wauford & Company, Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Home Office:

2835 Lebanon Pike
P.O. Box 140350
Nashville, TN 37214
615/883-3243

Branch Office (West):

Jackson
529 Old Hickory Blvd, Ste. A
Jackson, TN 38305
731/668-1953

Branch Office (East):

Maryville
908 W Broadway Ave.
Maryville, TN 37801
865/984-9638

www.jrwauford.com

Water and Wastewater Systems

STATE BRIEFS



The number of Tennessee Promise students who enrolled in college for the first time grew in the program's second year, according to information released by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. In addition to the growth in enrollment, the majority of the scholarship's first class of students re-enrolled for a second year of college. Since the program started, more than 33,000 students have enrolled in college as a result of Tennessee Promise, and of the students who began in fall 2015, 63 percent are still enrolled. The state has also led the nation in the number of FAFSA filing in the past two years as well as seen a 17 percent decrease in the number of students taking out loans. The Tennessee Promise scholarship was the first in the nation to offer graduating high school seniors two years tuition-free at a community or technical college.

Haslam announces Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Act

Gov. Bill Haslam has announced legislation to increase broadband access to Tennessee's unserved citizens. Tennessee currently ranks 29th in the U.S. for broadband access, with 34 percent of rural Tennessee residents lacking access to recognized minimum standards.

"From the farmer and the accountant in West Tennessee whose businesses are stifled to the East Tennessee student who can't complete her schoolwork at home, a lack of reliable internet access is preventing too many rural Tennesseans, rural communities, and our state from reaching its full potential," Haslam said. "While there is no one solution that can guarantee broadband accessibility to every single Tennessean, this legislation provides a reasonable, responsible path to improve access in a meaningful way through investment, deregulation and education."

The Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Act, along with Haslam's proposed budget, will provide \$45 million over three years in grants and tax credits for service providers to assist in making broadband available to unserved homes and businesses. In addition, the plan will permit Tennessee's private, nonprofit

Heart disease claimed the lives of nearly a quarter of the Tennesseans who died in 2015, numbers the Tennessee Department of Health is hoping to reduce. Nearly 24 percent of deaths in Tennessee were heart disease related and in 2014, the state had the seventh highest rate of heart disease and the third-highest, age-adjusted stroke rate in the nation. Heart disease also cost inpatient charges an estimated \$4 billion in 2014. To help decrease these numbers, the TDH is asking residents to take steps such as quitting smoking, change their diets, find healthy ways to relieve stress, and find fun ways to exercise. Conditions such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes can also lead to heart disease, and those with these conditions should screen themselves for risk factors. For additional information, visit the American Heart Association at www.heart.org.

electric cooperatives to provide retail broadband service and make grant funding available to the state's local libraries to help residents improve their digital literacy skills and maximize the benefits of broadband.

The legislation comes after a year of study and stakeholder conversations by the administration. In July 2016, the Department of Economic and Community Development released a commissioned study assessing broadband in Tennessee and options for increasing access and utilization. In addition, a draft report issued by the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR), which completed extensive work on the subject of broadband accessibility and adoption, significantly contributed to Haslam's broadband proposal. The Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Act is part of Haslam's NextTennessee legislative plan aimed at building and sustaining economic growth and the state's competitiveness for the next generation of Tennesseans.

See more at: <http://www.tn.gov/nexttennessee/topic/next-tennessee-press-release-tennessee-broadband-accessibility-act#sthash.VgrcPFID.dpuf>

State revenues were \$169 million more than budgeted

Tennessee tax revenues were above budgeted estimates for January. Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin announced that overall January revenues, driven by a very large one-time franchise and excise tax payment, were \$1.4 billion. Total revenues were \$169.1 million more than the state budgeted and 10.54 percent more than revenues received in January of last year.

"Adjusting the January recorded revenues for the substantial one-time payment reduces the underlying growth rate for total tax revenues from 10.54 percent to 1.9 percent," Martin said. "Sales tax revenues recorded growth slightly in excess of the budgeted estimates, as sales tax growth returned to a now-normal level."

On an accrual basis, January is the sixth month in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

General fund revenues were more than the budgeted estimates in the amount of \$158.9 million while the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$10.2 million more than the estimates.

Sales tax revenues were \$54.8 million more than the estimate for January and 4 percent more than January 2016. For six months revenues are \$185.8 million higher than estimated. The year-to-date growth rate for six months was 3.71 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$100.6 million more than the January budgeted estimate and the growth rate compared to January 2016 was 45 percent. This month's revenues, as mentioned above, include a very large one-time payment. Adjusting revenues for this payment reduces the underlying growth rate for the month to negative 11.91 percent.

Year-to-date revenues for the

first six months of this year are \$283.5 million more than estimate and the unadjusted growth rate was 23.28 percent. Adjusting for the one-time payments received last month and this month reduces the underlying year-to date growth to 3.55 percent.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for January increased by 14.6 percent compared to January 2016 and were \$9.2 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$71.7 million. For six months, revenues have exceeded estimates by \$28.3 million.

Tobacco taxes were \$2.4 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$19 million, and for six months they are \$200,000 more than the budgeted estimate.

Inheritance and estate taxes fell short of estimates by \$1 million for the month. Year-to-date revenues for six months are \$3.6 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege taxes were \$1.5 million more than the January estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, August through January, revenues are \$3.7 million more than the estimate. Business taxes were \$1.7 million more than the January estimate. For six months revenues are \$8.7 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Hall income tax revenues were \$0.8 million less than the budgeted estimate. All other taxes were above estimates by a net of \$700,000 million.

Year-to-date revenues, including the two substantial one-time franchise and excise payments, were \$524.6 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded \$483 million above budgeted estimates and the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$41.6 million in excess of the estimates.

TDEC awards recycling grants to 18 municipalities

Municipalities across the state have received part of more than \$2 million in grants announced by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) aimed at reducing landfill waste.

"This grant program encourages and supports local communities to meet their solid waste and recycling goals," said TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau. "Local governments can divert more waste from landfills through infrastructure upgrades and providing convenient opportunities for residents to get engaged in the process."

Gallatin received \$25,000 for a new glass pulverizer with installation, and Jonesborough received \$15,725 in grant funds to purchase 37 recycling containers as part of TDEC's recycling equipment grant program.

Recycling equipment grants may be used to purchase key equipment for new recycling programs, improve and expand the operation of existing systems or prepare recyclable materials for transport and marketing.

Project proposals had to demonstrate how the grant would improve operating efficiencies as well as increase recycling access and participation through drop-off and curbside programs, promote material processing and end use or support new waste reduction and recycling technologies.

Through the recycling rebates program, 14 municipalities received funds for projects ranging from new recycling containers to social media outreach to increases in staffing and salaries.

Participating entities must match the rebate amount. Recycling rebates can be offered in lieu of grants to purchase recycling equipment. A portion of the rebate is directed to support equipment that will increase tonnage of recy-

TML Sponsor Profile

Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC) provides comprehensive market-oriented consulting services that advance client strategic business objectives. CEC engineers, scientists, and professionals are recognized for delivering innovative design solutions and integrated expertise in the primary practice areas of civil engineering, ecological sciences, environmental engineering and sciences, planning, survey, waste management, and water resources.

The Public Sector Industry Consulting Group (ICG) at CEC is the firm's conduit to the latest thinking and advancements in the public sector so that CEC can provide clients with concise, timely information and sound, technical options to facilitate informed decision-making.

CEC works hand-in-hand with municipal officials, responding to inquiries, challenges, and short- and long-term planning needs – all with a goal to provide tailored and innovative services that work within spending thresholds. CEC's multi-disciplined and integrated approach to planning, engineering, design, construction, and consulting helps public sector clients navigate the challenges of their infrastructure and economic development projects and allows for proactive solutions that benefit the public.

What sets CEC apart? Insider Experience

CEC understands the nuanced characteristics of public sector work from the inside, having strategically added professionals who previously worked for governments and public agencies to drive us to deliver services from their unique perspective.

Holistic Approach

Projects are viewed at the macro level, with CEC providing broader services and thinking that not only address outlined project needs, but also consider ancillary aspects and multifaceted project pressures like public outreach and funding assistance. This approach also allows for greater flexibility in adapting to unexpected changes.

Advanced Technology

To support a customized approach and provide even greater benefit to projects both large and

TDEC Recycling Rebates Program Grants		
Municipality	Amount	Purpose
Bartlett	\$10,764	salaries
Chattanooga	\$32,449	collection, marketing, and carts
Collierville	\$8,979	printing recycling packets, and recycling carts
East Ridge	\$3,907	recycling cans for curbside pickup
Germantown	\$7,211	Amnesty Days, promotion materials, and publications
Goodlettsville	\$2,010	recycling curbside pickup
Knoxville	\$34,048	recycling center expenses
Lakeland	\$2,307	recycling bins, brochures, and bulk mail
Memphis	\$141,089	education, staffing, expansions, social media, communication, and monitoring
Millington	\$2,026	construction materials
Murfreesboro	\$23,175	repairs, fees, and mulching
Nashville	\$122,741	recycling collection costs
Red Bank	\$2,163	salaries
Signal Mountain	\$1,567	recycling boxes and salaries

TDEC Used Oil Grants		
Municipality	Amount	Purpose
Athens	\$6,250	storage tank and one absorbent
Goodlettsville	\$28,200	contractors, a collection tank, storage tank, canopy, pad, heater, antifreeze tank, and absorbents
Knoxville	\$42,700	collection tank, SPCC, storage tank, canopy, pad, heater, pump, absorbent, antifreeze tank and DOT trailer.

cluded commodities and processing capacity, or promote the public understanding and participation in recycling.

Used oil grants were also awarded to Athens, Goodlettsville, and Knoxville. The purpose of the used oil grant is to reduce the amount of improperly disposed used oil by providing incentives to increase the number of collection facilities for used oil generated by

do-it-yourselfers.

Recycling Equipment Grants and the Recycling Rebates are authorized by the Solid Waste Management Act of 1991 and are supported by the Tennessee Solid Waste Management Fund, which is administered by TDEC. The fund receives revenues from a state surcharge on each ton of solid waste disposed in landfills and from a fee on new tires sold in the state.

CEC offers engineering solutions for planning, development projects



Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.

small, CEC utilizes industry-leading technologies and equipment, such as advanced Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software, 3D laser scanners using terrestrial LiDAR scanning, and small Unmanned Aerial Systems (drones) that capture HD images and video.

Economic Master Planning

CEC identifies and utilizes non-traditional economic and social inputs. By incorporating factors such as market projections, stakeholder engagements, financial models, and governance strategies, the Economic Master Plan becomes a realistic, responsive guideline to move a project forward expeditiously and successfully.

Stakeholder Input

Public projects often have many stakeholders, and a consulting firm should afford enough flexibility in the implementation of a project to listen and incorporate public input. CEC is well versed in seeking and implementing stakeholder input on public sector projects.

Client Advocacy

CEC navigates complex project permitting programs using industry expertise and professional working relationships with local, state, and federal regulators. As an advocate for the client's vision and project goals, CEC is willing to challenge regulators to think outside the box.

TML requests E-mail addresses

The quickest way to keep city officials apprised of legislative happenings is through email or fax. With so many recent municipal elections, TML has been working to update its elected officials and city staff contact information. Send your updates to Jackie Gupton, by fax at 615-255-4752, by email to jgupton@TML1.org, or call 615-255-6416.



CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. No charge to TML members. Send advertising to: TT&C Classified Ads, Carole Graves, 226 Capitol Blvd. Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219; e-mail: cgraves@TML1.org; or fax: 615-255 4752.

ASSISTANT AQUATICS MANAGER

PIGEON FORGE. The city of Pigeon Forge is currently accepting applications for assistant aquatics manager. Duties will include assisting the aquatics manager with all responsibilities associated with the Aquatics Department, including personnel management, public relations, facility maintenance, and other duties as required (Including Teaching Swim Lessons, Water Aerobics Classes, and Lifeguard Training) Qualifications include: high school diploma; experience as a lifeguard; some college education with two or more years of relevant experience including supervision preferred. Must possess or have the ability to obtain and maintain all applicable Red Cross certifications. Valid Tennessee Driver's License is required. Must be able to pass a water related physical abilities test. The city of Pigeon Forge offers very competitive pay, salary depends on education and experience, full-time benefits including paid medical/dental/vision insurance, vacation and sick leave, retirement plan, and other benefits. Applications can be completed online at <http://cityofpigeonforge.com> under the Human Resources Link. Applications may be picked up at City of Pigeon Forge Community Center, 170 Community Center Drive, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863. Mail applications to: City of Pigeon Forge-Human Resource Department, P.O. Box 1350, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868-1350 Applications will be accepted till position is filled. The city of Pigeon Forge is an EOE and complies with the ADA and Title VI. Applicants will be subject to a background check, driving history check, and drug testing in accordance with city policy.

AQUATICS COORDINATOR, LEVEL IV

CLINTON. This position is in a lead capacity and is responsible for the planning and organizing of the aquatic programs for a variety of age groups, including scheduling and instructing aquatic classes at a community recreation facility. The position will handle the aquatic programming, staff recruitment, training and supervision, public relations, general administration and maintenance of the recreation facility. The work schedule may require evening and weekend hours. Bachelor's degree in Health, Physical Education, Recreation, or related field from an accredited college or university, plus two years' experience teaching swimming or first-aid; OR an equivalent combination of training and experi-

ence which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities. Preferred experience supervising a community recreation center pool. Must have valid driver's license and American Red Cross Certifications: Lifeguard training - CPR for the Professional Rescue, Lifeguard Instructor and Water Safety Instructor. Contact Clinton Parks & Recreation Director, 101 S. Hicks St., Clinton, TN 37716, (865)457-0642 Closing Date: 02/28/17

ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR

GERMANTOWN. The city of Germantown is seeking a qualified individual to serve as assistant city administrator (ACA). Under administrative and general policy direction, the ACA will provide highly responsible and complex professional assistance to the city administrator and Mayor & Board of Aldermen in coordinating and directing city-wide departmental activities and operations. The minimum requirements for this opportunity include: bachelor's degree in public administration or related field and at least five years of progressively responsible management experience in local government; or any combination of education, training, and experience providing the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform essential job functions. A master's in public administration (MPA) is preferred. The application process will close March 3, 2017, at the close of business. A letter of interest, resume, and completed application including 3 work-related references, should be sent to the City of Germantown - Human Resources Dept., 1930 S. Germantown Rd., Germantown, TN, 38138 or you may apply online www.germantown-tn.gov/employment. The city of Germantown is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, or non-job-related medical condition or disability.

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

FAIRVIEW. The city of Fairview is accepting applications for Assistant Chief of Police with the Fairview Police Department. Applicants must be P.O.S.T. Certified to be considered for this position. A pre-employment physical and drug screen, as well as a psychological exam will be required. Full job details and applications may be obtained online at www.fairview-tn.org or at Fairview City Hall during normal business hours and are in two parts. It will include a background investigation waiver, as well as an application. Applications will be accepted until Feb. 24, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. Submit applications in person or mail to the attention of: City Manager, 7100 City Center Way, Fairview, TN 37062 or at cm@fairview-tn.

org Applications are subject to disclosure. EOE.

BUYER

COLLIERVILLE. The purpose of this position is to perform skilled technical work in the purchasing and procurement of a variety of materials, equipment, and supplies in accordance with prescribed purchasing regulations and procedures for the town of Collierville. Requires an Associate's Degree with major coursework in Business Administration, Public Administration or a closely related field; supplemented by two (2) years of job related experience; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Requires a valid motor vehicle operators License. SALARY RANGE \$30,899 (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. Full job descriptions are available upon request. Please call 901-457-2296. Open until filled. Apply to Human Resources Office, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN. Please submit a new application each time you apply for a Town job. Pursuant to Tennessee open records law, applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. The town of Collierville is an EOE and a drug free workplace.

CITY PLANNER

FAIRVIEW. The city of Fairview is accepting applications for with a minimum of five years of municipal planning experience. A pre-employment physical and drug screen will be required. Full job details and applications may be obtained online at www.fairview-tn.org or at Fairview City Hall during normal business hours. Applications will be accepted until March 3, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. Submit applications in person or mail to the attention of: City Manager, 7100 City Center Way, Fairview, TN 37062 or at cm@fairview-tn.org. Applications are subject to disclosure. EOE.

FIRE CHIEF

FAIRVIEW. The city of Fairview is accepting applications for Fire Chief. A pre-employment physical and drug screen will be required. Full job details, including certification requirements, and applications may be obtained online at www.fairview-tn.org or at Fairview City Hall during normal business hours. Applications will be accepted until March 3, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. Submit applications in person or mail to the attention of: City Manager, 7100 City Center Way, Fairview, TN 37062 or at cm@fairview-tn.org. Applications are subject to disclosure. EOE.

POLICE OFFICER

COOKEVILLE. The Cookeville Police Department is now accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Applicant must meet Minimum Standards Law (TCA 39-8-106), possess a valid TN Driver's License & be

21 years of age. High school education or equivalent is required. Sixty semester hours in criminal justice, police science, sociology or other law enforcement related subjects preferred. All applicants will be invited to sit for a written exam/physical agility on Tuesday, March 21, 2017. Please refer to our website www.cookeville-tn.gov/jobopportunities/ for information & police applicant forms. New hires may serve in a trainee role until fully qualified. Minimum annual salary for trainee is \$28,766. Certified Police Officers may be eligible to move to a salary range of \$32,302-\$48,443 DOE. Applications/resumes must include a full mailing address and must be received by 4:30 pm Wednesday, March 8, 2017. Send to: City of Cookeville, HR Department, PO Box 998, Cookeville, TN, 38503-0998 or email jobs@cookeville-tn.org. EOE

POLICE OFFICER

GREENFIELD. The Greenfield Police Department has an immediate opening for a full-time police officer. An application, job description and a list of benefits can be picked up at the Greenfield Police Department or the Greenfield City Hall during regular business hours. 222 N. Front Street, Greenfield, TN, 38230. Applications will be received until the position is filled.

POLICE SERGEANT

FAIRVIEW. The city of Fairview is accepting applications for Police Sergeant with the Fairview Police Department. Applicants must be P.O.S.T. Certified to be considered for this position. A pre-employment physical and drug screen, as well as a psychological exam will be required. Full job details and applications may be obtained online at www.fairview-tn.org or at Fairview City Hall during normal business hours and are in two parts. It will include a background investigation waiver, as well as an application. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Submit applications in person or mail to the attention of: City Manager, 7100 City Center Way, Fairview, TN 37062 or at cm@fairview-tn.org. The city of Fairview is an equal opportunity employer. Applications are subject to disclosure.

RECREATION COORDINATOR, LEVEL IV

CLINTON. The city of Clinton Parks & Recreation Department is accepting applications for a recreation coordinator. This is responsible work in a lead capacity involving a variety of recreational activities at a community recreation complex or other recreational facility and adjacent grounds. An employee in this position independently organizes and supervises youth recreation programs and activities. Assignment requires coordination of programs for all ages. Primary function is the development and administration of a summer youth program and after school youth programs,

including curriculum development, staff recruitment, training and supervision, public relations, general administration and maintenance of recreational facilities. This work schedule may require evening and weekend hours. Associates degree in Parks & Recreation, Physical Education, or closely related field. One year experience in recreational programs with emphasis on youth programs, preferred; or an equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities. Must have or be able to obtain within six months and continue through employment: CPR/First Aid, Lifeguard training and a valid Tennessee Driver's License. Contact Clinton Parks & Recreation Director, 101 S. Hicks Street, Clinton, TN 37716, (865)457-0642. Closing Date: 02/28/17

FOR SALE

The city of Pigeon Forge Police Department has three 2011 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptors for sale to a police or sheriff's department. Additional information regarding these vehicles and installed equipment may be viewed on the City of Pigeon Forge website at: <http://tn-piperton.civicplus.com/312/Surplus-Vehicles-for-Sale>



March 29-31

TCMA 2017 Spring Conference- Franklin Marriott Cool Springs Conference Center. A variety of educational sessions and activities will begin on Wednesday morning and run through Noon on Friday. For more information, go to www.TCMA.org or contact Mike Walker at Walker@TNCMA.org

April 19 - 21

TAMCAR Spring Conference Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro. TAMCAR is a professional organization dedicated to the advancement of the Municipal Clerk. During its spring and fall Institute/Academy sessions, TAMCAR assists clerks with personal and professional development through a curriculum that concentrates on public administration, social and interpersonal skill enhancement, and current issue sessions. Completion of these education session results in points needed to receive that certification through the Tennessee Secretary of State's Office. To register or for more information on the Spring conference agenda, go to <https://tamcar.wildapricot.org/>

June 11-13

TML Annual Conference Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro. Save the dates for the Tennessee Municipal League 78th Annual Conference. Registration and conference information will be available soon.

MEMBER FOCUSED



THE
TML
POOL
Tennessee's Leader in Risk Management Services

www.thepool-tn.org • 800-624-9698

Tennessee Municipal League
2016-2017 Officers and Directors

- PRESIDENT**
John Holden
Mayor, Dyersburg
- VICE PRESIDENTS**
Bo Perkinson
Councilmember, Athens
Wallace Cartwright
Mayor, Shelbyville
Jill Holland
Mayor, McKenzie
- DIRECTORS**
Jimmy Alexander
Mayor, Nolensville
Megan Barry
Mayor, Metro Nashville
Andy Berke
Mayor, Chattanooga
Daniel Brown
City Council, Knoxville (District 2)
Vance Coleman
Mayor, Medina
Betsy Crossley
Commissioner, Brentwood (District 6)
Richard Driver
Mayor, Lafayette (District 5)
Bill Graham
Councilman, Dayton (District 3)
Hoyt Jones
Alderman, Sparta (District 4)
Christa Martin
Vice Mayor, Columbia
Lonnie Norman
Mayor, Manchester
Pete Peterson
City Manager, Johnson City (District 1)
Madeline Rogero
Mayor, Knoxville
Paula Sedgwick
Alderman, Bartlett (District 8)
Charles “Bones” Seivers
President-CEO, TN Municipal Bond Fund
Barrett Stevens
Mayor, Bolivar
Jim Strickland
Mayor, Memphis
Mary Ann Tremblay
Vice Mayor, Three Way
Garry Welch
City Manager, Savannah (District 7)
Mike Werner
Mayor, Gatlinburg
- PAST PRESIDENTS**
Curtis Hayes (2016) Mayor, Livingston
Tom Rowland (2015) Mayor, Cleveland
Dale Kelley (2014) Mayor, Huntingdon
Ken Wilber (2013) Mayor, Portland
Kay Senter (2012) Morristown Vice Mayor
Sam Tharpe (2011) Commissioner, Paris
Tommy Pedigo (2010) Council, Morristown
Tommy Green (2007) Mayor, Alamo
Bob Kirk (2004) Alderman, Dyersburg
- AFFILIATE DIRECTORS**
Chris Anderson, Council, Chattanooga (NLC)
Karen Johnson, Councilwoman, Nashville (NLC)
Rob Lyons, Murfreesboro (TCMA)
TML AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS
(Ex-Officio Directors)
Tennessee Assn. of Air Carrier Airports
Tennessee Building Officials Assn.
Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police
TN Assn. Municipal Clerks & Records
TN Government Finance Officers Assn.
Tennessee Fire Chiefs Assn.
Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors
Tennessee Association of Floodplain Management
Tenn. Assn. Housing & Redevel. Auth.
Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Assn.
Tennessee Municipal Judges Conference
Tenn. Chapter, American Public Works
Tennessee Recreation and Parks Assn.
Tennessee Chapter, American Planning
Tennessee Personnel Management Assn.
Tennessee Assn. of Public Purchasing
TN Section, Institute of Transport
Tennessee Public Transportation Assoc.
Assn. of Independent and Municipal Schools
Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council
Tennessee Urban Forestry Council
Tennessee Stormwater Association
- TML SPONSORS**
3 STAR SPONSOR
Bank of America
Bank of New York Mellon, Co.
Civil & Environmental Consultants
First Tennessee Bank
2 STAR SPONSOR
Alliance Water Resources
Ameresco, Inc.
Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc.
Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC
Ibtelematics
VC3
Voya Financial Advisors
Waste Management Inc. of Tennessee
1 STAR SPONSOR
A2H
Employee Benefit Specialists, Inc.
J.R. Wauford & Co. Consulting Engineers
Local Govt. Corporation
McGill Associates, P.A.
Pavement Restorations, Inc.
Smith Seckman Reid
Tennessee 811
TLM Associates, Inc.
Utility Service Co., Inc.
Vaughn & Melton
Waste Connections of Tennessee Inc.
Waste Industries USA, Inc.
- TML STAFF**
Margaret Mahery, Executive Director
Chad Jenkins, Deputy Director
Mark Barrett, Legislative Research Analyst
Kate Coil, Communications Specialist
Jackie Gupton, Administrative Assistant
Carole Graves, Communications Director
& Editor, *Tennessee Town & City*
Sylvia Harris, Conference Planning Director
John Holloway, Government Relations
Debbie Kluth, Marketing Director / Member Services
Kevin Krushenski, Legislative Research Analyst
Denise Paige, Government Relations

City rights in an era of preemption

National League of Cities (NLC) in partnership with the state municipal leagues released a new report entitled, “City Rights in an Era of Preemption.” The report examines the prevalence of state preemption across the country in seven key policy areas: minimum wage, paid leave, anti-discrimination, home sharing, ride sharing, municipal broadband, and tax and expenditure limitations (TELS).

“Preemption efforts – where state law nullifies a municipal ordinance or authority – lead to a loss of local control and can have far-reaching economic and social impacts in our communities,” said NLC’s CEO and Executive Director Clarence E. Anthony. “Local leaders should be empowered to adapt policies to meet the needs of their residents, ensuring cities have the tools they need to build stronger economies, promote innovation and move the country forward.”

In recent years, the report finds that state legislatures have gotten more aggressive with preemption efforts. Preemption

bills often concern politically divisive issues and rely on single party dominance to pass through state legislatures. As of the 2016 election cycle, Republicans have 25 government trifectas, meaning they control both legislative chambers and the governor’s office, while Democrats have trifectas in six states and control a larger portion of city halls.

States can preempt cities from legislating on issues either by statutory or constitutional law, and in some cases, court rulings.

The report finds:

- 24 states preempt local minimum wage ordinances
- 17 states preempt local paid leave ordinances
- 3 states explicitly preempt local anti-discrimination ordinances
- 37 states limit local authority to regulate ride sharing
- 3 states limit local authority to regulate home sharing
- 17 states preempt localities from establishing municipal broadband service
- 42 states limit local fiscal

authority through tax and expenditure limitations (TELS)

“Our research points to the complex, and sometimes tenuous, relationship between cities and state legislatures,” said NLC’s Senior Executive and Director of the Center for City Solutions and report co-author Brooks Rainwater. “People who live in cities want control over their own destinies and when states seek blanket policies that run counter to the values of its municipalities, local leaders do not stand down. We see many instances where state-level politicians work to usurp the will of people in cities both through preemption and Dillon’s Rule provisions. As a result, the work of city leaders and the mandate of the people is undermined.”

NLC recommends that cities facing preemption challenges should engage in active communication with their state legislatures, choose preemption battles wisely, and address the preemption narrative directly.

Find the full report at: nlc.org/preemption



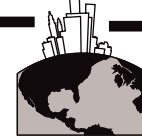
March 27- April 2: Columbia Mule Day is an annual celebration of all things related to mules and held in Columbia, Tennessee, the “Mule Capital” of the world. Begun in 1840 as “Breeder’s Day,” a meeting for mule breeders, it now attracts more than 200,000 people and takes place over four days. In addition to mules, traditional Appalachian food, music, dancing, and crafts are featured. For more information go to <http://muleday.org/about/>.

April 7-9: Knoxville Rhythm N’ Blooms Music Festival Knoxville’s largest music festival returns to Downtown Knoxville’s Historic Old City along Jackson Ave. and other Old City venues. Purchase weekend passes, get information about the Old City, Downtown Knoxville and the full festival experience at rhythmn-bloomsfest.com.

May 5-7: Memphis 2017 Beale Street Music Festival Downtown Memphis at Tom Lee Park will host the annual Beale Street Music Festival. Widespread Panic, Snoop Dogg, Kings Of Leon, MGMT, Soundgarden, Sturgill Simpson, Wiz Khalifa, Death Cab For Cutie, and Jill Scott have been tapped to headline this May’s event. General admission, VIP three-day passes and single-day tickets are on sale now. For more information go to <http://www.memphisinmay.org/events/beale-street-music-festival/>.

June 3: Coopertown Coopertown Barrel Festival 2017 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Join thousands celebrating the heritage of the barrel maker at the Coopertown Barrel Festival in Coopertown, TN, just 25 miles north of Nashville the first Saturday in June. Hundreds of vendors will showcase their wares along Old Coopertown Road in this free outdoor, rain or shine, event. Enjoy live cooper demonstrations, music, food, shopping, history exhibits, woodworking, wooden barrel games, our “Cooper of the Year” contest, kids zone, a barrel raffle, and more barrels of fun in our annual fundraiser for the town of Coopertown. The 5th annual festivities will kickoff with the Barrel Fest 5-Miler at 7:30 a.m. Register for the race at www.runsignup.com or a booth at the festival at www.barrelfestival.com. For more information visit www.coopertowntn.org or check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/coopertown-barrelfestival.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



Solar jobs accounted for one out of every 50 new jobs created in the U.S. workforce in 2016, according to the National Solar Jobs Census 2016 report. The latest annual report on solar employment by The Solar Foundation found that solar industry employment growth outpaced the overall national economy by 17 times in 2016, increasing by 51,000 jobs during the course of the year. The number of solar jobs also increased in 44 out of the 50 states. The states with the highest number of solar jobs are California, Massachusetts, Texas, Nevada, and Florida. The project development sector experienced the highest growth in solar jobs with 53 percent, followed by the sales and distribution sector with 31 percent

and the manufacturing sector with 26 percent.

A good chunk of the \$330 billion or so that will flow back to taxpayers in 2017 will go to overdue bills and necessities. The payout, on average about \$2,800, feels like a windfall that needs spending on something fun. However, the percentage of consumers planning to put some of their refund toward paying down debt rose to 35.5 percent, from 34.9 percent last year, according to an online survey of 7,609 taxpayers by the National Retail Federation and Prosper Insights & Analytics. The percent of consumers saying they needed to put the refund toward everyday expenses fell to a record low of 20.9 percent. Some 48 percent of consumers across all age groups

said they would put some of their refund into savings. That was a drop from last year and a break in an eight-year string of increased socking-away. Last year, 49.2 percent of those surveyed said they’d save some of their refund, a record in the survey’s 10-year history.

The country’s auto debt hit a record in the fourth quarter of 2016, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, when a rush of year-end car shopping pushed vehicle loans to a dubious peak of \$1.16 trillion. Lured by low interest rates, low gas prices, and a crop of seductive vehicles that are faster, smarter, and more efficient than ever before, American drivers are increasingly riding in style. Those swanky machines are heavily leveraged, however.

UT-MTAS MARCH / APRIL MAP CLASSES

DRINKING FROM A FIRE HYDRANT: OVERVIEW OF MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEMS

This course covers key topics concerning the municipal water system including TDEC fire hydrant rules and regulations; protection of water systems from physical damage by fire department personnel; non-revenue water use, water loss, and theft; and others.



- Dates/Locations/Times**
March 28: Memphis
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT
March 29: Jackson
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT
April 4: Kingsport
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT
April 5: Knoxville
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT
April 6: Collegedale
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT
April 7: Nashville
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT

Credits: 4 CPE/CMFO (Other) (PA)

To register for a course, go to www.mtas.tennessee.edu, or fax to 865-974-0423. Credit card payments must register online with the Solution Point System: <http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/MTAS> or by invoice. For registration assistance, call 865-974-0413. Or for more information, contact Kurt Frederick, training consultant, at 615-253-6385.

No loan is too large or too small



The city of Dyersburg recently closed a \$2.8 million refunding bond issue through the TMBF loan program. It is the city’s sixth loan financed through the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund.



Lenoir City and the Lenoir City Utilities Board recently closed two loans with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund – one variable rate loan in the amount of \$25 million and one fixed rate loan in the amount of \$25 million. The money will be used for a new administrative complex for the Lenoir City Utilities Board.



See us for your special projects needs.
(615) 255-1561

Majority Leader Casada puts focus on education, business

BY LINDA BRYANT

Rep. Glen Casada is at a high point in his public service career and private life.

The District 63 Republican, who represents parts of Franklin and Thompson Station in Williamson County, was elected Majority Leader in November, defeating Rep. Mike Carter of Ootewah.

Now the second-ranking Republican in the House of Representatives, Casada is poised to wield more political influence than ever before.

Casada is a staunch conservative who champions causes and issues such as the pro-life movement, cutting taxes and imposing tighter limits on immigration. He also has a history of helping underrepresented populations in the public and private sectors.

He is an advocate for families affected by autism and has received numerous civic awards, including being named the 2015 Hero of Tennessee by the Tennessee Disability Coalition, Legislator of the Year by the Tennessee Cancer Association, and Guardian of Small Business by the National Federation of Small Business (NFIB).

Casada, 57, has been married to his wife Jill for 33 years.

"I love this phase of my life," he said. "I have four grown children. I'm proud of each one of them. I also have four grandchildren and one on the way. I love being with the grandchildren.

"When you're a parent, you're just so busy raising them, but with grandkids you just get to love them," Casada adds.

After 16 years in the Tennessee House of Representatives, Casada has built a strong network of relationships and a loyal cadre of fans.

Comptroller Chief of Staff Jason Mumpower is quick to sing the praises of his longtime colleague.

"When I was the House Minority and Majority Leader, I was pleased to work with my friend Glen Casada as caucus chairman," Mumpower said. "He has done an excellent job at remaining focused on making sure Tennessee has a conservative governing majority that serves the needs of our people. From keeping taxes and debt low, to making sure Tennessee families are unburdened with senseless regulations, Glen has had the foresight to help keep our state on track."

Mumpower's boss, Tennessee State Comptroller Justin P. Wilson, agrees.

"Like the gambler in the song, Glen knows when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em' and can effectively articulate the reasons for this decision," Comptroller Wilson said. "That's what makes him so effective."

TT&C: What triggered your interest and participation in politics?

GC: I wanted to be involved in the community — that's No. 1. It started with wanting to help my community build a park. So in 1994, I ran for a seat on the Williamson County Commission. I won, and we got the park built — Trinity Park behind Trinity Elementary where our kids went to school. (Trinity Park has grown into a thriving community hub and offers a walking trail, playground, three youth baseball fields, two soccer practice fields, a sand volleyball court, concessions and restrooms.)

TT&C: What do you see as major challenges this year and beyond?

GC: Two things come to my mind immediately. First, we need to find a permanent funding source to build more roads in Tennessee. We're maintaining what we have well, but we need to expand. Second, Tennessee is doing pretty well in education, test scores, and improvement, but we still have the bottom 5 percent of schools that we've got to get in the acceptable performance range. We have to look at these two things now and in the long term.

TT&C: Can you share some ideas on how to accomplish these things?

GC: We need to think outside the box with things like vouchers, charter schools, and rewarding teachers by performance. These are all useful and important tools, and there are more. We can't continue to do the same thing and expect a different outcome. You simply have to do things differently.

TT&C: What legislation will you be moving forward on Gov. Haslam's behalf?

GC: Probably the biggest economic stimulator is getting broadband to all parts of the state. If you have broadband, you could work from home. You can do anything that you can do in an office. Broadband is the interstate system of 2017.

However, right now, there's an economic barrier preventing 100 percent broadband expansion across the state. We can't expect companies to deliver services and take a monetary loss — that's just not how the free market works. So, the charge is to figure out how to get around this hurdle so that all areas have access to high speed internet. That's the puzzle we will be working to solve this year."

TT&C: In January, the Gov. Haslam announced a plan that would effectively clear a huge \$10 billion backlog of road projects across the state. But it would mean a 7 cent per gallon increase in the gas tax and a 12 cent increase per gallon for diesel, an additional \$5 fee when renewing car tags



Majority Leader Glen Casada



Rep. Casada with the Williamson County 4-H Club.

and an additional three percent tax when renting a rental car. It would be the first gas tax increase in Tennessee in almost 30 years. Can you talk about this legislation?

GC: It's got an uphill fight. I say that from [hearing from] 132 legislators who are not convinced that is the best way to fund road construction. There are a lot of positives about the gas tax. It's dedicated, it's user fee-based, and it's predictable. However, a lot of legislators realize that raising the gas tax will hurt the middle class. And it will really hurt the rural people and will cause prices to go up. The price of gas goes up, the cost of delivery goes up and then the cost of goods go up. So they [various factions] are looking at other actions. I am for whatever comes out of committee. That's what I will personally support. I am committed to an increased funding source for roads, just not sure what that will be.

TT&C: What's your relationship like with Gov. Bill Haslam and Speaker Beth Harwell?

GC: The Speaker and I are very close. We're close personal friends. We talk on a daily basis. Gov. Haslam is someone I admire. He's a Christian man. He works hard, and he's a great businessman. We meet at least once a week to discuss issues. So in both cases, the relationship is quite good.

TT&C: Does the House have different priorities than the governor and the lieutenant governor?

GC: Look at the agenda that the governor outlined in his State of the State address. There may be points of debate, not disagreement, with the gas tax. Many house members are saying, "I'm not convinced today this is the best way to fund our roads." We'll talk about it in committee, and in that debate we may find out it is the best way to fund our roads. So the committee system works. Through the process I believe we'll come up with something good.

TT&C: You're following in Rep. Gerald McCormick's footsteps. Are there traits of his you wish to emulate or pitfalls you want to avoid? Did he pass along any advice to help you in your new role?

GC: Gerald and I talk once a day as well. We are personal friends. I really admire him. He was a very decisive leader and did a good job for the caucus. I served as caucus chairman beside him all those years. So, we have a really strong relationship, we played off each other well, and I commend him for his service.

TT&C: Moving forward, is there a specific kind of leadership style you'd like to engender, especially as it pertains to working with various factions?

GC: I do. I have a consensus style of leading. I like to reach a point of agreement, and then rally everyone around that point. Let's come to that consensus and move forward with 50 votes.

TT&C: How do you view the relationship between the federal government and the state?

GC: The states created the federal gov-

ernment with the U.S. Constitution. So, the states give the federal government its authority. There are certain areas in which the states want the federal government to reign — borders, court, military, etc. But I believe the majority of decisions should be left up to the states. I have great hope that our current president will help us get back to the way the founders of the country intended it to be. (More power and decision making happening at the state level.)

TT&C: What do you see as the proper relationship between state and local governments?

GC: The states created local and federal governments. We gave the local governments certain jurisdictions — planning, zoning and similar things. So where we've given them [the state or federal branches of government] responsibility, that's where they should be able to reign premiere. But we don't want cities creating laws that are contrary to state laws, especially in the area of criminal or drug law. We don't want cities creating law that would affect their neighbors.

a patchwork of laws and keeps the practice of doing business the same across the state. I think it has a profound and significant effect on businesses coming to Tennessee.

Personally, I had something very meaningful happen in my first year in the Legislature. I passed a bill that created a "Choose Life" license plate. At the time, I just thought it was a good message, but a year later I got a letter from a young lady who was going to have an abortion. She read the license plate and changed her mind as a result. I know I've changed one life and at least one life was saved. She kept her baby. On a personal level that's just very profound. I have the letter she wrote me framed and hanging on the wall.

TT&C: So do you think your legislation on the Intrastate Commerce Clause has been key in maintaining Tennessee's reputation as a business friendly state?

GC: Yes, because if I come to Tennessee and open up a branch in Franklin and then want to expand in Memphis, I know exactly how I can deal with taxes that are passed. The business policies and procedures are the same. This really goes a long way to make Tennessee attractive to business.

TT&C: You've been working with Franklin Police Department Chief Deborah Faulkner on issues having to do with policing and body cameras. Can you update us on this work?

GC: Yes, we're still working on the body cameras. We want to see Franklin as a city, and all cities, able to protect children [while still having body cameras.] We want to protect the innocent when an officer is at a crime scene.

We're negotiating with all sides — the media, a freedom of the press group, cities and others. We'll come up with something where information is made public, but at the same time [our policy will] protect children and those that have a reasonable expectation of privacy will also be protected. I expect we'll come up with a very good bill.

TT&C: Are there causes that are particularly meaningful to you?

GC: Serving God is the most important thing to me. I attend church at Brentwood Baptist, and it forms the prism of how I determine what I pursue.

TT&C: If you could wave a magic wand and say where the state would be in five years what would you like to see happen?

GC: No failing schools — that's No. 1. We want all children to be educated and pursuing careers. If you leave anybody behind the whole state suffers. We've got to figure out a way to get the bottom 5 percent of our students passing. If we don't, it hurts all of us. What's the old saying, "a rising tide lifts all boats?" We need to really push vocational education and make sure more of our adults go on to college as well, one or the other. We need to get them to go to trade school or college post [high school] graduation. We need to get at least 55 or 65 percent [of high school graduates] to continue their education and training — preferably 100 percent.

Of course, Gov. Haslam has laid the groundwork for this to happen [with programs such as Drive to 55, an initiative to get 55 percent of Tennesseans equipped with a college degree or certificate by 2025 and Tennessee Promise, which offer graduating seniors tuition-free attendance at a community or technical college in Tennessee.] The Governor has done a tremendous job. The tools are there to make this happen.

TT&C: Can you share ideas about how the new Trump Administration might benefit Tennessee?

GC: I can see President Trump block granting dollars back to the state. It concerns me — and it should concern everyone that the six wealthiest counties in the nation — are all around Washington, D.C. What that says to me is that our money goes to Washington, and it stays there. So, I think we need to block grant education, highway, health etc. back to the states. Because [as your local legislator] you can pick up the phone and call me, but you can't pick up the phone and call Sens. (Bob) Corker and (Lamar) Alexander and easily talk to them. There are just too many people for them to be able to do that. They represent six and half million people; I represent 65,000. You can get in touch with me to talk about a mistake on the roads, for example. That's how the founders intended it to be — a local/state-centered country where the states make most of the decisions.

TT&C: Who are the most important role models or mentors in your life?

GC: My mother and dad influenced me the most — even to this day. They instilled in me the idea that you work hard, you don't give up and you go to college. They instilled me with the love and the desire to succeed. They're both alive, so they still have that influence on me.

Politically speaking, Ronald Reagan got me interested in politics. I was in college when he became president. I was inspired by his "New Day for America" and his confidence in the United States and belief that we are an exceptional country. What we give to the world is not to be taken lightly and should be exalted.