

Franklin

TN House of Representatives
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It's Time for Progress in TN

- **Real Conservative Values**
 - Conservative spending and less regulation from Nashville.
 - Transparency in Government
 - Eliminate outrageous fees for carry permit & provide real safety classes.
- **Create State Spending Commission to Eliminate Waste**
- **Reform Education from the TOP**
 - Less mandates from the state
 - More input from the local educators
 - Education and Experience Requirements for State Appointments.
- **Pro-Business Incentives/Grants for Small Businesses**
- **Alternative Sentencing for Nonviolent Offenders—let them pay their own way**
 - Prison Work Farms, Urban Community Work Centers, Community Service

Fundamental Principles and Beliefs for the Power and Authority of the State Government.

Constitution of the State of Tennessee:

Article I

Section 1:

That all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety, and happiness; for the advancement of those ends they have at all times, an unalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform, or abolish the government in such manner as they may think proper.

Section 2:

That government being instituted for the common benefit, the doctrine of nonresistance against arbitrary power and oppression is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind.

Basic Values

- **Less regulation:** Any bill should consider the impact on business and individuals. If existing laws can be applied then new regulation is not necessary. The state has no moral authority to impose costly mandates on local governments and schools systems unless the state provides appropriations to enact these mandates.
- **No More Taxes or Fees:** No fees or taxes should be raised until the millions in wasted taxpayer dollars are eliminated. Only when ALL government waste is eliminated will I consider raising fees or taxes.
- **Create a Spending Commission:** Create a State Spending Commission (as advocated by the Beacon Center of Tennessee) to review budget items and assure that taxpayers money is spent wisely.

- . **Review Existing Agencies and expenditures:**
 - . Existing agencies and recurring expenses should be reviewed immediately. When the state reaches a budget crisis where education expenses cannot be adequately addressed, the situation has reach critical mass and ALL expenditures should be examined and cuts should be made where appropriate.
 - . Revise the state spending formula that allows the state to overspend during economic growth. Return unused revenues to taxpayers or add to a reserve fund to assist the state in situations like the current economic challenging times.
- . **Education:** We must address our poor performing public school system. The state's own numbers admit that only 15% of our high school graduates meet all of the ACT college readiness baselines and 60% -70% need developmental courses in college.

- Eliminate No-Fail Policies that continue to pass students along to the next grade or even graduate them when they have not mastered the necessary skills. Eliminate funding policies that reinforce this practice, and revise the current funding formula and the calculation of Average Daily Attendance
- Stop blaming teachers for the failed policies of Nashville and provide teachers with a fair evaluation and promotion system.
- Move Education spending to the highest priority so that our K-12 and higher education institutions are fully funded, including mandates like the computers needed for Common Core Testing.
- Eliminate the state requirement for 4 years of math, when the standardized tests show most of our students cannot demonstrate proficiency in 2 years of high school math. Only 27% of current high school graduates meet the ACT college readiness math baseline and most must take developmental courses including the equivalent of Algebra I.

- **(Education continued) Create a state-level education committee** comprised of local educators (teachers, principals, school board members, superintendents) or revise the current Tennessee State Board of Education so that 50% of the board is comprised of local school representatives.
- **Higher Education: The Complete College Tennessee Act** of 2010 (CCTA) eliminated existing developmental courses at Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) Colleges and Universities. The CCTA also creates a performance based funding formula, where East Tennessee State University will lose \$1 million for the upcoming year in spite of improving their performance. ETSU serves more low income counties than other universities in Tennessee and accepts students with lower GPAs than schools like MTSU. This lost funding combined with the latest effort to have more students attend community colleges (**Tennessee Promise Scholarship Act of 2014 or TPSA**) will have a direct negative impact on the economy of Johnson City and Washington County. ETSU has an economic impact of almost \$700 million annually.

- The Tennessee Promise also promises to lower the scholarship amounts for freshmen and sophomores who choose to attend 4-year institutions after 2015, and yet still doesn't address the lack of entry level skills or the lack of proper developmental courses to help these students succeed.
- **Crime and Incarceration:** Create alternative sentencing programs for non-violent offenders that allow them to repay their obligations to society while also paying their own way and lowering the populations of our overcrowded prisons.
 - Low Security Prison Farms result in healthier inmates, less violence and less repeat offenders. Inmates with drug and/or alcohol-related crimes would also be required to complete rehabilitation programs while incarcerated.
 - Urban Community Work Centers can also be utilized in cities and provide similar benefits.
- Re-evaluate Tennessee's contract with CCA, the private prison corporation, who charged Tennessee 1/2 million dollars for not having enough prisoners in 2011.

- **Establish Penitentiary Farming Complexes** where even the worst critics admit that there are some basic benefits, such as reduced violence, healthier inmates, prisons being self-sufficient for food, and reduced repeat offenders.
- **Poor Spending Habits:** The state has spent hundreds of millions of dollars in incentives to attract business to Tennessee, but has not spent this money wisely. Hemlock Semiconductors, pulled out after the state spent more than \$100 million to get them to build here, and the TNInvestco program has spent \$140,000 per job for the positions produced by the program. **The Tennessee Pork Report** (<http://www.beacontn.org/wp-content/uploads/2014-Pork-Report-Final-Version.pdf>) has detailed over 1/2 Billion dollars in wasteful government spending in Tennessee for 2014, including over \$181 million in unemployment benefits paid out to ineligible recipients including, full time Tennessee State employees, incarcerated felons, and the deceased.

- We should pursue business investments with incentives, but only if taxpayer dollars are protected in these agreements and not at the cost of \$140,00 per job. The state would have better returns investing smaller amounts in small business through grants and management assistance. Tennessee received a grade of “C” in small business networking and training programs. (<http://www.thumbtack.com/tn/#/2014/23>)
- **Handguns and Firearms** The right to bear arms should not be hampered by excessive fees for carry permits. Only necessary administrative fees should be charged —not current outrageous fees that interfere with the right to purchase firearms. The current \$50 renewal fee should be lowered to an amount needed only to cover administrative cost. Effective safety courses should be made available through agreements with the state and pro-gun groups and gun clubs. The state must stop interfering with the right to bear arms by charging fees that interfere with that right. Newspapers in Tennessee are not taxed to avoid interfering with the freedom of the press, and the same philosophy should apply here.

Politics in Educational Appointments

- . The TN Commissioner of Education , Kevin Huffman, is a lawyer with no education degree, no education licensing, and little education experience. He has recently been accused of delaying the release of poor TCAP scores for political reasons. He has connections to Pearson Publishing who owns the TCAPS, much of the Common Core Material in Tennessee and the proposed PARCC exam which is to replace the TCAPS.
- . Prior to the appointment of the current Tennessee Board of Regent's Chancellor, John Morgan, the minimum education requirement was lowered so that only a bachelor's degree, instead of a PhD, was required. Shortly after this, the current Chancellor was appointed, even though he was the only applicant without experience in an educational institution, was the only applicant without a PhD, and was the only applicant interviewed. There were attempts to stop the appointment until more applicants were interviewed butt that failed and now a Chancellor, with only a Bachelor's degree and no educational experience to speak of is in charge of 6 universities, 13 community colleges and 27 colleges of applied technology.

Summary

Our Representatives in Nashville continue to pass ineffective legislation, with “education reform” every few years resulting in current TCAP scores that the press has referred to as “Horrendous” and higher education laws that will directly harm the economy of Johnson City and Washington County. ETSU has lost \$1 Million dollars for this upcoming school year and will likely lose millions more in 2015. This directly affects our local economy. Ask Matthew Hill why he voted for these bills and what will he do to stop the negative economic impact on Washington County.

It’s time for a change. We need less regulation, and only regulation that is effective instead of the mass volume of legislation coming from Nashville that accomplishes little except to burden citizens with more expenses and more confusion.

Some of our “conservative” representatives have never met a law they didn’t like, with legislation punishing law abiding citizens for the behavior of meth dealers and even restrictions on community gardens.

Send them the message: **NO MORE!**

You can contact Todd at Todd4TN@Gmail.com.

Get more information and find out how to volunteer or contribute at Todd4TN.com



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We can make a difference

This material approved and paid for by Todd Franklin, Candidate for TN State House District 7