



2008 Business Agenda

Executive Summary

Health Care

- Support plans and benefit designs that realign payment incentives to reward optimal care, management, of chronic conditions, and overall better health.
- Support product models that inform and empower employees to participate more actively in their health care buying decisions.
- Eliminate policies that create disincentives for competition and innovation, or that place a burden disproportionately on small businesses.
- Set up a third-party process to review new and existing mandates and make recommendations based on medical necessity, scientific data, and overall balance of cost vs. benefits.

Education

- Evaluate additional investments in terms of direct impact on educational attainment.
- Continue transition to alternative compensation system that reflects student achievement and teacher knowledge, skills, and performance.
- Develop standards that reflect the demands of an international economy.
- Oppose mandatory participation of local school districts in a statewide insurance pool.
- Support targeted investments in high-quality early childhood education programs.

Taxes

- Oppose creation of new general fund taxes to solve the budget deficit. The state again needs to reduce spending, reform ineffective systems, restructure the approach to providing services, and use reserves judiciously – just as businesses have done and continue to do.
- Support tax policies that help businesses expand and compete:
 - Upfront exemption for capitol purchases
 - Acceleration of sales-only apportionment
- Oppose changes in the classification system or increases in the statewide property tax.
- Support reform of the sales tax, including broadening the base and excluding business inputs.
- Support a review of the state's fiscal disparities program and local government aid programs.

Transportation

- Support moderate package of investments in multimodal transportation infrastructure:
 - 5 cent gas tax increase; 2.5 cent debt service surcharge
 - Restoration of tab fee cuts
 - Promotion of more efficient systems and better planning/coordination to reduce waste
 - Dedication of sales tax on leased vehicles
 - Identification of \$100 million of investments in transit development
- Provide a business voice in support of Southwest Transitway LRT and continued development of a regional transit system.
- Prioritize projects statewide based on ability to reduce congestion and drive economic development.