

**Cleveland County Chamber  
State Legislative Agenda  
2009**

U.S. Highway 74 Shelby  
By-Pass

Raise the priority of completing the U.S. 74 by-pass around Shelby to allow an earlier completion date for the project.

Water Services

Support legislative and state/federal agency assistance to increase the water supply in Cleveland County (additional reservoir capacity).

Sewer Services

Support expansion of sewer services in Cleveland County which will open areas for economic development and improve services to existing business and industry.

Highway Trust Fund

Restore the "Trust" in the Highway Trust Fund by stopping the transfer of funds to the General Fund and allowing the Highway Trust Fund to be fully utilized for transportation needs.

Economic Development  
Incentives

Support economic development initiatives and incentives that will help bring jobs to North Carolina and will keep our State competitive with other states. These incentives include the following:

- Continuation of 3-J (formerly the William S. Lee Act) that retains the machinery and equipment tax credit.
- Continuation of the J-DIG program.
- Continue to fund the One North Carolina Fund at a level commensurate with our growth opportunities.
- Creation of a travel and tourism-oriented tax credit which would encourage and assist investors to establish significant tourism destinations all across North Carolina.
- Support additional incentives to attract jobs and allow North Carolina communities to better compete with other states.

Department of  
Transportation

Support reform of the NCDOT and the removal of conflicts between state and local policies and regulations.

North Carolina Community  
Colleges Economic  
Development Programs

Recognize the integral role community colleges play in North Carolina's economic development and support the following:

- Full funding for training programs including Focused Industrial Training (FIT) and New and Expanding Industry Training (NEIT).
- Full funding for enrollment growth.
- Equity in funding for high demand occupational extension courses.
- Additional funding for instructional equipment.

Corporate Income Tax

Make North Carolina more competitive in attracting and retaining business and industry by reducing the corporate income tax rate.

Land for Tomorrow

Encourage legislative support for the "Land for Tomorrow" initiatives.

Health Insurance

Support health insurance initiatives, such as tax credits, that encourage small businesses to provide employee health benefits. OPPOSE any efforts to mandate employers to provide specific benefit coverage under group health plans. Employers are encouraged to offer health care coverage consistent with their ability to afford coverage and to promote good health.

Sales Taxes on Services

Oppose creation of new sales taxes on services and oppose expansion of existing sales taxes on services.

Collective Bargaining  
for Public Employees

Oppose any and all efforts to require local governments to enter into collective bargaining agreements with their employees.

Oppose North Carolina entering into collective bargaining agreements with its employees.

Right-To-Work Laws

Support North Carolina's right-to-work laws and oppose changing the current laws.

Workers' Compensation  
Reform

Support legislation to reform the North Carolina Workers' Compensation system to reduce disability findings and open-ended streams of payment, to address the trend in favor of long-term disability findings, to diminish control over these findings on the part of claimants and their legal representatives, and to curtail adoption of rules that limit return-to-work efforts.