

# Haywood

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## 2013 STATE PRIORITIES

### Tax Modernization

**The current North Carolina Tax Revenue System is outdated and not designed for the current economy.**

*The Haywood County Chamber supports:*

- A comprehensive overhaul of the state's tax system resulting in uniform tax rate reductions-broadening the tax base which will help lower rates for businesses and individuals and provide incentives that will make NC more attractive to business recruitment.

### Job Creation

**The rate of job creation is being outpaced by population growth driving job deficits higher.**

*The Haywood County Chamber supports:*

- Currently used incentive tools, Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG), One North Carolina Fund, and Article 3J tax Credits to enhance and strengthen community and economical development efforts.

### Regulatory Reform

*The Haywood County Chamber supports:*

- Continued improvement of the state's business climate through the removal of regulatory barriers that adversely impact business and job growth.
- Revision of statewide purchasing policies that enable purchasers to use local vendors

#### AT A GLANCE:

- Tax Modernization
- Job Creation
- Regulatory Reform
- Infrastructure
- Unemployment Insurance Reform
- Healthcare
- Education/Workforce Training
- Haywood Public School Systems



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## Haywood Public School Systems

HCS ranks in the top 8% of student performance and top 5% in SAT scores in North Carolina. The system currently serves over 7,770 students with four high schools (2 traditional, an alternative and an early college, 3 middle, 9 elementary and one alternative school).

### *The Haywood County Chamber supports:*

- Local flexibility for instruction with decisions regarding budget and use of lottery fund monies.

## Infrastructure

The availability of advanced wireless service helps rural communities preserve their quality of life by expanding business opportunities to a broader area, while keeping residents better connected to each other and to emergency assistance in times of need.

### *The Haywood County Chamber supports:*

- Efforts to increase investment in our community to expand coverage and capacity and to make available improved technology and applications available

## Healthcare

Hospitals are facing many challenges that impact how care is provided, including mandated federal regulations, regulatory compliance, the economy, and

### *The Haywood County Chamber supports:*

- Efforts to increase additional inpatient beds and outpatient services to care for psychiatric patients.
- Implementation of cost saving strategies to offset the decrease in Medicare revenues that allows continuation of quality medical care and maintains a financially viable medical center.
- Standards and requirements for tax-exemption for not-for-profit healthcare providers that would provide consistency between state and federal levels.

## Unemployment Insurance Reform

North Carolina has the fourth highest Unemployment Insurance debt in the country with \$2.6 Billion owed to the federal government.

### *The Haywood County Chamber supports:*

- Efforts to reform North Carolina's Unemployment Insurance crisis with solutions that provide stability and predictability to employers.

## Education/Workforce Training

### **Haywood Community College (HCC)**

HCC provides educational and job training needs in our community. HCC offers over 45 relevant curriculum programs of study and many continuing education courses that may expand and change with the latest trends in the job market. Through continuing education courses, the college expands to on-demand industry training needs with short courses that may lead to a professional certification, licensure, a marketable product or enhanced job skills. In 2010-2011 academic year, enrollment was 3,488 in curriculum programs and over 8,100 individuals took continuing education short courses.

### *The Haywood County Chamber supports:*

- Year-Round Funding for instruction in the Community College System



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