

## White House FY18 budget proposal includes \$54B cuts to domestic programs

Small, rural cities generally lack the tax base to absorb cuts at the level Trump Administration has proposed.

BY MICHAEL WALLACE  
*National League of Cities*

The president's budget proposal represents a vision of unprecedented withdrawal of federal investment in America's neighborhoods and communities.

President Donald Trump's "skinny budget" proposes more than \$50 billion in domestic spending reductions across the board, and would outright eliminate dozens of programs important to cities and towns.

For city leaders, cuts of this magnitude are not merely a question of how to do a little more with a little less. That's a question that has already dogged local officials for years as a result of the relatively smaller annual funding cuts to city priorities resulting from sequestration. It's also a question city leaders have had to contend with because of the growing number of state-mandated caps on local tax and revenue authority.

The president's budget proposal not only asks cities and towns to do a lot more with a lot less, it represents a vision of unprecedented withdrawal of federal investment in America's neighborhoods and communities and an abandonment of the role the federal government traditionally plays as a stakeholder in cities, the nation's economic

engines and centers of opportunity. A quick scan of programs proposed for elimination reveals what is at stake for all American cities, large and small:

- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- HOME Investment Partnerships Program for Affordable Housing
- Economic Development Administration Grants (EDA)
- Transit New Starts for Public Transportation
- TIGER Grants for Public Transportation Projects
- Minority Business Development Agency
- Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Grants
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants
- State Criminal Alien Assistance Grants
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- Weatherization Assistance Program
- The Clean Power Plan

NLC President Matt Zone has pointed out that the president's See **FEDERAL CUTS** on Page 3

## Legislature moves forward on measures providing relief to wildfire-stricken communities

By KATE COIL  
*TML Communications Specialist*

The Tennessee State Senate has approved two measures that would bring aid to victims of residents affected by wildfires that struck the state last year.

Senate Bill 114 was introduced by Sen. Doug Overbey, R-Maryville, as a tax relief measure that allows local governments to approve – by a two-thirds vote – relief for real and personal property damaged in the fire, prorating the 2016 tax assessment for properties damaged by 50 percent or more. Those who have already paid their 2016 taxes will receive a refund.

The bill's companion legislation is House Bill 52, sponsored by Rep. Dale Carr, R-Sevierville. The bill passed the senate unanimously and the House with 92 votes for, none against, and one vote of present. It now goes to Gov. Bill Haslam's desk for signature.

"We need to do everything we can possibly do to help those affected by the wildfires," Carr said. "People lost their homes and lost everything. Many only came out with the shirts on their back. This helps them to recover and get back on their feet. This bill allows people to have their property taxes pro-rated, and, especially since many people no longer have a structure on their property, to have their property tax for that period from the wildfires onward only account for their land rather than a structure."

Overbey also sponsored Senate Bill 964, which gives local governments the authority to clean-up debris on private property at the request of the property owner. Additionally, the bill would allow Gatlinburg to get reimbursements from FEMA for removing debris on property that is not owned by those with low income or who are elderly or disabled.

Overbey said both bills are important for the successful recovery of communities affected by the disaster such as Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, and Sevierville.

"There are a lot of out-of-state, out-of-town residences and it's go-



Sen. Doug Overbey



Rep. Dale Carr

ing to be important to the recovery effort to get everything cleaned up and back in order for tourism," Overbey said. "This legislation will assist in the clean-up effort and allow for the city to get reimbursement from FEMA for that purpose. This bill would provide a measure of tax relief to owners for property damaged in the disaster. We will continue to search for ways to help our Sevier County communities rebound from this disaster during the remainder of the 2017 legislative session."

The bill passed the State Senate unanimously. Its companion bill, House Bill 1166, is being carried by Rep. John Crawford, R-Kingsport.

Earlier this month, the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) and Walters State Community College have started to distribute a \$5.8 million National Dislocated Worker Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor that will fund the hiring of workers dislocated by the November wildfire in Sevier See **WILDFIRE** on Page 5

## Road funding, TN budget, preserving local control discussed at Legislative Conference



Photo by state of Tennessee State photographic services

City officials from across the state gathered in Nashville last week as part of the TML Legislative Conference. Gov. Bill Haslam was one of many state leaders who updated the group on various issues local governments are facing including transportation funding and preserving local autonomy.

## Bill would give local governments more control over regulating smoking in public

By KATE COIL  
*TML Communications Specialist*

A new bill before the Tennessee legislature would allow local government entities more control over smoking restrictions.

Sponsored by Sen. Jon Lundberg, R-Bristol, Senate Bill 278 would permit municipalities, county governments and other local entities to prohibit smoking in areas like public parks and government buildings on the local level without needing approval from the state legislature. The companion bill, House Bill 279, was introduced by Rep. Cameron Sexton, R-Crossville.

Under the present law, the state preempts local control over the regulation of tobacco products by any local government, agency or political subdivision. While state law generally prohibits smoking in enclosed spaces, the prohibition of smoking in outdoor parks, playgrounds and similar places must be approved by the state legislature. As a result, communities may have to wait until the legislature is in session to approve a smoking ban in certain areas.

Senate Bill 278 would allow municipalities, counties, metros, airport authorities or utility district to regulate the use of tobacco in public places, places of employment, and parks so long as their See **SMOKING** on Page 5



While cigarette smoke is banned on the state level in a variety of indoor venues, municipalities and county governments still have to seek permission from the state legislature to prohibit smoking in outdoor areas like parks, playgrounds and ballfields.

## Tennessee's infrastructure receives average "C" grade, transit gets a "D"

The American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) 2016 Report Card for Tennessee's Infrastructure grades Tennessee with an average score of a "C" – the same grade the state received in 2009.

Considerable investments have been made across the state to improve the state's infrastructure. Funds from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act initiated numerous projects.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation's (TDOT) Better Bridges Program replaced, repaired, or rehabilitated 193 state-owned structurally deficient bridges.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) received funding to upgrade facilities at two of the state's premier parks.

However, these investments won't stop the state's existing infrastructure from aging, nor stop the

need for infrastructure to keep up with dramatic population growth.

Rarely is the impact infrastructure has on the daily lives of the citizens of Tennessee considered – from the water they drink and the roads they drive on, to the power they use to light their homes and the food they put on their tables. Volunteers from the Tennessee Section of ASCE developed this report card for Tennessee's infrastructure to help all Tennesseans understand the condition of the state's infrastructure.

Founded in 1988, the Tennessee Section of the ASCE represents 1,600 civil engineers in Tennessee. As civil engineers, it's their job to build and maintain infrastructure. They understand infrastructure's vital role in the economy, health, and natural environment.

With this in mind, ASCE members throughout the state graded each infrastructure category ac-

ording to eight key criteria: capacity, condition, funding, future need, operation and maintenance, public safety, resilience, and innovation.

Tennessee's aviation infrastructure and the state's bridges received the highest scores with a B- and B, respectively. Tennessee's dams, transit, and wastewater infrastructure received the lowest marks.

To review the complete report, go to [www.infrastructure-reportcard.org/state-item/tennessee/](http://www.infrastructure-reportcard.org/state-item/tennessee/)

### Grade Summary

Aviation: B-  
Bridges: B  
Dams: D  
Drinking Water: C  
Inland Waterways: C-  
Parks: C  
Roads: C+  
Schools: C-  
Transit: D  
Wastewater: D+

# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## ATHENS

A \$50,000 gift from a Chattanooga-based non-profit will help bring the Eureka Trail closer to downtown Englewood. The Lyndhurst Foundation donated the money to help match a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant the trail received last summer by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). The money will be used to construct an additional 1.5 miles of trail along an abandoned railway near Highway 39. When completed, the trail will stretch for than six miles from Athens to downtown Englewood near city hall. Any remaining funds from the project will be used to further trail development.

## BLUFF CITY

The second phase of water and sewage system project will soon be underway in Bluff City. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen recently approved \$1.18 million to begin the second phase of the project, which will replace 5,000 feet of water and sewer lines, manholes and other infrastructure. The city received a loan from the USDA Rural Development program to fix stormwater and sewer issues. The first phase of the project replaced two pump stations in the city.

## BRENTWOOD

The city of Brentwood's Technology Department recently completed an upgrade of its live traffic cameras. In all, there are now 21 high definition cameras installed from the north end of the city near Interstate 65 to the southern edge. Brentwood previously had traffic cameras, but with the upgrade, added three additional cameras. The cameras are viewable on the city's website by clicking on the camera icon in the middle of the page. Residents can then bookmark this page on most mobile devices, but should not be used while driving. The project cost about \$60,000 for the cameras and technology to operate them.

## BRENTWOOD

Orchids Paper Products is establishing its headquarters in Brentwood, creating up to 25 jobs. A leader in the private label tissue industry, Orchids Paper's new headquarters is at 201 Summit Avenue, located off Interstate 65 near Old Hickory Boulevard, where it has recently renovated approximately 6,700 square feet of office space. Orchids Paper currently operates paper mill and converting facilities in Oklahoma and South Carolina. Orchids Paper's brand products include Orchids Supreme, Clean Scents, Tackle, Virtue, Colortex and others. Orchids also produces many private-label tissue products.

## BRISTOL

Believe in Bristol recently brought together officials from both sides of the city in Tennessee and Virginia to discuss the progress of the area's downtown. Believe in Bristol has dual accreditation for the national Main Street program in both Virginia and Tennessee – one of only three such dual accredited programs – and works to promote downtown development, growth and awareness. The downtown area currently has 149 businesses operating within a 15-square-block area. That total includes 37 retail stores, 33 dining and entertainment businesses and 79 service businesses, with a total of more than 1,100 full-time employees. During the past 10 years, more than \$20 million in private dollars have been invested into downtown buildings,

businesses and programs, plus \$14.8 million public investment, according to Kathryn Cole, president of the Believe in Bristol Board of Directors.

## BRISTOL

Exide Technologies has announced it will be resuming operations in Bristol in 2017, creating 40 new jobs with additional shifts as customer demand increases. The company operated in Bristol from 1994 until shuttering its doors in 2013. Exide formerly manufactured and formed batteries for major transportation industry customers. Officials said the Bristol operation will now be used exclusively for the formation of transportation batteries. The Milton, Ga.-based company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in 2013. Its reorganization plan was approved in March 2015, and the 128-year-old company emerged from Chapter 11 in April 2015.

## CARYVILLE

The Caryville Board of Mayor and Aldermen is moving to free up legal access for all-terrain vehicles and side-by-sides on city roads as part of a larger tourism initiative with the city of LaFollette and Campbell County. In addition to commonplace street laws for drivers of cars and motorcycles, ATV riders using these roads would need to comply with an additional set of rules if the state passes the private act. The move to increase ATV tourism comes as part of a larger project that would construct ATV trails connecting the town of Rocky Top in Tennessee to Middlesboro, Ky., linking communities such as Caryville and LaFollette in between.

## CLEVELAND

The city of Cleveland has been ranked No. 3 on a list of top cities for fastest economic growth. The Kiplinger Letter, a weekly publication for executives and investors, ranked cities across the nation on measures including economic growth and stability. Cleveland earned top marks for its wealth of manufacturing operations, industrial diversity, and job growth.

## COLLIERVILLE

The town of Collierville recently began work on a construction project to replace 20-year-old restroom facilities in Town Square. The existing facilities are being demolished with parts of the existing restrooms, exterior lighting, ceiling fans, and other parts being repurposed in other park facilities. The town will then construct two larger restroom buildings that will be both energy efficient and ADA compliant. The two structures will be connected by a breezeway and will have an exterior to match the nearby train depot. Additionally, the new facilities will add more green space, double the amount of toilets and sinks, as well as having both heating and air-conditioning. Officials estimate the project will be complete in June.

## JEFFERSON CITY

The former Milligan Clinic Building in Jefferson City is being transformed into an apartment complex. The 17,500-square-foot building was once a part of the Jefferson Memorial Hospital complex and was constructed in the 1930s to help bring more physicians to the area. The building was purchased by Carson-Newman University and then turned over to the city and Jefferson County in 2014. The structure was then purchased for \$250,000 by Dr. Aqueel Kouser, who now plans to develop a 14-unit apartment complex on the site. The development would house several two and three-bedroom units with a fire sprinkler system.

## KINGSPORT

East Tennessee State University has joined the Kingsport Center for Higher Education. ETSU brings the number of four-year schools in the center to four, with King University, Lincoln Memorial University and Milligan College as four-year or graduate schools. Northeast State Community College is also located at the center as a two-year school. Rick Osborne, dean of the College of Continuing Studies, said ETSU will remain at the Allandale facility, also used by

the Tennessee College of Applied Technology, and move from the space near Food City to the higher education center by July 1. He said the school has about 400 students served by each location. Programs offered by ETSU at the facility include an accelerated bachelor of science degree in nursing and undergraduate social work degree, along with business and education degrees. The higher ed center offerings will focus on upper division and graduate courses, while Allandale will offer first- and second-year classes.

## MEMPHIS

A rooftop garden is being constructed on the third-floor landing of AutoZone Park, according to officials with the Memphis Redbirds. The urban garden is being sponsored by Miracle-Gro and will overlook the plaza inside the front gates located at B.B. King Boulevard and Union Avenue. The garden at the minor league baseball stadium will utilize 3,200 linear feet of cypress lumber, and the raised garden beds will total about 1,200 square feet. The beds hold 80 cubic yards of soil. Owners of the team hope that the garden can be used for special events and as an educational tool for local children. Produce from the garden will also be used in concession stand items.

## NASHVILLE

Germany's largest airline recently named Nashville as its No. 1 travel destination for 2017. An online newsletter published by airline Lufthansa declared Nashville as its top travel pick for the year because it will be in the pathway of a total eclipse on Aug. 21, 2017. The newsletter is delivered to 230,000 frequent flyer clients. Officially known as Deutsche Lufthansa, the airline is the largest airline in Europe when combined with its subsidiaries in terms of fleet size. It also carried the second largest amount of passengers of any airline in Europe in 2016.

## NASHVILLE

The National League of Cities recently selected Nashville as one of six cities that will take part in a two-year project to explore and build equitable pathways to postsecondary and workforce success. The mayors of each city participating in NLC's Building Equitable Pathways to Postsecondary and Workforce Success cohort have made a commitment to increasing access and decreasing barriers to succeeding in higher education and to gaining meaningful employment. NLC, through its Institute for Youth, Education and Families and with support from The Kresge Foundation and with additional support and technical assistance from LinkedIn around data, will bring together city leaders from the government, education and business sectors and national experts who will help Nashville develop strategies and expand the city's efforts in ensuring all residents can earn a postsecondary certificate or degree as well as gain meaningful employment. The city will also have access to labor market trends in hiring as well as insights on education pathways and key skill sets leading to employment from LinkedIn, which it can use to help workers attain the skills employers need most.

## PHILADELPHIA

Ground will soon be broken on the new Philadelphia town hall. Knoxville-based contractor Danco Inc., has been hired to complete the \$67,000 project to replace the structure that collapsed in 2013. Officials estimate construction will take seven to eight months to complete. The new 6,000-square-foot facility will include bays for fire trucks and an ambulance along with an office for the fire chief in addition to offices for town officials.

## TULLAHOMA

The Tullahoma Department of Parks and Recreation will be adding a climbing wall to the city's outdoor water park. The Tullahoma Board of Mayor and Aldermen recently approved the nearly \$17,000 purchase of the new outdoor activity equipment, which will be installed before the park opens for its 2017 season. The project was

# Johnson City unveils new Boundless Playground



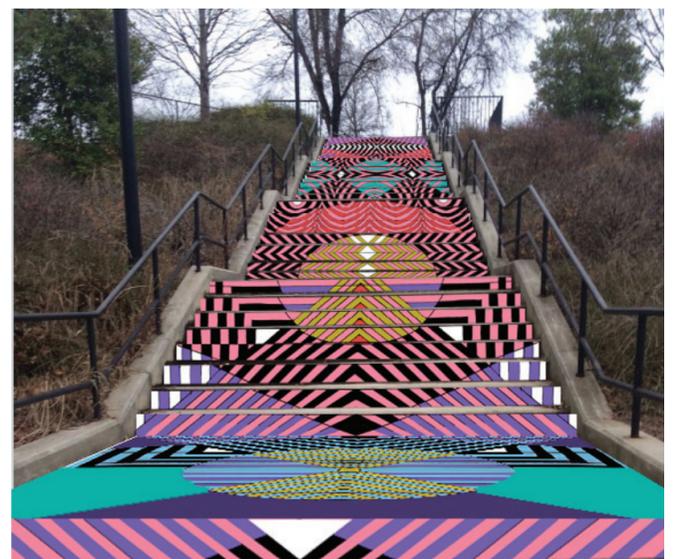
Johnson City has unveiled a playground designed to accommodate children of all abilities. The Boundless Playground at Rotary Park was built to provide access to wheelchairs, artificial turf, and other features to ensure all children can utilize its swings, slides, climbing equipment and splash pad. The Johnson City Rotary Club, Washington County, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and several private had commercial sponsors helped the city make the playground a reality.

# Collierville Public Works honors kindergartner



John Bryan Hofstetter, a kindergartner at Collierville Elementary, received a Certificate of Appreciation from Collierville Utilities Division Manager Richard Mills, left, and Assistant Utilities Division Manager Bo Cox, right. Hofstetter noticed the start of a water leak while walking near a creek with his grandmother. His quick reporting of the leak and assistance in helping crews locate it allowed city crews to prevent further damage, water waste and negative effects to the local utility service. City officials honored Hofstetter for his "outstanding citizenship and lasting contribution to the Public Utilities Division."

# Knoxville steps it up with latest public art project



This image projection shows the future of the 11th Street Stairs in Knoxville, one of two public art projects the city has contracted with artists to complete. The \$15,000 project will be conducted by Baltimore-based Jessie Unterhalter and Katey Truhn, who will transform the 43 steps, 10 feet across, south of Cumberland Avenue at 11th Street this summer. During peak hours, the stairs are used by thousands of pedestrians as they traverse the Second Creek Greenway to access World's Fair Park, the University of Tennessee or downtown Knoxville. A second \$10,000 project dubbed "Rhythm of Knoxville" has also been approved as a new, large public art piece for Knoxville's Gay Street. The work will be done by Mecosta, Mich., artist Robert Barnum, who has created large art pieces in seven states.

bid out to four companies with the Kersplash Climbing Wall constructed by Murfreesboro-based Great Southern Recreation finally selected by the city's recreation officials. Money for the 8-foot-tall climbing wall will come from the original Splash Island renovation budget.

## WHITE HOUSE

The population of White House has increased by 1,384 according to a special census recently concluded by city officials. Pending approval,

the new population count could add \$170,000 in state revenues to city coffers. Officials said plans for funds include services such as police and fire protection, library, administration, streets and road maintenance, and facilities and programs for the parks and recreation department. The special census was conducted over several months beginning last August. The census information will be sent to the Greater Nashville Regional Council for review and certification.

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# White House FY18 budget proposal includes \$54B cuts to domestic programs

## FEDERAL CUTS from Page 1

budget proposal runs directly counter to his campaign promise to lift up America's cities – and in fact, the worst impacts of the cuts will be felt in the small towns and rural communities the president promised to prioritize. That's because small and rural cities generally lack the tax base to absorb cuts at this level, and will be forced to make tough decisions that could have drastic human consequences.

The Community Development Block Grants program is a good example. For many reasons, NLC has had to lead efforts to "Save CDBG" from significant cuts or elimination every few years. Among those reasons is the fact that, from the viewpoint of federal lawmakers, CDBG can look like a "big city" program with a level of flexibility that makes outcomes difficult to measure. In reality, when the threat to CDBG is real, small-town leaders are always at the forefront of NLC advocacy to save the program. That's because CDBG is one of the few programs that funds infrastructure improvements, such as water towers or main street redevelopment, in small and rural communities.

NLC is calling on Congress to throw out the White House's budget proposal and develop a new plan focused on building prosperity, expanding opportunity, and investing in our future. Whatever the outcome, we know that real-life stories from local officials on the impact of federal programs will carry the day. That's why we're asking city leaders from communities large and small to help us fight the cuts by showing Congress why their city is worth fighting for.

### Budget Specifics:

#### Agriculture

- USDA faces a \$4.7 billion (21 percent) cut from FY2017 funds.
- The broadband portion of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), which provides support for the buildout of broadband services in rural communities, is not mentioned in the current outline.
- However, related programs within RUS, such as the Water and Wastewater loan and grant program, have been eliminated. It is not clear what the total budget cut to the overall Rural Utilities Service will be.

#### Commerce

- Commerce faces a \$1.5 billion (16 percent) cut from FY2017 funding.
- The outline does not provide a specific funding number for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). NTIA's Broadband USA office provides training and technical assistance to communities for broadband planning and development, rather than direct grants. However, while the budget outline states that the budget continues to support NTIA's internet governance functions, as well as wireless development, it does not indicate whether funding will remain stable for Broadband USA.
- Eliminates the Economic Development Administration (\$221 million).
- Eliminates the Minority Business Development Agency.

#### Education

- \$9 billion (13 percent) reduction to \$59 billion in discretionary funds.
- Elimination of 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC), which are before-school, afterschool and summer programs.
- \$2.4 billion cut to state grant programs (this is a trickle-down impact on cities).
- \$1.4 billion increase to public/private school choice programs (\$168 million for charters, \$250 million for a new private school choice program, etc.).
- There are no cuts to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), likely because of the heat the Secretary received during her confirmation hearing.

#### Environmental Protection Agency

- Overall budget reduction of \$2.6 billion (31 percent).
- \$4 million increase to the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds to \$2.3 billion.
- Level funding for WIFIA, a loan and loan guarantee program for large water infrastructure projects.
- Discontinuation of the Clean Power Plan (CPP), international climate change programs, climate change research and partnership programs, and related efforts, totaling \$100 million in cuts.
- \$330 million cut to the Superfund program, which includes brownfields redevelopment.
- Eliminates funding for regional efforts like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Chesapeake Bay Initiative, totaling \$427 million.
- Eliminates \$347 million from other EPA programs, including the Energy Star program.

#### Energy

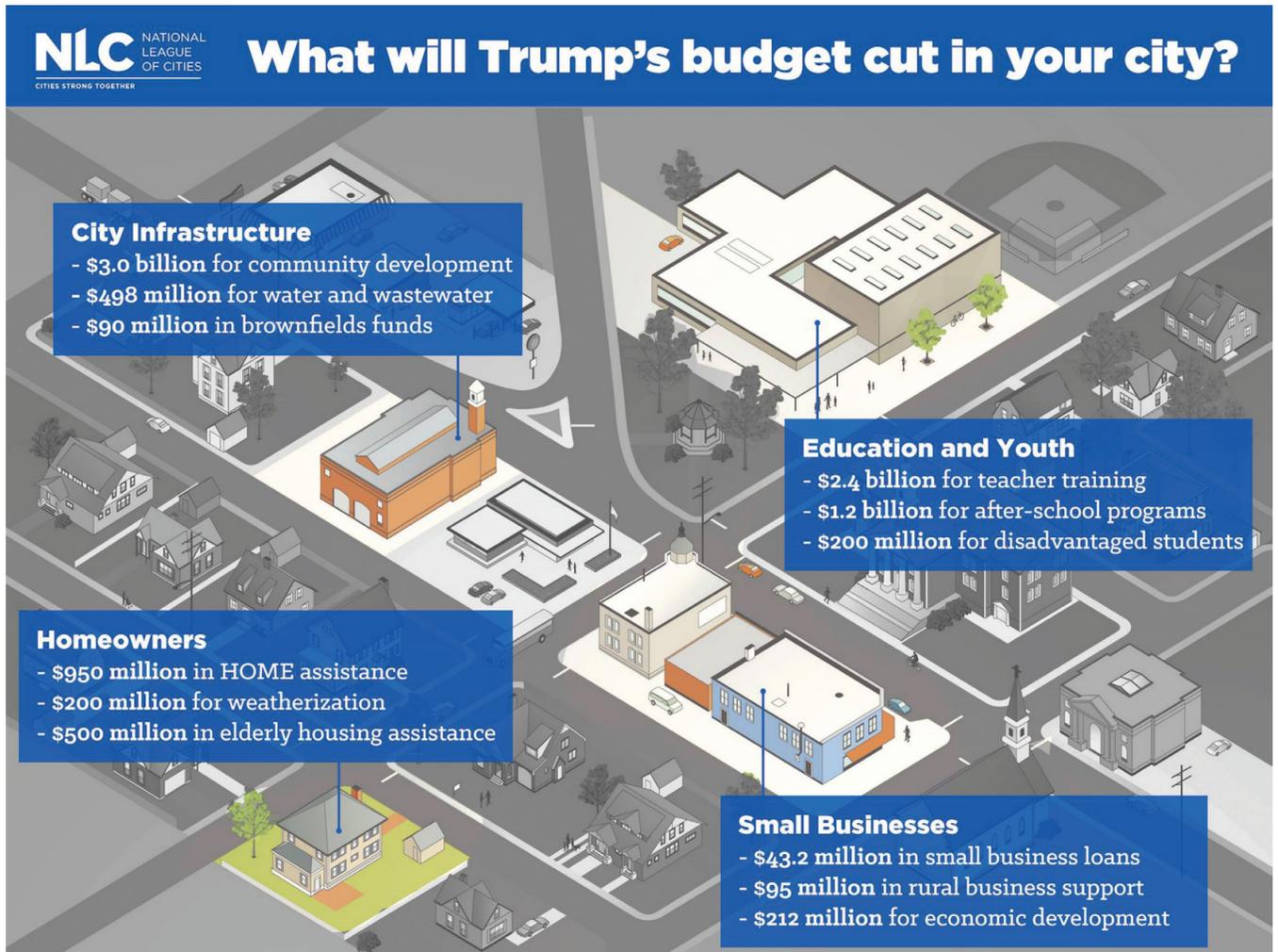
- Overall budget reduction of \$1.7 billion (5.6 percent) from FY2017.
- Eliminates the Weatherization Assistance Program, which helps improve the energy efficiency of low income households, and eliminates the State Energy Program, which supports state and local energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, for a total cut of \$2 billion.

#### Health and Human Services

- \$15 billion (17.9 percent) reduction to \$69 billion.
- Eliminates LIHEAP and CSBG.
- \$500 million increase to opioid addiction services.

#### Homeland Security

- DHS has a \$2.8 billion (6.8 percent) increase over FY2017 funding levels.
- The outline specifies \$1.5 billion for cybersecurity activities to protect federal networks and critical infrastructure. If this is for the National Protection and Programs Director which houses existing cybersecurity information-sharing for local governments, this would be stable funding from FY2017.
- The proposed budget would cut \$667 million for the State and Local Homeland Security grant programs. These cuts will have a significant impact on the ability of local law enforcement to work with the federal government to protect our cities from manmade and natural disasters, including terrorism attacks.
- The proposal to establish a 25 percent non-Federal cost match for FEMA preparedness grants will have a significant impact on small and medium sized cities and towns. These smaller cities and towns, which will not be able to meet the cost 25 percent cost match, will most likely be excluded from receiving any FEMA preparedness funding.
- Elimination of the National Flood Insurance Program's Flood Hazard Mapping Program will put many cities and towns at risk because they rely on the maps to help build homes outside of flood zones and mitigate flood risk. Instead of eliminating the funding, the Administration should look at ways to speed up and improve the flood map accuracies.



The new federal budget plan proposes funding cuts for more than \$54 billion. Many community programs would be eliminated altogether. The scale of this budget proposal is unprecedented, and the impact would be disastrous. The plan would eliminate the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, and infrastructure and transportation-related funding, to name a few. It would have major consequences for every city, regardless of size, location, politics or economic outlook.

## Call to Action: What city leaders need to do

### Cities need Congress to stand with cities

Call on Congress and ask them to stand united with cities and throw out this dangerous budget proposal. Cities need Congress to design a budget proposal that focuses on infrastructure, education, safety and prosperity.

There is a long history of federal-local partnerships when it comes to moving America forward. It's up to Congress to find a better way to spend wisely and invest in our future.

The National League of Cities has developed several resources for city leaders to take action, including talking points, letters to Congress, and op-ed pieces for your local paper. To find more information on how to take action go to <http://www.nlc.org/FightTheCuts>. You can also follow NLC's campaign on Twitter: #FightTheCuts What We Need Congress to Do.

For city leaders, this is a crucial moment to stand united. When cities are thriving, America prospers.

#### Housing and Urban Development

- HUD has a \$6.2 billion (13.2 percent) cut from FY2017 numbers.
- Elimination of the Community Development Block Grant (\$3B), HOME, Choice Neighborhoods, and Section 4 Capacity Building. Independent Agencies
- Eliminates 19 independent agencies, including the Appalachian Regional Commission, Delta Regional Authority, and Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation.
- FCC is funded via regulatory fees, and so its Universal Service Fund programs and consumer protection programs are not included in OMB's budget proposal.

#### Justice

- The \$175 million increase in the Department of Justice's law enforcement efforts to target criminal organizations and drug traffickers in order to address violent crime, gun-related deaths, and the opioid epidemic should also support greater coordination with local law enforcement. We are encouraged the administration is concentrating on targeting violent criminals and gangs that are responsible for much of the violent and gun related crimes in our cities.
- The elimination of approximately \$700 million in spending on DOJ programs that support local public safety efforts will have a significant impact on efforts to make distressed communities safer in order to improve economic opportunity, create new jobs and provide affordable housing.
- While specific programs are not detailed in the budget released on Wednesday, the DOJ cuts are expected to target funding for Community Oriented Policing, State Criminal Alien Assistance, Violence Against Women, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and other programs.

#### Labor

- \$2.5 billion (21 percent) reduction to \$9.6 billion in discretionary funds.
- Eliminated Job Corps training centers for youth.
- Reduces Federal support to job training and employment services (WIOA, etc.) by "shifting responsibility to states and local areas."

#### Treasury

- Overall reduction of 4 percent and a reallocation of funds towards security.
- This includes hacking prevention, seizure of bank accounts associated with terrorism and foreign adversaries.
- Eliminates the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund grant program (\$210 million).

#### Transportation

- Overall reduction of 13 percent.
- Cuts \$499 million from the TIGER grant program. This program has funded countless roads and transit projects since its inception in 2009.



# PEOPLE



Chattanooga Mayor **Andy Berke** has been re-elected to his post following a March 7 municipal election. Berke garnered 63.5 percent of the vote in the four-way race, exceeding the 50 percent-plus-one vote threshold needed to secure an outright victory and avoid a runoff election. A native of Chattanooga, Berke graduated from Stanford University and the University of Chicago Law School. He served in the Tennessee State Senate from 2007 to 2012. He was first elected mayor of Chattanooga in 2013.



Andy Berke

Ga. She has a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's of public administration from the University of Georgia.

**Logan Engle** has been selected to serve as the new planner for the town of Greenville. Engle will be coming to the town from Morristown, where she has worked as a planner since June 2014. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science and history from Carson Newman University as well as a master's of public policy from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Engle is also a recent graduate of the UT Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) Municipal Management Academy.



Logan Engle

Glamery also serves as the department's accreditation manager and is diligently moving the department toward its goal of achieving accreditation through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI).



David McGlamery

Johnson City Fire Chief **Mark Scott** will be retiring from his position after 30 years of service with the department. Scott will officially retire from his position on June 2. Scott joined the Johnson City Fire Department in 1987 and was appointed to sergeant two years later. He was named a lieutenant in 1994, a captain in 1997, and finally the chief in 2011. Scott earned a bachelor's degree in construction technology from East Tennessee State University, and a bachelor's in fire administration from the University of Memphis.



Mark Scott

**Mark Hilty** has been selected as the city of Franklin's new assistant city administrator for public works. Hilty's new duties with the city include overseeing the leadership and management of four major departments: streets, parks, water management, and sanitation and environmental services. He is currently employed as the city's water management director and began his work with the city of Franklin in 2006. Prior to coming to Franklin, Hilty worked as a consulting engineer, performing work on water, wastewater, and hazardous waste projects with a focus on municipal water and wastewater master planning. He has performed work throughout Tennessee and has participated in projects throughout the country. He has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Connecticut and has served in the U.S. Army infantry.



Mark Hilty

**Debbie Caughron**, the finance director and city recorder for the city of Maryville, will retire effective June 30 after 39 years of service to the city. Caughron began her career with the city on June 1, 1978 as an accounting technician. In 1991, she was promoted to assistant director of finance and city recorder and was promoted to director of financial services in 2006. She became a certified municipal clerk in 1998, was recognized as Municipal Clerk of the Year by the Tennessee Association of Municipal Clerks and Recorders in 2003, and received the designation of Certified Municipal Financial Officer in 2010.



Debbie Caughron

**Virginia Causey** has retired from her position as executive assistant for the town of Jonesborough after almost 40 years of service. Causey began working for the town in 1971, at which time she was the town of Jonesborough's only female employee. Causey left her work with town briefly to raise her family but returned in 1983. Town officials said Causey will be remembered for her work ethic and kindness toward town employees and citizens, both new and old.



Virginia Causey

**Amanda Deaton-Moyer** will be leaving her position as city manager of Forest Hills to serve as the assistant director for finance with Metro Nashville Water Services. Deaton-Moyer has been with the city since 2013 and previously served as assistant chief administrative officer for budget and strategic planning for Macon,



Amanda Deaton-Moyer

**Marsha Marshall** has been sworn in as the new city clerk for Kingston. A long-time city employee and senior accountant for the Kingston water department, Marshall was sworn in on March 1 though she has been training to take over the position since December. Marshall took over the city clerk position from long-time clerk Eleanor Neal, who served the city for 30 years before retiring in 2016.



Marsha Marshall

**David McGlamery** has been appointed to the rank of captain with the Bristol Fire Department. A 13-year veteran of the department, McGlamery has served as a firefighter, sergeant, and for the past nine years, as fire lieutenant. In addition to his regular duties, Mc-

**Kevin Townsel** has been selected as the new director of human resources for the city of Franklin. Townsel currently serves as the vice president of legal affairs and human resources for DLR Management Company, a national restaurant company with approximately 2000 employees. He has also worked as an HR executive for Logan's Roadhouse restaurants, Burger King Corporation, and TransCor America with more than 20 years of expertise. Townsel has a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and a J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law.



Kevin Townsel

**David Weems** has been named the new fire marshal for the town of Greeneville. Weems has 10 years of experience with the Greeneville Fire Department and has served 17 years with the South Greene Volunteer Fire Department (SGVFD). He is certified as an advanced Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Hazardous Materials (Haz-Mat) specialist, and has experience in both fire investigation and fire safety. As fire marshal, Weems will be responsible for code enforcement, fire inspections, promoting fire safety, and fire investigations. Weems is a 1994 graduate of Greeneville High School and assistant chief of SGVFD.



David Weems

## Six communities awarded TN Main Street grants

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development has announced six communities that will receive the second round of Tennessee Main Street Entrepreneur Grants of \$50,000 each. The grants are designed to encourage job growth in established downtown commercial districts.

The new grantees are the Tennessee Main Street communities of Dyersburg, Gallatin, Kingsport, Lebanon, Sevierville, and Sweetwater.

The projects are funded through the Rural Economic Opportunity Act to encourage the growth of entrepreneurship and revitalization of vacant and underused buildings in Tennessee's Main Street communities.

Grants were awarded to:

- **Dyersburg** to create a co-working, incubation and maker space in a building in the downtown district.
- **Gallatin** to offer entrepreneur classes at the Public Square co-working space and host a business pitch competition.
- **Kingsport** to host entrepreneur training classes and grant awards to participants in a pitch contest. It will also

fund a maker space at an art gallery and make improvements to a studio space.

- **Lebanon** to create the Cumberland Entrepreneur and Co-Working Center as co-working space, offer entrepreneur training classes and create space for pop-up shops.
- **Sevierville** to develop Gallery@129 for artists in a downtown building and offering a co-working classroom.
- **Sweetwater** to convert a vacant 1870s building into a restaurant and business incubator.

The grant program is offered to communities that are accredited Tennessee Main Street communities, and grants are competitively awarded. Projects are currently underway in six other Main Street communities from the first round of funding: Bristol, Columbia, Jackson, Morristown, Savannah and Winchester.

Each application was supported by the community's senator and representatives in the Tennessee General Assembly.

## Site Development Grants awarded in 18 locations

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe have announced 18 communities and local organizations will receive \$6.2 million in Site Development Grants.

"Providing more opportunities for citizens in rural Tennessee is one of our top priorities and with the assistance of the Site Development Grants, the rural communities receiving these grants will be ready for investment and economic success," Haslam said. "We are strengthening our future workforce through programs like Tennessee Promise, and I look forward to seeing these 18 communities succeed and grow for the next generation of Tennesseans."

The Site Development Grant program, part of the larger Rural Economic Opportunity Act passed in 2016, helps communities prepare industrial sites for businesses.

The grants assist communities in finalizing infrastructure and site improvements for Select Tennessee Certified Sites and sites that will go through the site certification process. The projects prepare the sites for new business operations and jobs. In total, 33 communities have been awarded Site Development Grants with 15 communities receiving the grants in 2016.

The newest round of grants awarded include:

- **Bristol Business Park** - \$500,000 for clearing, demolition, and seeding of 50 acres to accommodate a 420,000-square-foot building pad;
- **Crossville Interchange Business Park** - \$500,000 for development of a

200,000-square-foot building pad;

- **Knox County Eastbridge Business Park Lots** - \$500,000 for construction of a wastewater pump station;
- **Clarkrange Regional Business Park** - \$500,000 for an upgrade of approximately 7,300 linear feet of waterline;
- **East TN Progress Center Park** - \$500,000 for construction of a roadway;
- **Fayetteville-Lincoln County Runway Centre** - \$109,000 for an extension of approximately 4,060 linear feet of waterline;
- **Franklin County Moon Property** - \$209,300 for completion of a geophysical survey;
- **Gallatin Industrial Center** - \$95,975 for clearing of approximately nine acres of trees;
- **Town of Halls Industrial Site** - \$332,225 for construction of an entrance drive, a sewer line extension, preliminary grading, and park signage;
- **Hardin Industrial Park** - \$450,000 for construction of a 200,000-square-foot building pad;
- **City of Lexington Timberlake Industrial Site** - \$350,100 for construction of a 100,000-square-foot building pad and extension of 850 linear feet of sewer line;
- **Plateau Partnership Park** - \$469,350 for construction of the primary access into the park, construction of access road to the site of the proposed wastewater treatment facility, and grading of the wastewater treatment facility site;
- **Madison County Airport Industrial Park** - \$245,980 for clearing of approximately nine acres of wooded area;
- **Manchester Industrial Park** - \$137,453 for an extension of approximately 1150 linear feet of waterlines, relocation of electric utility lines, and drainage improvements;
- **Mountain View Industrial Park** - \$445,500 for clearing, grubbing and grading of an approximately 600,000-square-foot site;
- **Rhea County Rail Hub South Industrial Development** - \$500,000 for rough grading for an access road;
- **Tennessee Central Economic Authority PowerCom Industrial Center** - \$122,500 for an extension of approximately 2,400 linear feet of sewer line; and
- **Tullahoma Airport Business Park** - \$280,000 for clearing of approximately 26 acres of wooded area and drainage improvements.

# WAUFORD

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www.jrwauford.com

## Water and Wastewater Systems

## STATE BRIEFS



**Unemployment rates increased in all 95 Tennessee counties in January 2017.** Tennessee and the U.S. have experienced an increase in the preliminary unemployment rates for January. Tennessee's rate is 5.4 percent, increasing from the previous month's revised rate by three-tenths of a percentage point. An increase of one-tenth raised the U.S. preliminary rate to 4.8 percent. Williamson County had the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 3.9 percent while Davidson County had the lowest metropolitan unemployment rate at 4.1 percent. Three counties —Cocke, Rhea and Lake — had unemployment rates of 10 percent or higher.

**Tennessee is one of the top 10 states most dependent on money from the federal government,** according to a new study. Tennessee ranked eighth on the list of 10 states most federal-fund dependent states conducted by financial-advice website WalletHub. Tennessee earned the high ranking because its state government is the third most-dependent state on federal funding, a figure derived from the proportion of state revenue that comes from the federal government in the form of intergovernmental aid. It also estimates Tennessee residents are the 20th most-dependent on federal aid, which was calculated by dividing federal funding to state's residents by IRS collections from state residents. WalletHub calculated its data based on statistics from the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Census Bureau, USA Spending.gov,

the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Governing.com. The study also found that Tennesseans have the sixth-lowest tax rate in America.

**Tennessee gives the fourth highest amount of business incentives of any state in the country,** according to a recent study from the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. The organization found Tennessee provides more than \$2.5 billion worth of incentives annually, including property tax breaks, grants and other subsidies offered to companies. These incentives come from both state and local governments. The amount of incentives the state gives is nearly 1 percent of the state's private-sector gross domestic product.

**Three Tennessee cities have been ranked among the top 10 best cities for early retirement.** Financial management website Magnify Money recently ranked Knoxville, Memphis, and Cleveland among the top 10 cities to live in for those wishing to retire early. Knoxville earned the top spot while Memphis tied for second with Sherman, Texas, and Benton Harbor, Mich. Cleveland tied for fourth place with Hattiesburg, Miss. Knoxville, Memphis and Cleveland were also ranked first, second and fourth respectively in the website's list of best cities to retire early in the Southeast. Rankings were based on factors such as cost of living, quality of life, walkability, commute time, minimum wage, unemployment rate, and state income tax rate.

## TN state revenues \$21 M more than budget estimates

Tennessee tax revenues exceeded budgeted estimates in February. Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin announced that overall February revenues were \$846.7 million, which is \$28.4 million more than the state received in February 2016 and \$21.1 million more than the state budgeted. The overall growth rate for February was 3.5 percent.

On an accrual basis, February is the seventh month in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

General fund revenues were more than the budgeted estimates in the amount of \$8.4 million while the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$12.7 million more than the estimates.

Sales taxes were \$32.9 million more than the estimate for February and 6.6 percent more than February 2016. For seven months revenues are \$218.7 million higher than estimated. The year-to-date growth rate for seven months was 4 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$16.6 million less than the budgeted estimate in February and the growth rate over February 2016 was negative 16.5 percent. For seven months revenues are \$267.0 million more than the estimate and the year-to-date growth rate is 21.3 percent. However, adjusting for one-time payments received in the current year reduces the year-to-date underlying growth rate to 2.76 percent.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for February decreased by 8.1 percent compared to February 2016

and were \$1.7 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$68.4 million. For seven months revenues have exceeded estimates by \$26.6 million.

Motor vehicle registration revenues were \$1.2 million more than the February estimate, and on a year-to-date basis they are \$11.1 million more than the estimates.

Tobacco taxes were \$2.9 million more than the February budgeted estimate of \$20.6 million. For seven months they are \$3.1 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Inheritance and estate taxes were \$300,000 thousand more than the February estimate. On a year-to-date basis, revenues for seven months are \$4 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege taxes were \$400,000 thousand more than the February estimate and on a year-to-date basis August through February revenues are \$4.1 million more than the estimate.

Business taxes were \$700,000 thousand less than the February estimate. For seven months revenues are \$8 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Hall income tax revenues for the month were \$1.0 million more than the budgeted estimate.

All other tax receipts exceeded estimates by a net of \$1.4 million.

Year-to-date revenues for seven months were \$545.7 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded \$491.3 million more than the budgeted estimates and the four other funds \$54.4 million.

## TDEC Greenways forum May 3-5

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) will host the Greenways and Trails Forum at Montgomery Bell State Park on May 3-5. This bi-annual event is a three-day educational workshop and networking conference for parks and recreation professionals, local officials and aspiring outdoor recreation professionals.

Hosted by TDEC's Recreation Educational Services Division and the Commissioner's Council on Greenways and Trails, this year's conference theme is "Tennessee Trails: A Community's Pathway to Health, Happiness and Prosperity." Forum sessions will highlight the impact of greenways and trails in communities and their role in uniting citizens, improving health and combating obesity; promoting economic development and tourism; providing alternative transportation opportunities; and connecting people to nature.

Advanced registration received prior to April 24 is \$99. Registration received after April 24 is \$125. Students receive a special \$25 rate with a current student ID. To register for the forum, visit <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07edf2mnhkc3c9fd50&oeq=c=&ch>.

For hotel accommodations, conference attendees can receive a rate of \$77 (excluding tax) at Montgomery Bell State Park Inn by calling (615) 797-3101 by April 3 and mentioning Tennessee Greenways and Trails Forum or Group # 7989.

More information on the 2017 Tennessee Greenways and Trails Forum, including a link to the draft agenda, can be found at [http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=aqx85ieab&oeidk=a07edf2mnhkc3c9fd50&condition=SO\\_OVERRIDE](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=aqx85ieab&oeidk=a07edf2mnhkc3c9fd50&condition=SO_OVERRIDE).

## Members turn out for 2017 TN Fire Department Day on The Hill



Representatives from fire departments in Tennessee recently made the trip to Nashville to participate in the 2017 Fire Department Day on the Hill. Fire chiefs and firefighters from across the state gathered to meet with legislators to discuss key legislation affecting fire service. Gov. Bill Haslam, members of the Tennessee General Assembly and the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office continue to partner with the Tennessee Fire Service Coalition (TNFSC) to provide continued support for the some 636 fire departments in Tennessee. TNFSC strives to work with state and local legislators to achieve safe communities through development of sound legislation and code adoption.

## Bill would give local governments more control over regulating smoking in public

**SMOKING**, from Page 1

restrictions are more restrictive than state law and they do not attempt to prohibit smoking in an area exempted from the present law prohibition on smoking in enclosed spaces.

The bill specifies that it does not affect or repeal any regulation of the use of tobacco products that was implemented by a municipality, county, county having a metropolitan form of government, airport authority, or utility district pursuant to present law.

Lundberg said his goal for the legislation is to return some amount of local control over the issue.

"Local control is almost always best," Lundberg said. "Regulations and laws regarding smoking are best handles on the local level. These laws can be a significant issue in some areas and of virtually no concern in others. That's why it is clearly up to those communities to determine the best course of action."

There are additional benefits to the measure as well.

"This legislation is not merely a health-related measure, but quality of life for local communities," Lundberg said. "I suspect it would make our state more attractive for people to visit, attend ball games and not worry about people smoking in the seat next to them."

Lynn Williams, government relations director for the Tennessee chapter of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc., agreed with Sen. Lundberg.

"Local control would provide communities the opportunity to address issues by identifying solutions at the level of government closest to them. It would make sure that any laws intended to protect and expand the ability to breathe smoke-free air meets the communities' needs and protects public health," Williams said. "The right and responsibility of local elected officials to protect the health and safety of their communities when state law is not strong enough has been well-established. Local governments should certainly have the power to protect the rights of their citizens when they are concerned about breathing smoke-free air and want smoking eliminated in work-

**In nonsmokers, secondhand smoke causes**

approximately **7,300** lung cancer deaths per year

and nearly **34,000** heart disease deaths per year

places and public places."

To date, Williams said more than 4,500 local governments across the country have successfully passed ordinances protecting citizens from dangerous secondhand smoke, and the vast majority of states do not prevent local governments from passing smoke-free laws that are stronger than the state law.

"In Tennessee, one-third of all cancer deaths are caused by smoking," Williams said. "Tobacco users are not the only ones who breathe its deadly smoke—all the people around them are forced to inhale it, too. Secondhand smoke contains over 4,000 substances, more than 60 of which are known or suspected to cause cancer. Tying the hands of local authority is having a devastating effect on our state's tobacco control efforts, and subsequently on public health of Tennessee's residents."

If current trends continue, the American Cancer Society estimates 5,830 new cases of lung and bronchial cancer will be reported and 4,590 deaths will be attributed to lung and bronchial cancer in 2017 alone for the state of Tennessee.

As of 2016, approximately 21.9 percent of adults in Tennessee are smokers and the state is tied with Louisiana for having the seventh highest percentage of smokers by population in states across the nation, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

While the amount of smokers in Tennessee has declined since the 1990s, the state has always been above the national average.

The amount of adult smokers in the state was one of the reasons Tennessee was ranked 47 out of 50 in the 2015 annual America's Health Rankings conducted by the United Health Foundation and the CDC.

The United Health Foundation said that smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the country, but is also a behavior "that can be influenced by support from the community and clinical intervention."

"Approximately 14 million cases of major medical conditions among adults are attributed to smoking," the organization states on its website. "Annually, more than 480,000 people die from cigarette smoking, including nearly 42,000 deaths from secondhand smoke exposure."

Additionally, more than 16 million Americans are living with a disease caused by smoking. Smoking damages nearly every organ and causes respiratory disease, heart disease, stroke, cancer, preterm birth, low birth weight, and premature death. People who smoke lose an average of 10 years of life compared to non-smokers.

Furthermore, smoking harms not only those who smoke, but also it affects non-smokers by causing respiratory infections in children and heart disease and lung cancer in adults exposed to secondhand smoke.

Nearly \$170 billion in direct medical expenses and \$156 billion in lost productivity are attributed to smoking annually in the United States.

## Legislature works to provide relief to wildfire-stricken communities

**WILDFIRE**, from Page 1  
County. The grant will fund jobs that will assist in the wildfire cleanup efforts around Gatlinburg, according to TDLWD Commissioner Burns Phillips.

"Our Department's Workforce Services Division recognized funding was available through the Dislocated Worker Grant program and knew the money could play a big role in helping recovery efforts in Sevier County," Phillips said. "We worked through the Christmas holiday to ensure the application for the grant was completed and processed as quickly as possible."

TDLWD made \$2 million of the grant immediately available to

start the employment process in Sevier County. The remaining \$3.8 million will be available incrementally throughout the year, providing the temporary jobs and support services for dislocated workers justify the need for the additional funding.

Enrollment in the program may last until December 2017, and applicants must meet certain criteria to be eligible for employment through the grant. The program is open to individuals who lost their jobs directly due to the wildfires, regardless of the county in which they reside; Sevier County residents who are dislocated workers, meaning they lost their jobs directly or indirectly because

of the wildfires; or Sevier County residents who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

"This grant will both help individuals and the area as a whole move forward in the recovery process. I am grateful to the staff of our Center for Workforce Development in working diligently to get this started as soon as possible, and I encourage everyone who lost their jobs due to the fire to apply," said Dr. Tony Miksa, president of Walters State. "The college, as administrative entity of the local Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, will play a key role in working with the county to hire workers and distribute funds."

# City officials gather in Nashville for TML Legislative Conference

Road funding, TN budget, preserving local control among topics discussed



Morristown Mayor Gary Chesney and Gov. Bill Haslam  
*(photo by state of Tennessee State photographic services)*



Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris and Gov. Bill Haslam  
*(photo by state of Tennessee State photographic services)*



Farragut Mayor Ralph McGill, T.C. Williams, Alderman Ron Williams, Alderwoman Louie Povlin, and Vice Mayor Ron Pinchok



Kingsport City Manager Jeff Fleming, Alderman Tom Parham, Assistant City Manager Chris McCart, and Farragut Town Administrator David Smoak



Above: Dyersburg Alderman Bob Kirk asks Gov. Bill Haslam questions about his transportation funding plan. Also pictured are TML Deputy Director Chad Jenkins and Huntingdon Mayor Dale Kelley.  
*(photo by state of Tennessee State photographic services)*



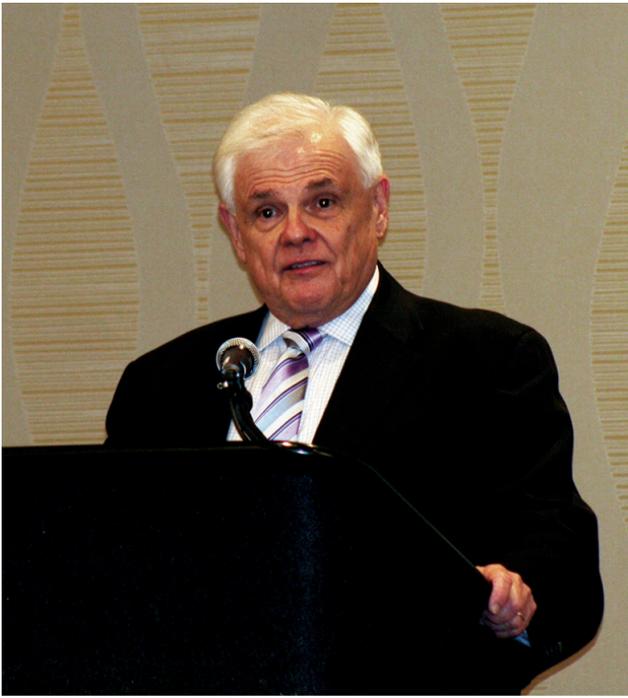
At left: Manchester Finance Director Bridget Anderson, Assistant Public Works Director George Gannon, Police Chief Mark Yother, and Executive Assistant Joy Ballard.



Above: Gatlinburg City Attorney Ron Sharp and Mayor Mike Werner



At left: Columbia Finance Director Thad Jablonski, Mayor Dean Dickey, and City Manager Tony Massey



Senate State and Local Government Chairman Ken Yager



House Speaker Beth Harwell, TML Executive Director Margaret Mahery, and House Finance Chairman Charles Sargent



Bartlett Alderwoman Paula Sedgwick, Mayor Keith McDonald, Chief Administrative Officer Mark Brown, and Vice Mayor Jack Young



Senate Finance Chairman Bo Watson



Soddy-Daisy Mayor Robert Cothran, Commissioner Rick Nunley, City Manager Janice Cagle, and Commissioner Max Lowe



House Local Government Chairman Tim Wirgau



Above: Athens City Manager Seth Sumner, Somerville Mayor Ronnie Neill, and Henderson City Recorder Jim Garland

At right: Tullahoma Alderman Jackie Duncan asks Gov. Bill Haslam questions about his transportation funding plan. (photo by state of Tennessee State photographic services)





## CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. No charge to TML members. Send advertising to: Carole Graves e-mail: cgraves@TML1.org.

### AIRPORT MANAGER

#### SAVANNAH / HARDIN COUNTY

The city of Savannah and Hardin County, as joint owners of the Savannah/Hardin County Airport are seeking an airport manager to oversee the operations of the Savannah I Hardin County Airport. The position is open due to the pending retirement of the current airport manager, who has served in the position for over 30 years. The chosen candidate would hopefully bring forth the same passion and dedication as shown by the retiring manager. The airport manager position is an at-will employee and reports directly to the Savannah I Hardin County Airport Commission, a seven member board made up of appointees from both Hardin County and the city of Savannah governments. The manager position requires exercising independent judgment, and is responsible for providing general direction to plan and organize all activities concerned with day to-day operations of the airport. The ideal candidate will have graduated from an accredited four year college or university with major course work in airport management, two years management experience, or any combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge and abilities. The manager must possess the ability to both comprehend and present technical information as well as assist with hands on building and ground maintenance and fueling aircraft. Starting salary dependent on experience and qualifications. Position will have a paid health insurance plan. The Savannah I Hardin County Airport Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Resumes will be accepted until April 28 at 5:00P.M., C.D.T. All interested applicants must submit a resume and cover letter along with three personal and three professional references to:

City of Savannah 140 Main Street, Savannah, Tennessee 38372 Attn: Garry Welch Chairman - Savannah I Hardin County Airport Commission

### ASSISTANT PLANNER

MT. JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet is seeking a candidate for a full-time assistant planner in the Planning & Zoning Department. A detailed job description and requirements are available online. Applications must be filed electronically and are available at the city's website, [www.mtjuliet-tn.gov](http://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov). The city will accept electronic applications until positions are filled. The city of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, regarding the electronic application process, please call (615) 754-2552. EOE/Drug-free Workplace

### FINANCE DIRECTOR

NOLENSVILLE. The Town of Nolensville is currently seeking an experienced professional to serve as finance director. This position, which reports directly to the Town Administrator, oversees a small and talented staff in the finance department and directs all accounting and financial operations of the town. The finance director oversees purchasing, accounts payable, accounting, auditing, and revenue collection services and activities. In addition, the finance director performs a variety of professional level financial management responsibilities including analysis, preparation, and maintenance of the annual budget, financial records, statements, and reports with significant responsibility

and interaction regarding the annual financial audit. The ideal candidate will have a broad based knowledge of governmental accounting and methods of financial control and reporting as well as outstanding organizational skills and a focus on timely delivery of reports and projects. The position requires any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with major course work in Accounting, Business Administration, or related field (CPA or advanced degree preferred with consideration given for TN CMFO designation), with six years of progressively responsible experience in governmental accounting, auditing, or related areas and experience in a supervisory capacity of accounting functions and personnel. Previous experience as a local government finance director or assistant finance director or equivalent is preferred. Salary Range: \$51,876-\$70,185 (starting salary is DOQ) and a very attractive benefits package. Interested parties can apply by emailing resumes to the Town Administrator, [kmclawhon@nolensvilletn.gov](mailto:kmclawhon@nolensvilletn.gov). Questions should be directed to Ken McLawhon at 615-776-6693.

### MECHANIC

LA VERGNE. The city of La Vergne is accepting employment applications for a full-time mechanic in the Public Works Department. Rate of pay is \$16.94 hourly. Performs semi-skilled, skilled, and administrative work in maintaining the vehicles and mechanical equipment of the department. Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Certification is a plus. Works under the direction and close supervision of the public works manager. Job qualifications include: graduation from high school diploma or GED equivalent is required; specialized training in mechanics, maintenance management, or a closely related field required; three years of related experience required; current/valid Tennessee driver's license is required; safe driving Record required.; and current/valid CDL is preferred. Please visit our website, [www.lavergne-tn.gov](http://www.lavergne-tn.gov), to review the job posting and complete an online employment application for consideration for this position. Open until filled. The city of La Vergne is an EOE / drug-free workplace. All candidates selected for any job opening must pass a physical exam and a drug screen before starting the job.

### PLANNER / SR. PLANNER

MORRISTOWN. The city of Morristown is now accepting applications to fill one position, either for planner or senior planner, depending on qualifications. Planner is classified at level 11 (\$17.41 hour) and senior planner is classified at level 15 (\$20.95) on the city's salary schedule. Planner essential duties and responsibilities include the following yet other duties may be assigned: assists with the development of current, long-range, transportation, community development and/or other planning activities. Provides assistance and development information to the public. Assists in the staff support to various boards and commissions. Senior planner essential duties and responsibilities include the following: interprets Federal and/or local regulations and ordinances. Analyzes and summarizes existing conditions, derives conclusions, makes recommendations and develops projections such as for population trends, etc. Prepares reports and supports graphic display materials descriptive of research and recommendations. Explains planning

problems and procedures to the general public on inquiry. Complete job description and qualifications can be obtained from the city's website. Applications may be obtained from the Human Resources Department on the second floor of City Center, or on the city's website at [www.mymorristown.com](http://www.mymorristown.com). Applications will be taken until position is filled. Send completed applications to: City of Morristown, Attn: Human Resources - Planner, P.O. Box 1499, Morristown, TN 37816-1499. It is the policy of the city of Morristown not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability in its hiring and employment practices, or in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services and activities.

### 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 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](http://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](mailto:cm@fairview-tn.org). The city of Fairview is an equal opportunity employer. Applications are subject to disclosure.

### PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST

COLLIERVILLE. The purpose of this classification is to perform skilled technical work in the procurement of a variety of materials, equipment, and supplies in accordance with prescribed purchasing regulations and procedures for the town of Collierville and to coordinate documentation covering contractual obligations between the Town of Collierville and various vendors, contractors, and services providers. Requires an associate's degree with major coursework in business administration, public administration or a closely related field; supplemented by four 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. Proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel are required. Requires a valid Motor Vehicle Operators License Salary: DOQ with Excellent Benefits Package. Open until filled. Full job descriptions are available upon request. Call 901-457-2296. 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. EOE/ Drug Free Workplace.

### PROCUREMENT TECHNICIAN

COLLIERVILLE. The purpose of this classification is to perform entry level to intermediate technical work in procurement of a variety of materials, equipment, and supplies in accordance

with prescribed purchasing regulations and procedures for the town of Collierville. Requires a high school diploma or GED; supplemented by college level coursework in Business Administration, Public Administration or a closely related field; Associate's degree preferred; 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: DOQ with Excellent Benefits Package. Open until filled. Full job descriptions are available upon request. Call 901-457-2296. 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. EOE/ Drug-Free Workplace.

### TRANSPORTATION PROJECT MANAGER

MT. JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet is seeking a candidate for a full-time transportation project manager in the Public Works Department. A detailed job description and requirements are available online. Applications must be filed electronically and are available at the city's website, [www.mtjuliet-tn.gov](http://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov). The city will accept electronic applications until positions are filled. The city of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions regarding the electronic application process, please call (615) 754-2552. EOE/Drug-free Workplace

### WATER / UTILITIES MANAGER

WARTRACE. The town of Wartrace is looking for a Water and Utilities Manager to supervise the overall operations of Wartrace Waterworks and Sewer Systems and the Public Works Department. Responsible for proper operation, maintenance, reporting, collection, treatment, distribution and/or disposal of water and wastewater. Maintenance of city fleet, equipment, streets, storm water drains, city owned buildings, and parks. Supervises three employees. Prefer four or more years of experience and State of Tennessee Grade 1 Water Distribution, Grade 1 Wastewater Treatment and Grade 1 Wastewater Collection Certifications. Valid Tennessee Driver's License and valid Tennessee CDL License or ability to obtain within 6 months. All licenses will be verified. Experience with Telemetry and SCADA Systems, administrative and supervisory skills, experience with operation of heavy equipment: Backhoe, Skid Loader, etc. Knowledge of safety requirements and precautions. Finalist must pass a background check and drug test prior to employment. Work hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 am. - 4:00 p.m. (subject to change). Some overtime required (on call hours), some weekends. Employment applications available online at [www.townofwartrace.com](http://www.townofwartrace.com) or mail resume to Town of Wartrace, P.O. Box 158, Wartrace, TN 37183.

### WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATOR

WARTRACE. The town of Wartrace is looking for a Water/Wastewater Operator. Experience required, wastewater distribution license helpful. Must be able to lift up to 70 pounds. Valid driver's license required, CDL helpful. All licenses verified prior to employment. Must pass drug screening prior to employment. Work hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. (subject to change). Some overtime required (on call hours), some weekends. Employment applications available online at [www.townofwartrace.com](http://www.townofwartrace.com) or mail resume to Town of Wartrace, P.O. Box 158, Wartrace, TN 37183



## TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

### 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](http://rhythmn-bloomsfest.com).

### April 11-15: Gatlinburg

*67th Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in the Smokies.*

The annual five-day event in Great Smoky Mountains National Park offers professionally guided programs which explore the region's rich wildflowers, wildlife, ecology, culture, and natural history through walks, motorcades, photographic tours, art classes, and evening seminars. Most programs are outdoors in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. All programs are held, rain or shine. This is a great time to observe how the wilderness recovers from fire damage. Gatlinburg needs your business. The 67th Wildflower Pilgrimage offers visitors a unique experience this year. Come see the first stage of the Park's recovery and show your support for Gatlinburg. To keep up with the latest updates from the 67th Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, like us on Facebook. To register go to <https://utconferences.eventsair.com/67th-spring-wildflower-pilgrimage/landing/Site/Register>

### April 22- 29: Paris

*The World's Biggest Fish Fry* A premier event for Paris - Henry County and West Tennessee, the whole festival revolves around the "Fish Tent" where by last account over 12,500 pounds of catfish is served with all the trimmings. In addition to all you can eat catfish you will find parades, carnival, rodeos, catfish races, dances, arts and crafts to name a few. The Grand Parade will be held on Friday, April 28, at 10 a.m. For more information go to <http://paristnchamber.com/fish-fry-information> or email: [worldsbiggestfishfry@gmail.com](mailto:worldsbiggestfishfry@gmail.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/>.

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# Generation Z wants a job. Are you ready to hire them?

BY KATHERINE BARRETT & RICHARD GREENE  
*Governing Magazine*

Move over, millennials. Generation Z — sometimes called post-millennials, the iGeneration or plurals, to name a few — is starting to enter the workforce. As they do, it would be wise for public-sector leaders to understand the differences they may bring to recruiting, hiring, training and managing.

The earliest of Generation Z was born in the mid-1990s. They don't have solid memories of 9/11; they witnessed the Great Recession at a formative age — many seeing the devastating impact it had on their parents; and they have lived immersed in social media and rapid-fire technological communication.

While generalizations about generations must be used with caution, studies show that Gen Zers may present a different set of

challenges and opportunities than their predecessors.

One of the biggest differences — possibly because they grew up during an economic downturn — is that Gen Zers have a heightened desire for job security and lower expectations for quick advancement than millennials, says Jason Dorsy, co-founder and lead millennial and Gen Z researcher at the Center for Generational Kinetics. "Their attitude is 'I'll take whatever job you have, just give me a chance.'"

That may also be because Gen Zers are less likely to have work experience than previous generations and thus may be more eager to get their foot in the door anywhere. This phenomenon, however, also applies to millennials. The number of 16- to 19-year-olds holding summer jobs has fluctuated with the economy, but before 1990, it almost never dipped below 46 percent, according to the Pew Research Center. Since then, there has been a steady decline in the portion

of employed teens, and the rate has hovered around 30 percent in the last few years.

Getting back to the differences between Gen Zers and millennials, though, a 2016 survey by the consulting firm BridgeWorks shows that the younger of the two generations is more likely to plan on working at the same place for at least a decade.

"They're looking for stability," says Hannah Ubl, research director at BridgeWorks.

But while most Gen Zers appear to appreciate the reliability of a steady paycheck, they also value flexibility. After all, they grew up with the ability to connect with friends, students and teachers at all hours of the day and night.

Cherrie Clark, a management professor at Vanderbilt University who has done extensive research on the topic, believes they might have more trouble with a 9 to 5 regimen and rules that prohibit personal breaks during the day.

"That's going to be a big challenge to government organizations."

But where there are challenges, there can be opportunities.

Generation Z wants to make a difference. According to a not-yet-published study from Dorsy's company, 72 percent say it's important that they have a positive impact on the world. That compares to 68 percent for millennials, 64 percent for Gen Xers and 63 percent for boomers.

"That plays very well with state and local government," says Dorsy.

Even when it comes to technology, which this generation relies on more than any other, there are reasons to be encouraged. In the BridgeWorks survey, 74 percent of Gen Zers — compared to just 50 percent of older millennials and 65 percent of younger millennials — said their generation struggles with in-person communication. However, Ubl says her research also reveals that members of Generation Z tend to be self-aware of their flaws and are "open to training."

But their relationship with technology may change how they should be trained. Because they grew up more prone to Snapchatting than texting, they tend to be more visual learners and are extremely comfortable with self-directed online learning, says Dorsy.

Of course, generational characterizations also need to be considered within a much broader context. There are plenty of other factors that affect a person. Perhaps the most important advice to employers is from Vanderbilt's Clark: "Every person wants to be considered as an individual. They don't want to be lumped with a generation. There's some Gen Zers who act like baby boomers and some baby boomers who act like Gen Zers."



## NATIONAL BRIEFS

**The U.S. economy added 235,000 jobs in February, surpassing economists' expectations.** According to government data, the unemployment rate ticked down to 4.7 percent, compared with 4.8 percent in January. Wages rose by 6 cents to \$26.09, following a disappointingly low 3-cent increase the month before. The Labor Department also revised its estimates for job creation in December and January, increasing the total number of jobs added to 9,000 more than previously reported.

**A proposal by the Trump Administration to cut \$190 million in funding for updating U.S. maps of flood-prone areas would trigger higher insurance rates or more homebuilding in risky locations, according to a consumer group.** The Consumer Federation of America said slashing funding

for the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) retooling of flood maps will lead to relying on old maps and construction in areas that are now flood prone, or hiking insurance premiums to pay for new maps. Costs for mapping have been shared by insurance policyholders and the federal government for the past 15 years, said a spokeswoman for the Federal Emergency Management (FEMA), which operates the flood insurance program.

**A review of U.S. infrastructure by an engineering association has given the country a D-plus.** The American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) gave the U.S. the near-failing grade, unchanged from its last report card issued in 2013. The ASCE estimated in a statement that the United States needed to invest \$4.59 trillion by 2025 to bring its infrastructure to an adequate B- grade, a figure about \$2 trillion higher than current funding levels. In its report card,

the ASCE said substandard infrastructure was costing each American family as much as \$3,400 in disposable income a year. It also noted that "after years of decline, traffic fatalities increased by 7 percent from 2014 to 2015, with 35,092 people dying on America's roads." America's water systems are leaking trillions of gallons of drinking water and more than 2,000 dams are at high risk of failure, the report said.

**The Federal Reserve has raised interest rates 0.25 points, the central bank's first rate hike since December.** Bank officials said the time was right to raise rates with inflation and unemployment close to the Fed's targets of 2 percent and roughly 4.5 percent, respectively. The Fed is likely to raise rates two to three more times before the end of the year. Interest rates have lingered at historic lows since the recession and have only been hiked twice since 2008.

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**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/>

## No loan is too large or too small



The town of Livingston recently closed a \$3 million fixed rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to finance water and sewer system improvements. Pictured are Livingston Town Clerk Phyllis Loper, TMBF representative Linda Mooningham, Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes, and Vice Mayor Bill Winningham.



The city of Humboldt recently closed a \$3,825,000 fixed rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to finance renovations and improvements to city schools. Pictured are Humboldt Mayor Marvin Sikes, TMBF representative Tommy Green, and Humboldt Treasurer Kim Hadley.



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# New Transportation Chair Doss discusses road needs, IMPROVE Act

BY LINDA BRYANT

*Rep. Barry Doss knows his numbers. The Lawrence County Republican, who has served District 70 in the State House since 2012, can swiftly rattle off the history of tax cuts under the Haslam administration. It's second nature for him to site statistics that back up an argument, especially when those numbers point to Tennessee's dramatic economic and educational improvements under the Haslam administration.*

*Doss has the demeanor of a laid back country boy. Yet, he wears many hats and juggles many tasks — from running a family farm and construction company to advocating passionately for education in rural Tennessee to teaching Sunday school at Gum Springs Baptist Church.*

*He's also a passionate advocate for battling the state's troubling opioid addiction crisis and not afraid to talk about how his own family has been touched by it.*

*In January, Doss stepped into the spotlight as the new chair of the House Transportation Committee, replacing Rep. Jimmy Matlock, R-Lenoir City. He relishes the position and hasn't been afraid to speak out in favor of the Improve Act, the Haslam administration's proposed transportation funding plan.*

*Rep. Tim Wirgau, R-Buchanan, a close colleague in the state House, believes Doss' skills as a legislator relate directly to his hard won skills as a businessman.*

*"His knowledge of running a successful business allows him to make decisions that will guide our state moving forward in a positive way," Wirgau said. "The people of the 70th District have definitely chosen a great person to represent them in Nashville."*

*Jim Brown, state director of National Federation of Small Businesses (NFIB), praised Doss recently when presenting him with the organization's prestigious Guardian of Small Business award.*

*"Barry Doss is a very strong supporter of small business and great voice for free enterprise," Brown said. "He understands labor and workforce issues especially well, since he owns and operates a small business. NFIB's members appreciate his principled, civil approach, which makes him highly effective in Nashville."*

**TT&C: You are from Lawrence County and have owned your own contracting company, Doss Brothers Inc, since 1983. Tell us about your background, family and a little about being a small business owner.**

**BD:** I am a third-generation Lawrence County resident. Other than going to the University of Tennessee, I've never lived anywhere other than the little dead end road I live on in southern Lawrence County in a little unincorporated town called Leoma. I come from a family of farmers. My dad, brother, and I own Doss Brothers Farms. We raise commercial beef cattle. I've lived on the farm my entire life and so do my children. My sister and brother live there, too.

I graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree in animal science and business. I am the first person on my side of the family who graduated from a four-year institution. After working on a master's degree for a year, I came home to be a part of the family business with my brother and my dad. God has blessed me tremendously since then. We went 20 consecutive years, from 1987 to 2007, with 15 percent growth or more. Then the crash came. It was tough times, and 2009 and 2011 were especially rough. But we hung on. The past two years, 2014-2016, have been the best years in our history.

I married in 1996, which will be 21 years in June. My wife had two children, and we had two kids together. My oldest son and his wife had some prescription drug problems. Seven years ago, he was on his way home one day and was killed in a car wreck. Since their mother was addicted to pain pills, I asked the court for custody of their two children. She didn't fight it, so now I'm raising two grandkids, ages 11 and 8. My youngest stepson is married and has two kids. My youngest son is a first year sophomore at University of Tennessee, and my daughter is high school junior.

**TT&C: You are a longtime small business owner and continue to be despite your job as a legislator. Why did you decide to run for public office?**

**BD:** Starting in 1998, I served one term as a county commissioner. I learned so much about government and how it works. I didn't want to be a part of the problem; I wanted to be a part of the solution. We did awesome things in Lawrence County from 1998 to 2002. We expanded our college. We had a \$5 million road program that covered 575 miles of dirt road with hard surface. By now those roads are worn out; they need to be fixed again. I now serve about 65,000 people in Lawrence and Giles counties, both very large geographical areas. By comparison, Williamson County has three state representatives and a senator all within one county.

**TT&C: You have been very involved in education efforts and have championed efforts to bring a four-year college to your region. Can you talk about the highlights of this process?**



Rep. Barry Doss, House Transportation Committee Chairman

**"There are three main components to having a thriving and growing economy here in Tennessee — education, infrastructure and tax rates. If we can continue to lower taxes, improve education and upgrade our infrastructure, we are going to have a thriving economy."**

**BD:** Southern Middle Tennessee is the only area in the entire state that's drastically under-served when it comes to easy access to four-year institutions. Middle Tennessee State University is the closest to us in Nashville. Most students in Tennessee have to drive 30-45 minutes to get to a four-year college. Most of Lawrence and Giles County have to drive 90 minutes to two hours.

Now, for the first time, Tennessee Technological University is offering classes this fall in Lawrence County, and we are also in negotiations with MTSU about offering classes. We could soon have TCAT, Columbia State, MTSU, and Tennessee Tech all on one campus. We're about 30 to 45 days away from acquiring the land to build a campus for this project. Our county has already voted and approved \$1.5 million to put into this project. Lawrenceburg is getting ready to adopt a resolution to put \$1.5 million into it. Our utilities system is going to put \$1.5 million into the project, and we are going to raise \$1.5 million of private money. We hope to get some state money to help, but it will be far less than what our community is giving. I've worked five years on this project. It's my legacy and will be my crowning achievement.

**TT&C: In January you were appointed chair of the House Transportation Committee. What makes you a good fit for this powerful position?**

**BD:** I want good roads in Tennessee. My background is in infrastructure. I'm a general contractor back home, where I build commercial buildings. I've been very involved in my own county when it comes to infrastructure. I'm also in the paving and grading business. Having the background I do, I probably know as much about infrastructure and road construction as anyone up here. Last year I was so passionate about helping our rural counties that I was able to get \$42 million shifted to county governments, money that went directly for infrastructure. It was distributed equally among all the counties. I had 80 co-sponsors from both sides of the isle for that legislation.

**TT&C: You have been involved in supporting improvements to the roads in Southern Middle Tennessee. Why are roads so important in your region?**

**BD:** Highway 64 is finally about to be completed — and it's paid for. From Chattanooga to Memphis we now have a four-lane highway all the way through. That has really changed the outlook on Southern Middle Tennessee. In Lawrence County, we're lucky we have Highway 43 that runs from Nashville to Muscle Shoals and Florence, Ala. We now have a four-lane north and south, east and west. Giles County has Highway 64 and Highway 31 that runs from Huntsville to Nashville. We are at the crossroads of Dixie.

On a local level, our county roads are not so good. Our counties are in desperate need for infrastructure money. Lawrence County has over 1,200 miles of road. One cent on our tax rate brings in about \$60,000. Compare this to Williamson County; they have under 1,000 miles of road. One penny on their tax rate brings in \$1 million. Yet, we have more roads than they do.

Tennessee's gas tax formula — and the way it's distributed between counties — makes (distribution of road funds) equitable. The problem is the money just doesn't go far enough today. We've had dramatic inflation in the cost of building roads, yet our revenue hasn't increased nearly as fast. In 1998, it cost us \$37,000 to pave one mile of road. Today, it's \$86,000. It's almost three times as much just since 2002. Our revenue has only increased a miniscule amount compared to that.

**TT&C: You are a strong proponent of the IMPROVE Act. If passed, this legislation would increase fuel taxes by 7 cents on gasoline and 12 cents on diesel. Why do you support this legislation?**

**BD:** It's worth going over our achievements in lowering taxes before we talk about the



gas tax. There are three main components to having a thriving and growing economy here in Tennessee — education, infrastructure and tax rates. If we can continue to lower taxes, improve education and upgrade our infrastructure, we are going to have a thriving economy. We've proven that over the past five years. We've lowered taxes five consecutive years.

Five years ago, we got rid of the gift tax and inheritance tax. That was a \$110 million tax cut. The next year, we lowered the taxes on food and that was a \$25 million cut. The next year, we lowered the food tax again another quarter-percent for \$27 million. Last year, we voted on the single largest tax cut in Tennessee's history by voting out the Hall income tax — a \$300 million tax cut.

Up to this year, we have already voted in some \$500 million in tax cuts. That alone accounts for nine times more tax cuts than any administration in Tennessee's history. This year we're going to lower taxes an additional \$300 million. Add it up and we will be up to about \$700 million in tax cuts by the end of this year. That will put us at 11 times more tax cuts than any administration in state history.

Couple all this with other facts. We have not only the fastest improving education in state history, but the fastest improving education in the nation. We've gone from 45th in the nation to 25th in the nation in five years.

**TT&C: You are making the argument that prudent fiscal management has spurred strong growth, which in turn has created a more urgent need to upgrade our infrastructure. But with a surplus and money in our coffers why does the gas tax make sense?**

**BD:** In Tennessee, we've always funded our roads with a user fee. Many of us feel it's the fairest way — by far. If it wasn't the fairest way, you'd think someone would have tried to change it. Let's go back and look at the history. The last time the gas tax was increased was 1989. Since then we've gone from 13th best infrastructure in the nation to the second best — and we have zero road debt. Tennessee is the lowest cost producer of new roads in the nation. We are very efficient.

The reason most of us want to keep the user fee is because (it ensures that) everyone who uses the roads, pays for the roads. If you only drive 3,000 miles a year you don't pay a lot of fuel tax. If you travel constantly and put on 40,000 miles a year, you pay your fair share — and rightly so. Think about it. There are a lot of retired people who don't do a lot of traveling. They get up every morning and go to the local McDonald's or Hardee's, and then they go home. They shouldn't be saddled with the burden of our roads. Plus, they already pay a lot of sales tax.

Let's look at the diesel side of the issue. Fifty-two percent of all the diesel tax in Tennessee is paid for by people outside of the state. Why do you think Gov. Bill Haslam has proposed raising the diesel tax 12 cents as opposed to 7 cents? First, diesel tax is currently 3 cents cheaper than gas. There was some argument to raise it 3 cents, but Gov. Haslam wants to raise it even more. That's because 52 percent of our diesel taxes are paid for by out of state trucking companies.

**TT&C: Why can't our roads be paid for by other taxes?**

**BD:** Some here on The Hill are advocating for sales tax dollars to be used for infrastructure. That means you and I would be subsidizing all those trucks coming from California to New York. By the way, 38 other states fund their roads with the user fee, and the federal government funds its roads with the user fee.

We've really got two issues. Infrastructure needs new funding. It's our duty to increase that funding. The other issue: Our economy is growing fast because we've cut taxes. We've kept our infrastructure at a very high level. This year we have over a \$1 billion surplus in recurring money. Every year we've had a surplus we've cut taxes. We intend to cut taxes again this year, and

because we have the largest budget surplus, we are going to have the largest tax cut to date. Also, we've put a record number of new dollars in K-12 education. We have the second best retirement system in the nation. Our teachers and state employees are going to get a raise. We are putting another \$110 million in K-12 education. And we're going to lower taxes \$300 million this year.

No one wants to see taxes go up, myself included. But we have to face reality. Our state's infrastructure needs more money, and the user fee is the fairest way to do it. We have to have the courage to say we're going to do what needs to be done. We also need to have the courage to say we're going to cut government; we're going to cut out regulation and waste.

**TT&C: Many anticipate the IMPROVE Act will be altered as it makes its way through the legislative process. What's your prediction?**

**BD:** I predict that the Improve Act will eventually pass. It will probably be amended and look somewhat different because Gov. Haslam knows, as I do, that this is a process. We have 99 state house members and 33 senators who, working as a team, are going to come up with what they feel is the best for our state. Specifically, I can tell you I don't think we'll have indexing. Indexing means the gas tax automatically goes up based on our economy. That's because most of us feel user fees should only go up until it's absolutely necessary — not automatically. We don't want to put a perpetual increase on anyone so we're going to raise it to the level we know needs to be done now. We fully expect future legislators to do their job when that time comes.

Secondly, I also think there will be more tax cuts than what the governor has proposed. I applaud his plan because he's trying to make us very healthy in the future. But many feel there's enough surplus for us to make even more tax cuts.

**TT&C: Do you have any sponsored legislation or particular issues that are very important to you?**

**BD:** I am passionate about tackling the issue of prescription drug abuse. Pain pill addiction crosses every boundary — gender, race, creed and socioeconomic. The United States is five percent of the world's population, but we consume 98.5 percent of the world's production of pain pills. I've had family members who've been addicted to pain pills. It's the No. 1 killer in our state; the No. 1 cause of incarceration, arrests, divorce, DUIs and bankruptcy.

Just about every bad thing that happens in our society is linked to prescription drug abuse. We have to get on top of it, and we're making strides. In fact, we went 12 consecutive years up until 2014 with at least 10 percent growth or more with this problem. But we've passed some really strong legislation in the past five years. In 2014, we saw a 4 percent decrease; in 2015, a 12 percent decrease; and in 2016, another 12 percent decrease. We hope it's even more this year.

I'm a Sunday school teacher back home. One Sunday a 70-year-old man walked across the floor and said, "My back is hurting; I wish I had a Lortab." Three people spoke up and said, "I've got one, you want one?" We think of this kind of thing as legal and safe medicine. It is not. It is dangerous medicine. What would you do if I came up to you after Sunday school and said, "I'm tired and sleepy, I wish I had a snort of cocaine?" What do you think the reaction would be? Today opioids are killing five times more people than cocaine — and we accept it. We have to change the culture to vilify opioids just like we have vilified heroin and cocaine.

**TT&C: What do you see as Tennessee's biggest challenges?**

**BD:** Other than prescription drug abuse, the biggest challenge in the future is continuing to improve our education. Health care in a tremendous problem that can't be solved without the help of the federal government. The one thing the feds could do is to provide block grant money (for health care) to the states. Look at Tennessee and see how well we've managed our government, even health care. Do you know that TennCare is about 22 percent more efficient than Medicaid? Our state manages health care better than the federal government. Cities and counties can probably handle things even better than we can. That's why we send money down to the local level for infrastructure.

We have spent the last 30 years talking about how to get everyone health insurance. I believe that's the wrong debate. Why aren't we talking about how to get health care costs down? We've sat back for the past 30 years and let healthcare costs get so out of whack. Guess why we keep saying everybody needs health insurance? It's because nobody can afford health care. We've ignored the problem and its runaway costs.

**TT&C: Who are your strongest mentors?**

**BD:** My Lord and savior first. After that my wonderful wife and children. Here in the legislature I have a lot of friends. I've known Rep. Pat Marsh, R-Shelbyville, for 40 years. I have looked up to him and watched his tenure. There are 8 to 10 state reps here who have become close friends. I'm blessed.