

2011 CHAMBER MEMBER OPINION POLL

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! HELP US TAKE YOUR MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

Please take a moment to assist us with your opinions. We will use your responses to help develop the Chamber's 2011 Federal Policy that will be communicated to our congressional delegation on your behalf. Listed below are 14 major business issues.

Please **CIRCLE** only the **TOP FIVE** issues that are VERY IMPORTANT TO YOU AND/OR THAT AFFECT YOU DIRECTLY. (Place an X through any that you disagree with).

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM & RETURN VIA EMAIL TO kimfarguhar@shreveportchamber.org or by FAX (677-2541) BEFORE THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON **Wednesday, FEBRUARY 2, 2011.**



Federal Issues Survey

1. **HEALTH CARE REFORM thru MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM** by supporting caps on punitive damages, and other medical liability reforms that ensure fair damage awards, eliminate frivolous lawsuits, and lower costs to providers and patients alike.
2. **HEALTH CARE REFORM by allowing Purchasing Plans across state lines:** Individuals and small businesses should be allowed to purchase health plans that are not subject to onerous state mandates. The U. S. Chamber of Commerce tells us that the CBO says that this will lower costs while improving choice.
3. **HEALTH CARE REFORM thru Support for Small Business Health Plans** which will allow businesses to freely pool together and negotiate with health insurers will lower costs for government and businesses while improving choice and competition.
4. **HEALTH CARE REFORM thru Payment Reform:** Congress should make it easier for employers and insurers to create insurance plans that pay for quality, not quantity, and reward doctors for keeping patients healthy.
5. **HEALTH CARE REFORM by eliminating fraud & abuse:** Medicare and Medicaid fraud is running rampant and costing the taxpayers tens of billions of dollars every year. A broad array of countermeasures should be enacted immediately.
6. **ADOPT A PRO-GROWTH TAX AGENDA by preventing a complete rollback of the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts.**
7. **ADOPT A PRO-GROWTH TAX AGENDA by Reducing the Budget Deficit** through higher economic growth, spending restraint, and entitlement reform, not higher taxes.
8. **ADOPT A PRO-GROWTH TAX AGENDA by Eliminating** or through substantially reform—the **alternative minimum tax (AMT)** to protect a growing number of individuals and businesses, including many middle-class Americans.
9. **ADOPT A PRO-GROWTH TAX AGENDA by Retooling the corporate tax structure** to reduce what is one of the highest marginal corporate income tax rates in the developed world. Reducing corporate tax rates will stimulate economic recovery and attract foreign and domestic investment, which will create American jobs.
10. **PROTECT JOBS & A PRO-BUSINESS WORK ENVIRONMENT by Opposing efforts to revive the “Employee Free Choice Act”** which would make union organizing easier by abolishing the secret ballot. (This is also known as the “Card Check” legislation).
11. **PROTECT JOBS & A PRO-BUSINESS WORK ENVIRONMENT by supporting fair workplace rules that protect workers and promote employer flexibility and economic growth** and opposes harmful proposals and burdensome regulations that generate litigation instead of jobs.
12. **SUPPORT FEDERAL HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE construction especially the completion of Interstate 49** from I-220 to the Arkansas State line. (Governor Jindal just announced state funding for another 4.25 miles - Section J! All we need now is funding for ONE MORE MILE - Section K).
13. **SUPPORT FEDERAL HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE by the swift reauthorization of the federal highway and transit programs (SAFETEA-LU)**, with increased user fee-based funding and a new federal role that focuses on national interests, accountability, and project delivery reforms.
14. ARE THERE ANY MAJOR **BUSINESS ISSUES**, NOT LISTED ABOVE, THAT WILL BE CONSIDERED BY CONGRESS IN WASHINGTON D.C., THAT YOU THINK SHOULD BE A CHAMBER PRIORITY? *IF SO, PLEASE LIST AND BE SPECIFIC IN DETAILS:*
