



The Republican Caucus

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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House GOP Unveils 2009 Agenda

COLUMBIA – The House Republican Caucus unveiled its 2009 legislative agenda this morning, setting the stage for a legislative session focused on job creation and government efficiency.

“This is a challenging time for our state and, as legislators, we need to do everything we can to make sure government is helping and serving,” said Majority Leader Kenny Bingham. “By reducing red tape for businesses, capping government spending, and reforming our tax code, we are trying to make government work better and more efficiently for all South Carolinians.”

The agenda items are:

- **Growing South Carolina’s Economy**
- **Education Funding Reform**
- **Tax Reform**
- **Spending Limits**
- **Improve our Roads and Bridges**
- **S.C. Secure Election Act**
- **Environment and Energy Independence**

“Addressing the growing concerns of the past year, this agenda is a crucial roadmap to success our Caucus has put forward,” said House Speaker Bobby Harrell. “Our extensive efforts in drafting this agenda were geared toward creating a more successful and sustainable state for our children to inherit. Focusing on these items will help create an environment that will improve our economic climate, allow businesses to grow, enable the private sector to create the jobs our citizens need and help secure South Carolina’s future for years to come.”

The House Republicans, led by Speaker Harrell, and newly-elected Majority Leader Bingham, made the announcement on the South steps of the State House.

Legislation to enact these seven items will be filed within the first few weeks of session.

“A couple of these items – notably the spending limits legislation and improving our roads and bridges – have been on our agendas for several years,” said Assistant Majority Leader Bruce Bannister. “The House Republicans believe these are critical pieces of legislation for our state and we will continue to support them until they are law.”

The South Carolina House Republican Caucus is the association of all 71 Republican members of the state House of Representatives. In previous years, South Carolina’s most important legislative achievements have started in the House Republican Caucus agendas, including property tax reform, tort reform, campaign finance reform, the creation of charter schools, illegal immigration reform and workers’ compensation reform, among many others.

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House of Representatives State of South Carolina

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2009 House Republican Caucus Agenda

Growing South Carolina's Economy

Unemployment is at historic highs, and our focus must be on creating a business climate that sustains existing jobs and creates new jobs. Small businesses drive our state's economy and government should help – not hurt – the businesses that represent 95 percent of our state's jobs. The House Republican Caucus will work with the Department of Commerce, business groups and business owners to eliminate the unneeded bureaucratic red tape that hinders business growth.

- Small Business Red Tape Reduction Bill
- Obtain for Commerce needed data from Employment Security Commission to help unemployed find work

Education Funding Reform

Untouched for over 30 years, the jumble of formulas used to determine education funding is outdated, inefficient and is hindering student achievement. The Republican Caucus will work to ensure state resources are making it into the classroom – resulting in a better educational system for all children.

- Education Funding Study Committee's recommendations on reforming the education funding system

Tax Reform

Our state has more than a billion dollars in sales tax exemptions that have long outlived their goals. The Republican Caucus will work to improve our state's overall tax structure.

- Create a Commission for Tax Reform to stabilize our tax structure and eliminate outdated exemptions

Spending Limits

Capping government spending will insulate future budgets from difficult budget cuts. The Republican Caucus has approved spending limits five times in the past decade and will again fight to enact them.

- Enact a spending cap that limits government spending increases to population growth plus inflation

Improve Our Roads and Bridges

Our roads and bridges need a dedicated, dependable source of funding. The Republican Caucus will work to devote an existing stream of revenue to improving our state's infrastructure and road safety.

- Dedicate \$100 million in sales tax on cars to improving roads and bridges

S.C. Secure Election Act

The Republican Caucus will ensure all South Carolinians can participate in a fair election process.

- Establish an early voting period to eliminate illegal in-person absentee fraud
- Incorporate S.C. Photo IDs in voting process to eliminate fraudulent voting
- Stop double voting by fusion ballot candidates

Environment & Energy Independence

To decrease our independence on foreign oil, the Republican Caucus will work to promote the use of alternative fuels and allow our state to benefit from our natural resources while at the same time ensuring the protection of our environment.

- Support environmentally safe offshore drilling for South Carolina
- Continue to support the advancement of alternative fuel capabilities



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Growing South Carolina's Economy

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Chairman, Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee
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Education Funding Reform

Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-Clinton
Chairman, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
(803) 734-3022

Tax Reform

Rep. Dan Cooper, R-Piedmont
Chairman, Ways and Means Committee
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Spending Limits

Rep. Garry Smith, R-Simpsonville
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Improve Our Roads and Bridges

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S.C. Secure Election Act

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Rep. Alan Clemmons, R-Myrtle Beach
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Environment & Energy Independence

Rep. Michael Thompson
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