

TENNESSEE COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
ASSOCIATION

DAVID CONNOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TCCA News

Contact Us:

TCCA
226 Capitol Boulevard Bldg
Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37219-1896

Office: 615.532.3767
Fax: 615.532.3769
Cell: 615.440.3959

tcca.connor@tncounties.org
tcsa.himes@tncounties.org

TCCA Board of Directors

- James Westbrook, President
- Troy Beets, President-Elect
- Houston Naron, Treasurer
- Mureleane Steinbuck, Sec.
- Ronnie Raper
- Scott Gillenwaters
- James "Buddy" King
- Ann Bankston
- Richard Medley
- Bob Barnwell
- Paul Mathenia
- Alan Burchfiel
- Charles Byrd
- Warren Mackey
- Thomas "Tank" Strickland
- Jim Forkum
- Steve Mulroy
- Ralph Puckett
- John Salmon
- Johnnie Wheeler
- Phil King
- Wallace Austin
- Greg Adkins
- Johnny Joe Dower
- James Whitehorn

Volume 2, Issue 4

May 14, 2010

Disaster Recovery Information

In the first week after the May floods, more than \$28 million in federal funds were approved to help disaster-affected Tennesseans with temporary housing, home repairs, and other needs through FEMA and state disaster programs. It was also reported earlier this week that nearly 18,000 people in the 42 designated counties have registered with FEMA for Individual Assistance. The following contact information is being made available for you to pass on to your constituents that may be affected to assist them with recovery.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated counties can begin applying for assistance by registering online at www.fema.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). In general, FEMA reports people should begin receiving assistance 5-10 days after completing the application. FEMA officials stressed in a conference call earlier this week that registration is the first step in the disaster recovery process. Emergency management officials also passed on some information designed to help protect the public from scams in the wake of the flooding. The public is reminded that legitimate FEMA staff won't show up unannounced or ask for personal information, such as a Social Security number, or request payment at the time of the inspection. Never hesitate to ask someone who says they represent FEMA or another federal or state agency to show proper identification. Legitimate FEMA representatives set up appointments with flood victims before showing up to homes, and have personal data related to the homeowner. Whether residents have flood coverage or not, they should contact both their homeowners insurance carrier and FEMA. It is critical when applying for assistance to give the address where you lived when the flooding happened – not necessarily where you currently reside — so that the FEMA inspector can locate you to verify the damage.

Once again, those affected by the disaster can register online at www.fema.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA(3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice.

For other information you can visit <http://www.tennesseeanytime.org/gov/flood-help/>, www.fema.gov, and www.tnema.org. These links and other information are being added to our website as they become available, so I encourage you to check there frequently for updates. Also, the Tennessee Chapter of the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) has set up a webpage to post links and information about disaster recovery. Some aspects of disaster recovery are managed at the federal level by the Small Business Administration. These include certain loan programs for homeowners that are not business related. For the NFIB website, go to <http://www.nfib.com/tabid/598/Default.aspx?cmsid=51482>

For more information about the disaster declaration process, the link below connects you to a document on the FEMA website that describes the process and the types of assistance available from FEMA. The assistance falls into three general categories: Individual Assistance, Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Assistance. The document provides an overview of each of the programs. http://www.fema.gov/pdf/rebuild/recover/dec_proc.pdf

Also, the Tennessee Housing Development Agency is promoting its Housing Search Website as a way to help the many Tennesseans who have been displaced from their homes. To help these displaced residents find housing quickly, the THDA is urging all property providers to list available rental housing on the free, statewide housing locator service www.TNHousingSearch.org as soon as possible. If you hear of constituents in your county who are searching for available housing, you may wish to refer them to this listing to assist in locating rental property.

May 14, 2010

State Revenue Collection – Bad News, then Finally Some Good News

In the month of March, Tennessee revenue collections continued to fall short of budgeted estimates. However, in April, this trend finally reversed itself after almost two years of negative revenue collections. For March, state revenues were \$776.5 million, which is \$11.7 million less than budgeted. "Sales tax collections seem to reflect a degree of renewed consumer confidence, but revenues continue to lag below projections", said Finance and Administration Commissioner Dave Goetz at that time. The general fund was under collected by \$205.0 million and the four other funds were under collected by \$39.1 million. Sales tax collections were \$14.0 million less than the estimate for March, and the growth rate was negative 0.87%. At that point, the year-to-date growth rate for eight months was negative 5.29%. The budgeted revenue estimates for 2009-2010 are based on the State Funding Board's consensus recommendation adopted by the first session of the 106th General Assembly in May of 2009, and are available on the state's Web site at www.tn.gov/finance/bud/budget.html. To view the full report for March, you can visit the TCCA web-site at www.tnccommissioners.org or [click here](#).



On to the good news. Tennessee revenue collections improved in April with a net positive growth of 2.23% over April collections one year ago. Commissioner Goetz reported that overall April revenues were \$1.243 billion, which is \$43.4 million more than the state budgeted. "April is the first positive sales tax growth month in almost two years - since May of 2008," Goetz said. "Sales tax collections started their downward spiral starting in January of that year and, beginning with the month of June, recorded an unprecedented 22 consecutive months of negative collections." The general fund was over collected in April by \$51.4 million, and the four other funds were under collected by \$8.0 million. Sales tax collections were \$9.7 million more than the budgeted estimate for April. The April growth rate was positive 5.62%. For nine months of the fiscal year, revenues are under collected by \$201.8 million. The year-to-date growth rate for nine months was negative 4.11%, over a full percent improvement over the 8 month rate. For more details on the April collections, go to <http://tennessee.gov/finance/newsrel/051210AprilRev.shtml>

Tennessee Crime Statistics Available On-Line

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation has a collection of crime statistics available on line for the public. If you are interested, you can find this information at <http://www.tnccrimeonline.com/>

The database includes four major categories: crime data, arrest data, victim data and property and drug crime data. You can examine statistics within these categories related to the type of offense, jurisdiction where it occurred, time and day of the week of the crime and many other factors.



Annual Legislative Conference in Sevier County

The state legislature's finance committee chairs have each agreed to speak during this year's Legislative Conference in Sevier County (Gatlinburg) scheduled for June 8-9 at the Glenstone Lodge. Sen. Randy McNally, chair of Senate Finance, Ways & Means, as well as Rep. Craig Fitzhugh, chair of House Finance, will be part of the conference general session on Wednesday, June 9. The pair are expected to provide a legislative overview of what is hoped to be the most recently adjourned legislative session at the time the conference is held.

County officials can expect to hear from state and TCSA leaders about how legislation passed this session of the General Assembly will impact local governments. The legislative wrap-up is always a major part of the conference. Each year more than 400 delegates attend this meeting, timed to follow the adjournment of the General Assembly. Legislative leaders are talking openly about a late-May adjournment. Central to the conference are discussions about legislation, including the state budget, directly affecting counties.

So that TCSA staff members can better plan this year's conference, please mail in your conference registration and payment to TCSA as soon as possible. The deadline to pre-register with TCSA is May 28. On-site registration will be available at an increased cost to delegates. TCSA staff is not responsible for making your reservations with the Glenstone Lodge. Instead, contact the hotel directly by calling 1-(800)-362-9522.

For more information about the conference, refer to the TCSA website at www.tnccounties.org or contact TCSA by calling (615) 532-3767.

