

TENNESSEE COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
ASSOCIATION

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TCCA News

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Regional Meetings About to Begin

The TCCA annual regional dinner meetings are about to begin. These meetings, held across the state, usually run a couple of hours and provide an opportunity for our membership to gather and discuss what happened this year, look forward to the issues of the next legislative session and focus on emerging issues impacting counties. All meetings begin with a meal served at 6:30 p.m. local time, provided by the association. Folks usually ar-

rive a little earlier to network and socialize. The dates and locations for these meetings are listed below. State legislators are also invited to these meetings and we have heard from several that are planning to attend. This is an excellent time for them to hear the views of county government officials from their district. We will also hear a brief presentation from the staff of the TN State Collaborative on Reforming Education. This initiative,

organized by former Senator Bill Frist, is examining both the strengths and challenges to K-12 education in Tennessee in hopes of reporting on those areas where Tennessee schools are excelling and identifying reforms that can provide the most improvement for our schools. I hope to see you at one of these regional meetings. If you can, please let our office know if you plan to attend. This helps us with planning. [To register online, click here](#)

Regional Meeting Schedule

8/25: Volunteer State Community College

8/27: Paris Landing State Park

9/01: Jonesborough Visitors Center

9/02: Knoxville City County Building

9/03: Leslie Towne Center, Cookeville

9/08: UT Ag Extension Building, Jackson

9/10: Holiday Inn Mountain View, Cleveland

9/17: Henry Horton State Park

New Loan Program for School Construction

Notice was distributed July 30th by the State Comptroller's Office that the Tennessee State School Bond Authority (TSSBA) has approved a new program that will provide low- or no-interest loans of up to \$20 million for school systems to build new schools or to rehabilitate or repair existing ones. These loans will be made from the proceeds of Qualified School Construction Bonds issued by the TSSBA. These bonds were created by

the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The total bonding authority available to Tennessee for 2009 is \$184.6 million. Other than a portion of the funds which have been allocated to Memphis and Nashville, eligibility is not dependent on size or poverty levels. The bulk of the funds are available for all other Tennessee school systems through a competitive process administered by TSSBA with assistance from the TN

Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. There is a short turn around on this process. The deadline for applications is 4:30 p.m. on **August 21, 2009**. Instructions and application criteria are available on the TCCA website. It is expected that applications will be reviewed and approved in September with the bonds sold the last week in October. For more information on this program, [click here](#).



CTAS Summarizes the 2009 Legislative Session

Every year, the legal staff at the UT County Technical Assistance Service summarizes all legislation (both public and private acts) that relates to county government. This material

is compiled into a publication called the Index of Acts. The 2009 Index of Acts is now on the Legislative Information page of the CTAS website that can be found by clicking

[here](#). These are basic summaries intended to give county officials notice of changes in the laws that affect their offices.



Rural Technology Assistance Grants

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development has announced a program of Rural Technology Assistance Grants. These funds are to be used for programs and services that increase technology usage and/or availability in rural counties. For the pur-

pose of this program, rural counties are defined as those where all municipal populations are less than 20,000. The deadline for applications for a New Initiatives Grant Class is 4:30 p.m. **September 10, 2009**. This program will allocate \$1.5 million through competi-

tive grants for initiatives that address the expansion of broadband connectivity, decrease K-12 student to computer ratios or expand rural distance learning opportunities. More information about eligible programs, the grant review process, and funding priorities is

available. If you are interested, please contact our office at 615.532.3767 or email us at tcca.connor@tncounties.org.