

TENNESSEE
COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
ASSOCIATION

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TCCA News

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County Government Day Quickly Approaching

The 2011 County Government Day Conference is right around the corner. The conference begins on the afternoon of April 19th and concludes on the 20th. There is a TCCA membership meeting on Tuesday which will include a legislative briefing, an update on census 2010 and redistricting and presentations on using technology to save taxpayer dollars in county operations. While in town, members are encouraged to visit their senators and representatives and discuss the many important legislative initiatives affecting counties that are before the General Assembly. Wednesday begins with a TCSA breakfast and General Session, followed by a training session entitled "Business Retention and Expansion: Keeping and Growing Jobs in My Community".

This conference is also an excellent opportunity to meet with legislators, relay your concerns, and observe committee hearings. The registration fee is \$50.00 prior to April 1st. After April 1st, the registration fee is \$65.00. To register, just visit our website www.tncountycommissioners.org. If you have any questions, call Jessica at 615-532-3767.

State Revenue Report

Tennessee tax collections continued a slow upward trend in February. Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Mark Emkes announced earlier this month that overall February revenues were \$669.7 million, which is \$7.2 million more than the state budgeted. Although the over collection is modest, it's the seventh consecutive month of positive growth this fiscal year. February sales tax collections, which reflect consumer spending that occurred during January, recorded the 11th consecutive month of positive growth.

"The healthy growth rate in sales tax collections for February continues to reflect optimistic consumer confidence and clearly indicated an improving economy in Tennessee", Emkes said.

Sales tax collections were \$8.5 million more than the estimate for February. The February growth rate was a positive 4.89%. The year-to-date growth rate for seven months is positive 3.99%.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$2.4 million below the budgeted estimate of \$35.3 million. For seven months revenues are over collected by \$54.2 million. The year-to-date growth rate for seven months is 10.65%.

Gasoline and motor fuel collections for February increased by 1.72%, but were \$107,000 below the budgeted estimate of \$69.8 million. For seven months revenues are over collected by \$10.7 million.

Year-to-date collections for seven months were \$144.2 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was over collected by \$123.5 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$20.7 million.

To view the full report, visit http://tncountycommissioners.org/files/February_2011_Revenue.PDF



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Upcoming Training Opportunity: Planning & Zoning

Starting in April, a course series entitled "Planning & Zoning: Subdivision Regulation & Infrastructure" will be held across the state. This course will focus on zoning's function in implementing a land use plan; zoning adoption and amendment process; reading and interpreting a zoning map; extraterritorial zoning process; and the powers and duties of a Board of Zoning Appeals. For more information, including dates and times available visit http://tncountycommissioners.org/files/Planning_Zoning.pdf

This course is offered by the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), but is eligible for four hours of Category A or Recertification credit as part of the County Officials Certification Training Program (COCTP).

To register for a class, visit the CTAS website at www.ctas.tennessee.edu and select the "Training" tab on the left menu, then select "Classroom Training" at the top. Fill in your contact information, select the course you wish to attend and click "Submit".



New Resources on the Web of Interest to Counties

Tennessee 2010 Census Data:

This month the U.S. Census Bureau released Tennessee's data for the 2010 U.S. Census. You can access the data through by visiting <http://2010.census.gov/news/releases/operations/cb11-cn93.html>. A map showing the percentage of population change by county is available at:

http://2010.census.gov/news/pdf/cb11cn93_tn_perchange_2010map.pdf

Now that the data is available, counties will begin working through the redistricting process over the coming months. We are planning to have a brief update on the census and the redistricting process at the TCCA membership meeting at the County Government Day event in Nashville on April 19th and 20th.



Governor Haslam's Budget Available on the Internet:

Governor Haslam presented his first ever proposed state budget on March 14th. The entire budget document is available on the Internet as well as video of the speech, the text of the speech, a fact sheet and a 30 slide overview presentation which was used to present the budget to the Senate and House finance committees. These can all be accessed through <http://tn.gov/stateofthestate/media/>. The budget document itself comes in two volumes and are approximately 800 pages combined.



County Health Rankings:

A national report issued this week ranks all counties in the county for health issues. This is a joint project of the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. At www.countyhealthrankings.org you can find detailed information arranged state by state and county by county on a variety of health related issues. By clicking on an individual county, you can then see how that community scored on a number of factors.

There are two primary categories: Health Factors and Health Outcomes. A number of different individual health factors shape a community's health outcomes. The County Health Rankings model includes four types of health factors: health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic, and the physical environment. The site then compares two types of health outcomes to represent how healthy each county is: how long people live (mortality) and how healthy people feel (morbidity).

