



The Roadmap for Rural Tennessee

Growing up and still living on our family farm, I know many of the issues that face farmers and rural communities, but after touring the state, I have seen and heard first-hand how much Tennessee's rural communities are hurting. We need a concerted, consistent effort that builds for the future and reflects the fundamental values of Tennessee.

That's why we developed the Roadmap for Rural Tennessee, which is four areas I'll focus on as governor to increase opportunities in rural Tennessee and address some of the most pressing issues facing the region.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Tv0KNaXQNC>

Our plan is organized around four major calls to action:

1. **Promote the dignity of work and economic independence.** I believe it is crucial that we:
 - (a) invest early in vocational, technical and agricultural education to increase the number of high school graduates ready to work,
 - (b) strengthen work requirements for social programs to lead Tennesseans out of dependency and
 - (c) reform state licensing laws to eliminate unnecessary government regulations that create a barrier to work for our citizens.
2. **Support innovation and technology to improve economic, health, and educational opportunities.** We must:
 - (a) reduce the tax burden for small businesses to reward entrepreneurship and investment in rural communities,
 - (b) expand the availability of health care options through innovative investments in telemedicine and rural health residency incentives and

- (c) expand technology solutions to help rural schools deliver on their educational goals.

3. **Attack the epidemic of opioid abuse and addiction.** I am convinced that we should:

- (a) seek significantly stronger penalties for drug traffickers,
- (b) invest in sustainable, community-based options that give non-violent addicts a path back to society and
- (c) crack down on the taxpayer funding of addictive drugs.

4. **Strengthen our state's commitment to faith, community, and family.** It is vital to:

- (a) increase our support for civic and character education to help our schools build the next generation of productive citizens,
- (b) strengthen our support for children in need, particularly at DCS and in our juvenile justice system and
- (c) ensure that state policies are protecting and encouraging strong families and communities.