



April 22, 2022

Legislature Passes Budget

The General Assembly passed the FY22-23 \$52 billion state budget yesterday afternoon, a \$10 billion increase over last year's budget and the largest budget ever in Tennessee state history. Controversially included in the budget is the authorization of \$500 million in bonds to be used for a new domed Titans stadium. Other notable items in the budget include a recurring \$1 billion in education for public schools across Tennessee, \$250 million for road infrastructure projects, and an \$80 million allotment for a one-month moratorium on the state's sales tax on groceries in August. Additionally, investments to the state's Rainy-Day Fund bring it to its highest total ever at \$1.6 billion. There were also unanticipated budget cuts to economic and community development grant programs, including the Rural Economic Opportunity program and the fast-track incentive funding.

Specific funding numbers in the budget include:

Tax Cuts

- \$121M – License plate renewal fee removed for 1 year
- \$80M – Food sales tax holiday for August
- \$9.7M – Elimination of professional privilege tax on physicians
- \$204M – Broadband tax relief 3-year plan
- \$320K – Gun safes tax-free

Healthcare

- \$24.4M - Funding to increase DIDD DSP wages to \$13.75 an hour
- \$25M – Provider rate increases for behavioral health services
- \$5M – Funding for the adult health care safety net
- \$10M – Additional Graduate Medical Education funding
- \$10.6M – Eliminates OPTIONS waitlist for community living programs
- \$19.9M – CHOICES program providing personal care, home-delivered meals, and home services for elderly/at risk nursing homes
- \$5M – Trauma Hospital funding

Grants/Salary Investments

- \$9.7M – Department of Children's Services case managers' salary increases
- \$5M – Children Advocacy Centers for child abuse victims
- \$4.2M – Increase in human trafficking investigation positions
- \$1M – Senior Center Improvements
- \$124.7M – Teacher Raises
- \$4.7M – State Trooper and commissioner law enforcement raises
- \$500M – Career and Technical Education grants for public schools
- \$25.5M – Summer learning camps for COVID-19 learning loss

Economic Development:

- \$500M – Bonds for Titans stadium
- \$66M – Non-recurring funding for commercial airports
- \$13M – Non-recurring funding for general aviation airports
- \$878M – Ford Blue Oval development and area infrastructure
- \$20 million for riverfront development in Memphis.
- \$17 million in grants to prepare a Nashville track for a NASCAR race

Military & Veterans:

- \$950K – Military behavioral health centers

State Exec Committee Removes Congressional Candidates from Primary

The Republican State Executive Committee voted this week to remove Morgan Ortagus, Robby Starbuck, and Baxter Lee from the open 5th Congressional Republican primary. The committee challenged their candidacies based on their failure to vote in three of four Tennessee statewide primaries. There are now 9 eligible candidates for the Republican primary out of the 14 original applicants. State Senator Heidi Campbell is the lone democrat running for the 5th Congressional seat.

Legislative Updates

Following the much-anticipated passage of the state budget yesterday, it is possible that the legislature adjourns for the second half of the 112th General Assembly next week. The Harris Frazier team will keep you updated on developments. [Click here](#) to keep track of next week's meetings.