



# AN IDEA A DAY

## A ROADMAP TO FREEDOM

Published biannually by the Beacon Center of Tennessee, An Idea a Day offers concise, one-sentence policy solutions for each remaining legislative day of the current General Assembly. This roadmap to freedom provides 57 ideas, one for each remaining day of the 108th General Assembly, complete with a link to more information on the subject.

### THIS ROADMAP CONTAINS FREEDOM-ORIENTED IDEAS ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS

- TAXES
- SPENDING
- EDUCATION
- HEALTHCARE
- PROPERTY RIGHTS
- REGULATION
- GOVERNMENT REFORM
- TRANSPORTATION
- CRONYISM

Repeal the Hall Income Tax on stocks and bonds, alleviating the burden on low-income retirees and inviting wealthy individuals to move into Tennessee to invest in job growth.

Contact Justin Owen at [justin@beacontn.org](mailto:justin@beacontn.org)

Scale back corporate taxes on all businesses, which are per capita the highest of all bordering states.

Read “Corporate Welfare Infographic” at [bit.ly/16Elq67](http://bit.ly/16Elq67)

Place a limit on the growth of local property taxes unless approved by voters via referendum.

Contact Lindsay Boyd at [lindsay@beacontn.org](mailto:lindsay@beacontn.org)

Cut the Real Estate Transfer Tax by one-third, ending the unnecessary state purchasing of wetlands and forestland.

Read “2013 Tennessee Pork Report,” p. 9 at [bit.ly/17CQqty](http://bit.ly/17CQqty)

Review and eliminate all taxes and fees that cost more to enforce than is collected in revenue therefrom.

Contact Lindsay Boyd at [lindsay@beacontn.org](mailto:lindsay@beacontn.org)

Eliminate the cattle tax that funds the Beef Promotion Board campaign, which uses tax dollars to urge Tennesseans to eat more beef.

Read “2013 Tennessee Pork Report,” p. 6 at [bit.ly/17CQqty](http://bit.ly/17CQqty)

Base the state Copeland Cap on population plus inflation growth, limiting government spending and allowing Tennesseans to keep more money in their pockets.

Watch Justin Owen’s Copeland Cap Testimony at [bit.ly/17f6D8e](http://bit.ly/17f6D8e)

Make the Copeland Cap more stringent by requiring a supermajority vote of the legislature to “bust” the cap.

Watch Justin Owen’s Copeland Cap Testimony at [bit.ly/17f6D8e](http://bit.ly/17f6D8e)

Enact a provision that will automatically return surplus revenue to taxpayers after topping off the rainy day fund.

Read “2013 Tennessee Pork Report,” p. 24 at [bit.ly/17CQqty](http://bit.ly/17CQqty)

Establish an independent spending commission to recommend spending cuts to the governor and legislature.

Read “2013 Tennessee Pork Report,” p. 24 at [bit.ly/17CQqty](http://bit.ly/17CQqty)

Require a waiting period of 72 hours between the time in which an appropriations or revenue-related bill is introduced and a vote is taken.

Read “Legislators’ Guide to the Issues,” p. 12 at [bit.ly/1ep6v8w](http://bit.ly/1ep6v8w)

Get the government out of the golf course business by selling state-owned golf courses or leasing courses that operate at a loss.

Read “2013 Tennessee Pork Report,” p. 7 at [bit.ly/17CQqty](http://bit.ly/17CQqty)

End the failed switchgrass-to-ethanol program that has cost taxpayers more than \$60 million yet has failed to become commercially viable.

Read “2013 Tennessee Pork Report,” p. 17 at [bit.ly/17CQqty](http://bit.ly/17CQqty)

Allow parents across Tennessee to take a portion of the funding already spent on their child and send their child to the school of their choice.

Read “The Choice is Ours” at [bit.ly/YtQcLw](http://bit.ly/YtQcLw)

Grade all public and charter schools based on academic performance and learning gains with easy-to-understand A, B, C, D, or F grades.

Read “Legislators’ Guide to the Issues,” p. 25 at [bit.ly/1ep6v8w](http://bit.ly/1ep6v8w)

Ensure that school districts meet the national standard for the percentage of spending that goes into the classroom, curbing out-of-control administrative costs.

Read “Following the Money” at [bit.ly/16WFC4G](http://bit.ly/16WFC4G)

Create alternative teacher certification paths, encouraging successful business and community leaders to enter the teaching profession.

Read “Legislators’ Guide to the Issues,” p. 27 at [bit.ly/1ep6v8w](http://bit.ly/1ep6v8w)

Refuse efforts by President Obama to expand Pre-Kindergarten, a costly program that has failed to provide long-term benefits to Tennessee children.

Read “Legislators’ Guide to the Issues,” p. 26 at [bit.ly/1ep6v8w](http://bit.ly/1ep6v8w)

Remove roadblocks to online and blended learning opportunities that provide additional options for children of various backgrounds.

Read “Legislators’ Guide to the Issues,” p. 29 at [bit.ly/1ep6v8w](http://bit.ly/1ep6v8w)

Refuse the unaffordable and immoral push to expand Medicaid under Obamacare.

Read “Medicaid Expansion Infographic” at [bit.ly/XEhyBH](http://bit.ly/XEhyBH)

Allow Tennesseans to purchase health insurance from any state in the country.

Read “A Cure for What Ails Us” at [bit.ly/1b9QKiJ](http://bit.ly/1b9QKiJ)

Repeal laws that favor employer-based insurance over individually-purchased insurance that has more portability, and urge Congress to do the same.

Read “A Cure for What Ails Us” at [bit.ly/1b9QKiJ](http://bit.ly/1b9QKiJ)

Permit young Tennesseans to purchase more affordable “mandate light” health insurance plans.

Read “A Cure for What Ails Us” at [bit.ly/1b9QKiJ](http://bit.ly/1b9QKiJ)

Provide state employees with a consumer-driven health insurance plan option with a health savings account in lieu of their current plan.

Contact Justin Owen at [justin@beacontn.org](mailto:justin@beacontn.org)

Reform medical licensing and scope of practice laws to address doctor shortages and expand Tennesseans’ choices when seeking healthcare services.

Read “A Cure for What Ails Us” at [bit.ly/1b9QKiJ](http://bit.ly/1b9QKiJ)

Repeal protectionist Certificate of Need laws that limit access to healthcare services.

Read “A Cure for What Ails Us” at [bit.ly/1b9QKiJ](http://bit.ly/1b9QKiJ)

Prohibit the forced sale of property via eminent domain.

Read “Eminent Domain No Excuse for Property Abuse” at [bit.ly/1aa7rJE](http://bit.ly/1aa7rJE)

Require approval of local legislative bodies before unelected and unaccountable agencies can take private property using eminent domain.

Read “Legislators’ Guide to the Issues,” p. 57 at [bit.ly/1ep6v8w](http://bit.ly/1ep6v8w)

Treat regulations on private property as “takings” and provide property owners with compensation when regulations diminish the value of their property.

Read “Legislators’ Guide to the Issues,” p. 58 at [bit.ly/1ep6v8w](http://bit.ly/1ep6v8w)

Give existing owners an option to receive equity stake in a redevelopment entity when their property is taken as part of a redevelopment plan.

Contact Lindsay Boyd at [lindsay@beacontn.org](mailto:lindsay@beacontn.org)

Require government entities to follow foreclosure proceedings rather than use property condemnation in order to better protect property owners.

Contact Lindsay Boyd at [lindsay@beacontn.org](mailto:lindsay@beacontn.org)

Permit a referendum of voters when their property is subject to annexation by a nearby city.

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Reduce the number of occupations requiring a license, currently at 111, which makes Tennessee one of the most heavily regulated states in the nation.

Read Justin Owen’s Economic Liberty Act testimony at [bit.ly/vJr82i](http://bit.ly/vJr82i)

Enact an economic liberty act requiring the government to prove that all new occupational regulations directly impact the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans.

Read Justin Owen’s Economic Liberty Act testimony at [bit.ly/vJr82i](http://bit.ly/vJr82i)

Eliminate titling acts that require Tennesseans to obtain government permission to use certain occupational titles.

Read Justin Owen’s Economic Liberty Act testimony at [bit.ly/vJr82i](http://bit.ly/vJr82i)

Allow Tennesseans to purchase wine in grocery stores, eliminating the liquor industry’s monopoly over the product.

Read “Drunk with Power” at [bit.ly/18aijnL](http://bit.ly/18aijnL)

Target methamphetamine production rather than impeding the purchase of cold medications by law-abiding citizens, and prohibit local governments from restricting such sales.

Contact Lindsay Boyd at [lindsay@beacontn.org](mailto:lindsay@beacontn.org)

Prohibit unelected government regulatory boards from increasing occupational fees without approval by the legislature.

Contact Lindsay Boyd at [lindsay@beacontn.org](mailto:lindsay@beacontn.org)

Eliminate the minimum wage and prohibit local “living wages” that make it more difficult for many Tennesseans to find gainful employment.

Contact Lindsay Boyd at [lindsay@beacontn.org](mailto:lindsay@beacontn.org)

Prohibit local governments from imposing new mandates on businesses that are inconsistent with and more stringent than state law.

Contact Lindsay Boyd at [lindsay@beacontn.org](mailto:lindsay@beacontn.org)

Reform asset forfeiture laws to eliminate any financial incentives for law enforcement to seize private property.

Watch “NC5 Investigates: Policing for Profit” at [bit.ly/1RyTY6](http://bit.ly/1RyTY6)

Allow the private sector to assume responsibility for non-essential government services that could easily be handled outside of state government.

Contact Justin Owen at [justin@beacontn.org](mailto:justin@beacontn.org)

Prohibit local governments from using taxpayer money to lobby the state or federal government.

Read “The Dangerous Cycle of Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying” at [bit.ly/18ahjzU](http://bit.ly/18ahjzU)

Change the rules of the game to dispense criminal law for threats to public safety, not for reaching quotas or profiting from unjust fines, seizures, or other garnishments.

Contact Lindsay Boyd at [lindsay@beacontn.org](mailto:lindsay@beacontn.org)

Enact reforms that punish the most violent criminals and provide a pathway back into society for rehabilitated offenders.

Contact Lindsay Boyd at [lindsay@beacontn.org](mailto:lindsay@beacontn.org)

Amend the current policy that allows the Supreme Court to choose the Attorney General, thus removing the conflict of interest for selecting our state’s top lawyer.

Contact Lindsay Boyd at [lindsay@beacontn.org](mailto:lindsay@beacontn.org)

Prohibit state and local governments from using tax dollars to fund failed experiments to provide high-speed Internet to the general public.

Read “We Need to Shine the Light on Electric Utilities” at [bit.ly/1gu2SyZ](http://bit.ly/1gu2SyZ)

Enact a law that provides for stronger financial management systems in local governments.

Read “2013 Tennessee Pork Report,” p. 25 at [bit.ly/17CQqty](http://bit.ly/17CQqty)

Refuse to force taxpayers to fund local mass transit projects with state taxpayer money.

Contact Lindsay Boyd at [lindsay@beacontn.org](mailto:lindsay@beacontn.org)

Replace the current gasoline tax with a more responsible vehicle miles traveled tax, with protections in place to prevent privacy infringements, to fund transportation infrastructure.

Read “There’s More than One Way to Pave a Road” at [bit.ly/1cGpxrh](http://bit.ly/1cGpxrh)

Allow private investments in infrastructure through public-private partnerships, thus increasing transportation funding and reducing the burdens on taxpayers.

Read “There’s More than One Way to Pave a Road” at [bit.ly/1cGpxrh](http://bit.ly/1cGpxrh)

Convert existing HOV lanes to high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes, allowing unaccompanied drivers to pay a fee to use the under-utilized lanes.

Read “Legislators’ Guide to the Issues,” p. 50 at [bit.ly/1ep6v8w](http://bit.ly/1ep6v8w)

End corporate handouts to select businesses, which allow government to pick winners and losers.

Read “Corporate Welfare Infographic” at [bit.ly/16Elq67](http://bit.ly/16Elq67)

End all special treatment of alternative energy that distorts market conditions and puts taxpayer money at risk.

Read “Legislators’ Guide to the Issues,” p. 47 at [bit.ly/1ep6v8w](http://bit.ly/1ep6v8w)

Eliminate financial incentives to the film industry that provide no real benefit to Tennesseans and instead send taxpayer money to Hollywood producers.

Read “Corporate Welfare Infographic” at [bit.ly/16Elq67](http://bit.ly/16Elq67)

Terminate the state’s Greenbelt Law that provides massive tax breaks to the wealthy while purporting to protect farmers.

Read “2013 Tennessee Pork Report,” p. 15 at [bit.ly/17CQqty](http://bit.ly/17CQqty)

Eliminate the costly TNInvestco program that has failed to live up to its promises of substantial job creation despite a significant cost to taxpayers.

Read “2013 Tennessee Pork Report,” p. 5 at [bit.ly/17CQqty](http://bit.ly/17CQqty)



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