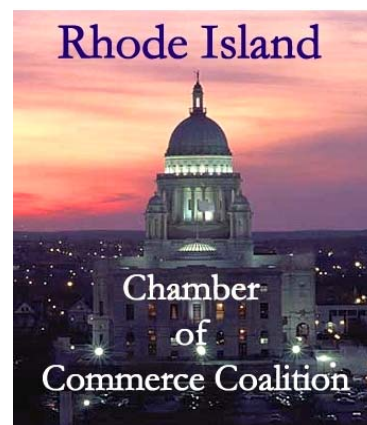


# UNDER THE DOME

News from the Rhode Island State House

**“Your source for Government Affairs information”**

*A publication of the Central Rhode Island, Cranston, East Bay, East Greenwich, East Providence Area, Newport County, North Central, Northern Rhode Island, North Kingstown, South Kingstown & Greater Westerly-Pawcatuck Chambers of Commerce*



*Serving a combined 12,000 member businesses*

***April 17, 2009***

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## **Featured in this issue**

- The Budget
- A recap of the Chamber of Commerce Coalition 2009 Legislative Agenda
- Next week at the State House
- Revenue & Caseload Estimating Conference

## **The proposed Fiscal Year 2010 State of Rhode Island Budget**

The General Assembly took its annual Spring Recess this week. Upon return next week, the House of Representatives Finance Committee will continue their work at airing out piece by piece (or as it is officially known, article by article, and department by department) the proposed Fiscal Year 2010 State Budget. This is the budget as proposed by Governor Donald Carcieri. Your Chamber of Commerce Coalition would like to present a few items that we hope will be of interest regarding the proposed state budget. First, below you will find a link to the actual proposed Fiscal Year 2010 State Budget as submitted in legislation. Second, you will find a link to an Executive Summary of the submitted budget. Last, a link to an analysis of the document as compiled by the Rhode Island House of Representatives Fiscal Staff.

2010 State Budget bill as proposed [www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText09/HouseText09/H5983.pdf](http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText09/HouseText09/H5983.pdf)

2010 Budget Executive Summary

[www.budget.ri.gov/Documents/CurrentFY/ExecutiveSummary/1\\_Complete%20FY%202010%20Executive%20Summary.pdf](http://www.budget.ri.gov/Documents/CurrentFY/ExecutiveSummary/1_Complete%20FY%202010%20Executive%20Summary.pdf)

2010 Budget Analysis [www.rilin.state.ri.us/HouseFinance/GovernorFY2010BudgetatThirdGlance.pdf](http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/HouseFinance/GovernorFY2010BudgetatThirdGlance.pdf)

# Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce Coalition

## *2009 Legislative Agenda*

**The Chamber of Commerce Coalition supports responsible budget and taxation policy crafted to:**

- **Provide short term and long term fiscal responsibility and sustainability**
- **Allow Rhode Island businesses to remain competitive**
- **Preserve necessary services for the businesses and citizens of Rhode Island**

The Chambers oppose proposals to increase taxes or fees or institute new taxes or fees. The Chambers believe that increasing taxes is the wrong solution to the state's fiscal problems, and that responsibly controlling state spending is a better solution.

**The Chamber of Commerce Coalition supports responsible changes to the Employees' Retirement System laws that result in substantial savings for state taxpayers.**

**The Chamber of Commerce Coalition supports measures designed to provide for a competent, well-trained workforce while guaranteeing employers' rights to conduct business in a manner consistent with free market principles.**

The Chambers support workforce-training initiatives and oppose use of employer contributed workforce development dollars to non-workforce training uses. The Chambers oppose mandatory increases in minimum wage tied to indexes. The Chambers oppose efforts to reduce the threshold dollar amount necessary for automatic implementation of Project Labor Agreements.

The Chambers oppose proposals that directly conflict with these goals.

**The Chamber of Commerce Coalition supports equitable, consistent and reasonable government regulation.**

The Chambers oppose overly burdensome and unnecessary regulation.

The Chambers oppose amending class action laws for currently regulated businesses.

The Chambers oppose creating duplicate oversight for businesses currently subject to regulatory authority.

**The Chamber of Commerce Coalition supports legislative and regulatory reforms ensuring Rhode Island businesses and employees have access to affordable, quality health care.**

The Chambers support reasonable and effective tort reform.

**The Chamber of Commerce Coalition supports responsibly investing in and supporting all levels of public education.**

The Chambers support efforts to provide a high-caliber, affordable system that prepares students for entrance into the workforce.

The Chambers will encourage the General Assembly to pass legislation defining a new school aid formula that is fair and equitable. The Chambers will support remedies designed to allow for more effective use of public education dollars through efforts such as step process revisions, removing health insurance out of local contracts and allowing the state to universally provide for districts.

**The Chamber of Commerce Coalition supports responsible measures to protect the environment of the State of Rhode Island.**

**[Where will your Chamber Coalition be at the State House during the week?](#)**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>PLACE</b>
<b>Tuesday, April 21, 2009</b>	House Finance Committee	1:00 P.M.	Room 35 - State House
<b>Tuesday, April 21, 2009</b>	Senate Finance Committee	2:00 P.M.	Room 211 - State House
<b>Wednesday, April 22, 2009</b>	House Finance Committee	1:00 P.M.	Room 35 - State House
<b>Wednesday, April 22, 2009</b>	Senate Education Committee	5:00 P.M.	Senate Lounge - State House
<b>Thursday, February 28, 2008</b>	House Finance Committee	1:00 P.M.	Room 35- State House
<b>Thursday, April 23, 2009</b>	Senate Corporations Committee	5:30 P.M.	Room 212 - State House

## Revenue & Caseload Estimating Conference Schedule

<b>Tuesday, May 5, 2009</b>	Revenue & Caseload Estimating Conference	9:00 AM	Room 35 - State House
<b>Thursday, May 7, 2009</b>	Revenue & Caseload Estimating Conference	9:00 AM	Room 35 - State House
<b>Friday, May 8, 2009</b>	Revenue & Caseload Estimating Conference	9:00 AM	Room 35 - State House
<b>Monday, May 11, 2009</b>	Revenue & Caseload Estimating Conference	9:00 AM	Room 35 - State House

Remember: The Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce Coalition is [your](#) voice at the Rhode Island State House. If you have any concerns, questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued interest.

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**Edited by**

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Government Affairs Committee

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