



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Budget vote moved, focus remains unchanged

Knoxville, Tenn. — At the request of the Knox County Commission, Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett's special called budget meeting that was scheduled for Monday, June 13, has been moved to Tuesday, June 14, at 3 p.m. in the main assembly room of the City County Building. As discussions about Mayor Burchett's FY2011-2012 general budget proposal enter into their final two weeks, Mayor Burchett stresses the need to pass a fiscally responsible budget focused on decreasing our debt and preserving our emergency reserves.

Since Mayor Burchett presented his budget proposal to Commission, the board has heard from department heads and other elected officials who represent more than 92 percent of the entire budget, and they all said their proposed funding was sufficient to maintain services in Knox County.

"I appreciate the way Commissioners have engaged the public in the budget process, and I'm thankful that they have taken time to meet with me and my staff to go over the details of this proposal," Mayor Burchett said. "When I visited all nine commission districts to discuss this plan with taxpayers, citizens consistently said they agreed with the need to eliminate unnecessary spending, pay down our debt, keep taxes low, protect our general fund emergency reserve, and efficiently providing services to our taxpayers."

Since 2001, Knox County's debt has more than doubled, and is now higher than the current year's operating budget of \$647 million.

"That is not healthy," Mayor Burchett said. "However, my budget proposal puts Knox County on pace to reduce our debt by more than \$100 million over the next five years. If you're a private citizen raising a family and meeting a household budget, you're tightening your belt and trying to avoid debt. That is what Knox County should be doing."

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