



2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

- A. The *MCCC* continues to support the High Technology Foundation in their efforts to expand and grow the I-79 Technology Park.
- If the U.S. Congress passes the Reclaim Act, it could bring \$200 million a year for five years into the state of WV. Funds from this Act could open Phase 3 of the Technology Park for advanced infrastructure in telecommunications and electrical needs.
 - The High Technology Foundation was awarded \$4 million as part of the WV DEP Abandoned Mine & Lands. It is very possible that additional funds will be awarded to the State and we urge Marion County Legislators to make the High Technology a priority in receiving additional funds to be used for the road system into Phase II of the I-79 Technology Park.
- B. The State must protect funding for Higher Education. Higher Education is one of the best investments and is key to achieve economic growth and diversification of our economy.
- Continued cuts are not sustainable for any of our universities, colleges or community colleges. Since 2011, WVU has lost over \$30 million in base funding. FSU & Pierpont CTC have lost approximately \$20 million combined.
 - Higher Education institutions can better manage their budgets and move toward a more modern and efficient system with additional flexibility from state administrative and human resources rules.
- C. Route 250 between Muriales and Wood's Boathouse has become a dangerous public safety issue due to the numerous rock slides occurring.
- The *MCCC* is concerned that this area will soon see a tragedy and ask our Marion County Delegation to make this a priority in working with the DOH to find ways to secure the hillside.
 - Meetings with property owners, County Commission, and the DOH must occur to find a solution to this growing safety issue for residents traveling Rt. 250.
 - The road has been closed for numerous days at a time and retail businesses along this road are losing sales because customers are unable to patronize them.
- D. The *MCCC* supports the development of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District to encourage future development.
- The Marion County Commission, Town of White Hall and City of Fairmont have established a working relationship to create a TIF District in the area surrounding the South Fairmont Exit. If created and approved by the Legislature, the TIF will lead to future development for Marion County. Utilizing this type of public financing, TIF captures the increase in property and sales taxes and creates a funding mechanism for redevelopment, infrastructure and other community improvement projects within the TIF District.

(please see reverse)

- E. Both Fairmont Regional Medical Center and the Marion County Rescue Squad have been severely affected by the Medicaid reimbursement issues including delays in processing claims, unpaid claims, and reimbursement rates.
- Medicaid claims processors are 60 days behind and are being denied at a higher rate than in the past. This is affecting both the hospitals and emergency transport services.
 - FRMC has approximately \$4.5 million in outstanding claims that are being held up in bureaucracy issues.
 - Molina (Medicaid's claims processors) is holding up applications for provider-based physician applications and has not received reimbursements since September 2014 for these services.
 - This issue must be solved sooner rather than later so it doesn't cause a cut in employees.