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1. In order to ensure that future generations can experience and enjoy an undisturbed natural setting in Tennessee's parks we have to make conservation a priority. We have to fund the maintenance needs of our parks, clean up areas that have been polluted and make sure that the natural areas are protected. This will require competent and well-trained professionals that can oversee and protect these areas. We also have to educate the public to make them aware of the opportunity these parks provide as well as the value of keeping them pristine.
2. Fixing Tennessee's economy is one of the first priorities we will tackle when elected. We will draw industry here to the Volunteer State by reducing, simplifying, and streamlining the business tax codes. They are currently designed to crush business and drive them overseas. We will reverse that trend and make our state a magnet for high paying jobs. When we do that everybody wins. Businesses make more money because they pay less in taxes. Tennesseans' can afford to support their families because they have good jobs. The state makes more money because it collects money by sales taxes. When people have money to spend they will go out and buy things. The state will then have the financial resources to keep up its roads, parks and schools like they deserve to maintained.
3. With Tennessee's natural resources, beautiful natural areas, rich cultural history, and hospitality we should continue to be recognized as having the best state park system. We have to maintain what we have, keep advertising so tourists know this is one of the premier destinations for visiting, and actually expand our current parks where possible to continue preserving Tennessee's undisturbed areas and historical parks.
4. I believe that the state government should listen to and assist the local government in providing the best services for its people as possible. As governor I would work closely with local governments to ensure that we do everything we can to improve the quality of life for Tennesseans. Recreational opportunities are vital to meeting those needs.
5. Again fixing the economy by allowing small business, industry, and entrepreneurship to thrive here will alleviate the budget crisis Tennessee will continuously face without reform. We have to create an atmosphere that draws industry here and stop the trend of transitioning from a manufacturing to a service economy. That way the state will not have to continue to try to grab funds from the highway, recreational, educational departments.
6. Several candidates have advocated across the board cuts by a standard percentage. I believe that is the wrong approach and demonstrates a lack of leadership. As a business owner, I have always believed that each

department should be evaluated individually. If one aspect of a business is running efficiently and smoothly and another is not, clearly you should address the problem area. When elected I will examine all the services that the state provides and will make the necessary adjustments where needed.

7. Many of today's children are growing up without spending significant time outdoors. They are stuck in the house watching TV, playing video games, or surfing the internet. We have to do a better job of making these children and their parents aware of not only the resources that are available to them but also how much fun nature can be. Having park rangers more involved with our educational system would be a good idea. For example an owl or a snake could be taken to classroom from the state park at Reelfoot Lake. A small group of re-enactors could stage a mini-battle on a high school football field to let the kids know about the parks at Shiloh, Murfreesboro, and Fort Pillow. Field trips to let kids tour our parks would also be beneficial. Once they have been exposed to our wonderful opportunities they will want to enjoy them more and more. Rather than a new Wii game they might ask their parents to go fishing, hiking, or see where their ancestors fought on the battlefield to defend Tennessee.

8. The obesity of our children and adult population as well, has reached epidemic proportions. The state alone can't fix the problem but we can work with the kids and parents to do so. We have to find physical activities that children are interested in and then encourage them to continue to participate. If a child shows an aptitude or interest in baseball or tennis his teachers need to work with local parks and recreation directors to plan activities or leagues that those kids can be involved in. Whether it be skateboarding, t-ball, basketball, hiking, horseback riding, or golf we have to do a better job drawing the interest of children to activities and then giving them the opportunities to continue pursue them.