

IV. GOVERNMENT

VISION

Before 2020, Angelina County will have proactive government that serves the needs of its citizens and helps ensure our growth as a vibrant regional hub.

STRATEGY

- 1. Increase the Lufkin urban area population from 38,726 in 2000 to over 50,000 by 2010.**
 - **Ensure that all people are counted in the 2010 census, especially minorities**
 - **Develop a mock census in 2006 and 2008 to measure progress towards achieving the goal of 50,000**
 - **Provide incentives and implement action steps to make up any projected gap revealed by the mock censuses in 2006 and 2008**
 - **Educate residents on the importance of being counted.**
 - Communicate the importance of reaching MSA status:**
 - **Increased visibility in marketing Lufkin/Angelina County for job creation. Lufkin would appear on all maps of metro areas in the US, and more data would be readily available for companies searching for expansion and relocation opportunities.**
 - **An MSA would have its own Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation. Currently Angelina County has to compete with eleven other counties for CDBG funds and has problems because the other counties have greater perceived needs.**
- 2. Expect all elected officials in government and education and their staffs to endorse Angelina County Vision 2020, to commit to achieving the Key Benchmarks and to implement the strategies that are within their realms of responsibility.**
- 3. Maintain focused communication with and between local, state and federal officials that will continuously advance Angelina County Vision 2020. Develop a consensus agenda support by a group of organizations representing the diversity of Angelina County that will be used in communicating with state and federal officials.**
- 4. Ensure that local government is pro-business, pro-development, customer-oriented, and efficient.**
- 5. Enhance relationships with state and federal elected representatives.**

6. Conduct forums before elections to confirm candidates' commitment to implementing Angelina County Vision 2020.
7. Enhance regional relationships to coordinate, communicate and advance our agenda.
8. Benchmark city and county regulations against other high growth areas.
9. Maintain or increase the lobbying efforts at the state and federal levels.