



Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce 2018 Missouri Public Policy Agenda

Approved by the KC Chamber Board of Directors November 27, 2017

Recognizing the economic realities facing the State of Missouri, the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce's priorities are based on aligning resources with the economic needs of the state, focusing on growing the state's economy, and are aligned and consistent with the advocacy agendas of our civic and business community partners, including the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The KC Chamber supports innovative economic development that embraces technology and innovation and supports a stable regulatory environment that will help the Kansas City area grow and remain globally competitive.

- Support the 2018 Kansas City Consensus Agenda for Economic Development.
- Retain the existing Transportation Development District and Community Improvement District.
- Support both traditional and innovative ways to fund all modes of transportation throughout the state and region. This includes the upgrade of roads, highways, waterways, rail, public transit and air travel in an efficient and cost-effective manner.
- Support funding for the Missouri Technology Corporation and support early stage capital legislation.
- Maintain funding support for historic and low-income tax credits.
- Support new business development incentives for science and technology-based businesses to increase technical capacity, particularly in entrepreneurship. Continue to support simplifying the personal-property tax abatement process for technology-based companies.
- Create or amend Missouri economic development tools that help to compete with other states, focusing incentives on companies that create high-paying, new jobs for the region.
- Retain existing state economic development incentives and commitments to programs – including MODESA, Chapter 100 bonds, state TIFs, existing tax credits, continued state funding for the maintenance of the Truman Sports Complex and the Bartle Hall Convention Center; oppose any efforts to restrict allowing voters to decide on the renewal of the earnings tax; and other programs that benefit Kansas City area businesses. Continue to protect existing programs and funding.
- Oppose discriminatory legislation that will detrimentally impact Missouri's economic development.
- Restore funding to the Missouri Partnership.

Additional Economic Development

- The Chamber supports reinstating the Missouri film rebate program as a tool for economic development.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

The KC Chamber supports both traditional and new/innovative ways to adequately fund all modes of transportation and transit throughout the state and region. The upgrade of roads, highways, waterways, rail, public transit and air travel in an efficient and cost-effective manner will allow the state to meet its transportation-related local, regional and statewide safety, economic development and quality of life priorities.

- Support for increased state-wide transportation funding to enable key regional priorities like the replacement of the state-owned Buck O'Neil Bridge.
- Support the creation of a state-wide plan for a dedicated funding stream which includes funding for capital and operating expenses for public transit.

- Support providing state and local jurisdictions with new and innovative policy and tax tools, such as transportation districts, vehicle miles traveled (VMT)/fuel tax adjustments, user-based fees, mobility authorities and public/private partnerships, with revenues dedicated to meeting the funding jurisdiction's critically important transportation priorities.
- Support policy and measures to enhance rail and freight transportation alternatives.

BUSINESS CLIMATE

- Support measures to protect employers from frivolous lawsuits, address forum-shopping abuse, reform asbestos litigation, curb Missouri Merchandising Practices Act lawsuits, limit excessive punitive damages, provide for admissibility of seat belt non-use, enforce employment arbitration agreements, and eliminate joint and several liabilities, among other reforms.
- Support the enforceability and validity of agreements between employers and at-will employees that provide for mandatory and binding arbitration to address and resolve employment-related claims (whether those claims are brought by the employee or employer).
- Oppose legislation to weaken non-compete laws to restrict reasonable and necessary protections for Missouri businesses.
- Support gender fair pay legislation that establishes best-practices guidelines for the public sector and private businesses.
- Support a regulatory environment that is simple, certain, and efficient.
- Oppose any efforts to undermine local control for Kansas City.
- Oppose legislation that would enable discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity under the law.
- Support added protections to the Missouri Human Rights Act by adding the terms and definitions of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- The KC Chamber supports legislation to establish a reasonable framework for how local governments and wireless carriers should work together to deploy small cell technology in Missouri.
- Create and maintain an environment that promotes and supports entrepreneurs and start-up companies and encourages the development of high-growth industry clusters including life sciences research, development and commercialization.
- Enact workplace protections for survivors of sexual violence, domestic violence and stalking.

HEALTHCARE

With the goal of making the Greater Kansas City region a leader in providing high-quality, affordable healthcare for all its residents, the KC Chamber supports healthcare and wellness initiatives that ensure sufficient funding for providers and greater access to coverage for the uninsured.

- Support legislation that creates a prescription drug monitoring program.
- Support legislation that would allow pharmacy drug take-back programs to accept controlled substances.
- Maintain and advance access to Medicaid for low-income, vulnerable and uninsured residents of Missouri for healthcare providers serving the economically disadvantaged in Missouri.
- The KC Chamber is generally opposed to healthcare benefit mandates and provider mandates.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

We believe that every child should be given the opportunity to develop his or her talents to the fullest extent possible in order to gain access to the benefits of the American social, economic and political systems. Many factors affect the quality of public education provided to children in Missouri. A high quality, accessible, and accountable early childhood through post-graduate (P-20) public education system is essential to having a skilled workforce and provides the foundation for a competitive economy and an attractive quality of life. The Chamber believes strategic measures to achieve this quality education public system are paramount in creating and sustaining a vibrant economy and job growth in the region and the state.

Early Childhood through 12th Grade Education

- Support investments in high-quality early learning and Pre-K opportunities, including those that advance the development of the early education workforce.
- Support the alignment of accountability standards of all publicly-funded schools.
- Allow state boards to grant an initial visiting scholar certificate to teach in public schools, renewable at one year with a maximum of two years.

HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Support adequate funding and measures to keep Missouri higher education institutions competitive and affordable, help retain graduates and faculty in the state, and provide the region and the state with the world-class workforce necessary to compete in the knowledge economy.

- Support programs focused on improving workforce development and efforts to streamline and update job training programs with adequate state funding.
- Support core appropriations requests, target investments and capital improvement needs for the University of Missouri system, UMKC and Metropolitan Community College system.
- Support appropriate funding of Access Missouri and the Missouri A+ Schools Program to ensure that all eligible students can receive meaningful tuition support.
- Support efforts by the MU system to ensure that the University of Missouri - Columbia retains its status as an AAU university.

TAX POLICY

- Support a fair and equitable taxation system that provides sufficient funding for the state's infrastructure, education and research/innovations needs.
- Support continuation of the 1/8th cent sales tax without a sunset for the Conservation Department.

HUMAN, ANIMAL AND PLANT SCIENCES

Support the pursuit of international excellence in life sciences research and development which is a vital tool for job creation in our region and state.

- Support measures to enhance the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, extending from Manhattan, KS to Columbia, MO including policies and programs to advance animal health research.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

The KC Chamber encourages investments in energy reliability and efficiency and supports policies that provide balance between public health and environmental protections without unreasonable economic burdens on industry, business and Missouri residents.

- Support investments in advanced energy, policies, and regulatory model modernization and that promote utility rate stabilization, as well as the region's history of affordable and reliable energy.
- Support policies that encourage expansion and development of energy and green infrastructure including alternative fuel transportation and financing options.

QUALITY OF LIFE

- Support funding for the Missouri Arts Council, including the Non-Resident Professional Athletes and Entertainers Tax (A&E Tax) as well as funding for the Missouri Fine Arts Academy.
- Support legislation to enable voters to approve a county fee on all communications devices to support emergency 9-1-1 costs, in addition to a statewide fee on pre-paid wireless devices to provide resources for small counties to implement enhanced 9-1-1 systems.
- Support initiatives that provide housing and services to homeless youth, families, men, and women to end homelessness in our community.
- Support the continued expansion of rural broadband across Missouri via various technologies and public policy changes to bring innovation, investment, and economic development to the state.

ETHICS REFORM

- Support the modification of term limits in the Missouri General Assembly.
- Support the prohibition of campaign fundraising when the General Assembly is in session.
- Support adequate funding of the judiciary and a non-partisan, non-election process for selecting high quality judges.
- Support appropriate funding of Access Missouri to ensure that all eligible students are able to receive a meaningful tuition support.



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