The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the voice of Kansas City regional business since 1887, represents more than 2,400 businesses with a two-state regional workforce of over 300,000. The KC Chamber believes now is the time for the legislature to work to balance responsible fiscal measures with strategic support for initiatives that will propel continued economic growth and help expand the economic leadership and competitiveness of the greater KC region. Recognizing the economic realities facing Missouri, the KC Chamber’s priorities are focused 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.
The KC Chamber supports innovative economic development strategies such as job retention, data centers, and angel tax credits, and supports a stable regulatory environment that will help the Kansas City area grow and remain globally competitive.

- Ensure the state’s economic development incentives and tools used within the Kansas City metropolitan area are utilized solely for projects that create net new jobs in the Kansas City region.
- Support the Missouri Angel and Venture Investment Incentive Act and other innovative tools to expand and support science and technology industries.
- Support the creation of incentives for the data center industry or industries using similar technology.
- Support funding of the Port Authority of Kansas City.
- Support a statewide bonding initiative to provide funding for priority capital improvements

**SMALL, DIVERSE & EMERGING BUSINESS**

Support enhancing initiatives to improve the climate for small business growth and development including seed capital funds and programs, and additional funding for state Innovation Centers and Small Business & Technology Development Centers.

- Support emerging business development initiatives
- Support university technology transfer and commercialization activities.
- Support for increasing fairness in contracting mandates, decreasing contract amounts within the service industries to be more inclusive of small business, and adding preferential requirements for using “local” businesses.

**TAX POLICY**

- Support tax reform or exemption proposals that (1) retain funding for essential services and (2) do not disadvantage any business or type of businesses.
- Support the state entering into the streamlined sales and use tax agreement.
- Support legislation to increase Missouri’s competitiveness in attracting and retaining businesses that would lead to net new jobs in the Kansas City region.

**IMMIGRATION**

Encourage federal resolution to immigration reform and oppose state legislation increasing enforcement costs and penalties on businesses and local governments, or threatening the business licenses of employers who have unintentionally hired illegal workers.

**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.
- Support for the Animal Health Corridor including the implementation and full funding of Missouri’s Large Animal Student Loan Program and expansion veterinary technical and animal science education in Kansas City.

**BUSINESS CLIMATE**

- Support tort reform initiatives including measures to protect employers from frivolous lawsuits and eliminating joint and several liabilities.
- Support use of federal standards for Missouri’s employment laws and codifying the whistleblower protection cause of action for Missouri employees.
- Support reform of the unemployment compensation system in order to protect Missouri workers and employers
- Support a regulatory environment that is simple, certain, and efficient.
- Support the modification of terms limits in the Missouri General Assembly.
- Support the prohibition of campaign fundraising when the General Assembly is in session and a reasonable cap on campaign contributions.
- Support legislation that will modernize the initiative petition process.
• Support adequate funding of the judiciary and a non-partisan, non-election process for selecting high quality judges.

TRANSPORTATION

The KC Chamber supports new and innovative ways to fund all modes of transportation throughout the state and region. The upgrade of roads, highways, waterways, rail, 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 providing local jurisdictions with new and innovative policy and tax tools, including creation of regional mobility authorities, for meeting their critically important transportation priorities.
• Support creation and implementation of a comprehensive, strategic plan for the integrated freight improvements necessary to help Greater Kansas City and the state position as national and global freight and logistics leaders.
• Support on-going efforts of the Missouri Transportation Alliance, to advocate for multi-modal transportation funding.
• Support for renewal of the ½ cent sales tax authorization on a permanent basis for the KCATA.
• Support measures to encourage regional approaches to public transit and transportation planning in Missouri.

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.

• Support development and voluntary use of alternative, domestic, and renewable energy resources that are considered economical and environmentally-friendly, including policies that support expansion and development of energy infrastructure, including transmission systems to deliver energy to the Kansas City region and other high demand areas.

HEALTH CARE & QUALITY OF LIFE

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.

• Ensure adequate funding for healthcare providers serving the economically disadvantaged in Missouri.
• The KC Chamber is generally opposed to health care benefit mandates and provider mandates.
• Support initiatives that encourage physicians, dentists, and other allied health professionals to practice in the Kansas City region.

QUALITY OF LIFE & PUBLIC SAFETY

• Support funding for the Missouri Arts Council and for specific programs such as the Missouri Fine Arts Academy.
• Support continuation of the 1/8th cent sales tax for the Conservation Department without a sunset.
• Develop and preserve investment in the physical development of low-income communities including support for Missouri Housing Trust Fund.
• Support sufficient oversight and supervision of the Kansas City Community Release Center.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

A high quality, adequately and equitably funded, 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 system are paramount in creating and sustaining a vibrant economy and job growth in the region and the state.
PRE-K THROUGH 12 EDUCATION

• Support adequate and equitable funding for quality Pre K-12 education including local curriculum control and legislation to increase the constitutional limit for school districts’ bonding capacity.
• Support investments in high-quality early learning and Pre-K opportunities.
• Oppose open enrollment, scholarship tax credits, tax tuition credits, and vouchers.
• Support funding for early college programs.
• Support the position put forward by the Chamber’s Superintendent Forum seeking a remedy to the state’s transfer law, as transferring students out of unaccredited school districts is not in the best interest of all students and will not lead to the improvement of unaccredited districts.

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 a statewide bonding initiative to provide funding for priority capital improvements, including the University of Missouri - Kansas City’s Free Enterprise Center.
• Support programs focused on improving workforce development.
• Support core appropriations requests and target investments in health and life sciences for The University of Missouri and Metropolitan Community College.
• Support access to safe, quality child care for low-income working families by increasing income eligibility for Missouri’s Child Care Assistance Program and by maintaining state reimbursement rates to child care providers.
• Support capital improvement needs for Metropolitan Community College and the University of Missouri System.
• Support continuation of the Missouri A+ Schools Program and efforts to manage participation and funding.
• Support efforts to streamline and update job training programs: Missouri Customized Training program, Community College New Jobs Training Program, and the Community College Job Retention program.
• Support increased levels of state support for all forms of higher education.
• Support the Kansas City Consensus Agenda for Economic Development and Guiding Principles for Economic Development Incentive Reforms, a collaborative effort of Kansas City area business and civic organizations.

KC CHAMBER PUBLIC POLICY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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