



## 2019 Missouri & Kansas State Policy Platform Pillars

*Approved by the Chamber Board of Directors December 17, 2018*

**Workforce Development & Education:** A strong, aligned and accountable education system and proven workforce development programs are critical to quality of life in our bistate regions and are an essential attractor of business. Learners from pre-kindergarten to adult must have access to quality education and skills development opportunities that will encourage residents to become lifelong learners and enable them to engage in our rapidly changing workforce and the local economy.

- **Early Learning:** Accessible quality early learning programs are vital to preparing students for success in a 21st century workforce. The Chamber urges the Missouri General Assembly/Kansas Legislature to heed the impact of early childhood education and support and preserve adequate investments in high-quality accessible early learning, including those that advance the development of the early education workforce.
- **K-12 Education:** The KC Chamber has high expectations for our public education systems and believes adequate funding, rigorous student achievement standards, and local control are vital to Kansas City's ability to compete in the knowledge-based global marketplace of the 21st century.
- **Higher Education & Post-Secondary Education:** The Chamber supports adequate funding and policies to keep Missouri and Kansas higher education institutions competitive and affordable, help retain graduates and quality faculty, and measures to support alternative postsecondary training options to provide the region and the state with the world-class workforce necessary to meet the job demands of today and tomorrow.

**Prosperous Economic Development:** Economic success, expansion and innovation are crucial to developing a stable environment where business can prosper. Promoting international trade, supporting small businesses, encouraging research and collaboration, and fostering technological innovation are essential to helping the Kansas City area grow and remain globally competitive.

- The KC Chamber supports a pro-business environment and innovative strategies and investment in effective and efficient economic development and that will help the Kansas City area grow and remain globally competitive.
- The Chamber advocates for responsible data-based strategies to increase the availability of capital for new, expanding, existing, and culturally diverse business.

**Business-Friendly Climate:** Maintaining an environment of legislative and regulatory stability that supports entrepreneurs and start-up companies, encouraging the growth and development of industry clusters, and prohibit workforce discrimination are critical factors in growing and expanding a healthy business community.

- The Chamber advocates for consistent and common-sense regulatory policies and a fair and balanced tax environment that acknowledge the economic realities of our region and offer support for diverse, emerging and existing businesses.
- The Chamber supports added protections for all employees based on sexual orientation or gender identity and oppose legislation that enables discriminatory policies of any kind.

**Sustainable Infrastructure:** The future success of cities is dependent on a quality, forward-thinking system of infrastructure. Building and maintaining strong, stable, and innovative transportation, water, communications, and energy infrastructure is essential for regional development.

- **Transportation:** An efficient transportation system helps our community thrive while creating an environment that invites talent, increases mobility of the workforce, and ensures the Kansas City metro area remains competitive with other economic hubs.
  - The KC Chamber supports appropriate investment in transportation and cost-effective upgrade of roads, highways, waterways, rail, infrastructure including new and innovative ways to help capture federal investment and fund all modes of transportation throughout the state and region.

**Healthy Communities:** The KC Chamber believes there is an undeniable link between the financial health of our businesses and the overall health and wellness of our workforce and that a healthy workforce is paramount to a vibrant regional economy. The KC Chamber supports healthcare incentives including behavioral health and wellness measures that ensure sufficient funding for providers and greater access to coverage for the uninsured.

***Please visit the KC Chamber website ([kcchamber.com](http://kcchamber.com)) for a comprehensive list of the Chamber's 2019 Public Policy positions.***