



**KC**<sup>®</sup>  
CHAMBER

# 2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY AGENDA

GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 2,000 employers across the bi-state region, urges Congress and the Administration to advance federal policies that strengthen national **competitiveness**, invest in the modern **infrastructure** required for efficient commerce, and develop the world-class **workforce** essential for long-term economic growth.

The Kansas City region sits at the nation's crossroads for commercial rail, critical materials, logistics, and national security. As the region prepares to welcome global visitors for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the Chamber emphasizes the importance of innovation, onshoring of critical supply chains, and the recruitment and retention of the talent needed to sustain the region's economic momentum. The Chamber calls on federal policymakers to pursue pragmatic, bipartisan solutions that ensure the Kansas City region and the United States remain a global leader in economic vitality, security, and talent.

## COMPETITIVENESS

Federal policies that expand economic opportunity, strengthen innovation, protect supply chains, and cultivate a strong business climate.

- Increase federal R&D funding and commercialization pathways for regional innovation clusters, including biosciences, advanced manufacturing, defense technologies, and midstream critical materials processing.
- Support the development and national designation of regional hubs such as the Critical Materials Crossroads and other onshoring initiatives that reinforce supply chain security.
- Expand federal programs that advance AI, digital technology, and high-performance computing research critical to regional employers.
- Strengthen federal policies that expand access to capital for startups, scale-ups, and small businesses, including incentives for venture capital, angel investment, and innovation-driven industries.
- Preserve the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds and private activity bonds essential for infrastructure and economic development projects.
- Support predictable federal tax policies that promote investment, market stability, and workforce mobility.
- Advance trade agreements and export promotion programs that expand global market access for Kansas City manufacturers, logistics firms, and agricultural producers.
- Support stable and sustained funding for defense installations and the defense industrial base, ensuring continued growth of defense-related innovation and employment in the region.
- Promote regulatory reform that increases transparency, reduces unnecessary compliance burdens, and accelerates permitting timelines for major industrial, energy, and infrastructure projects.
- Improve federal grant and administrative processes to make federal programs more accessible to local governments, regional coalitions, educational institutions, and businesses.
- Support policies that retain high-skill graduates, protect DACA recipients, and strengthen refugee resettlement programs needed to address long-term labor force demand.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Federal investments that modernize the nation's physical assets, strengthen logistics networks, enhance reliability, and improve quality of life.

- Prioritize federal investments that improve commercial rail capacity, eliminate freight bottlenecks, and support intermodal facilities.
- Maintain strong federal funding for the Highway Trust Fund and pursue long-term, safe and sustainable transportation revenue strategies.
- Support innovation in project delivery, including design-build, P3s, and financing tools that accelerate timelines and reduce costs.
- Continue federal investments in the Missouri and Kansas River systems, and support the

modernization and resiliency of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems throughout the region.

- Safeguard federal funding for Medicare, Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program and insurance marketplaces to ensure essential health care services and healthy communities.
- Expand federal broadband investments to eliminate digital deserts and support high-capacity computing infrastructure essential for data centers, biomanufacturing, and advanced research.
- Advance federal policies that expand transmission capacity, strengthen grid reliability, and support energy diversification that enables domestic critical materials and battery supply chains.
- Support US Postal Service regulatory reform to limit rate increases, improve productivity, and restore service quality.

## WORKFORCE

Federal policies that expand access to education, training, and career pathways while removing barriers to full participation in the labor force.

- Protect and strengthen federal investments across the Pre-K-20 continuum, including early childhood education, K-12 supports, Career and Technical Education (Perkins), and higher education access programs.
- Support efforts to increase student loan borrowing caps and reform the median earnings test to ensure that students pursuing undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees retain access to federal financial aid to meet the region’s diverse workforce demands.
- Expand federal funding for apprenticeships, work-based learning, and short-term credential programs aligned with industry demand in advanced manufacturing, biosciences, logistics, healthcare, and IT.
- Support dual-credit, competency-based, and employer-led training partnerships that accelerate workforce readiness.
- Expand federal supports that increase the availability and affordability of childcare to reduce barriers to employment.
- Enhance federal housing tools — including LIHTC, affordable housing preservation programs, and workforce housing incentives — to support talent attraction and retention.
- Encourage federal workforce programs that improve mobility, reduce geographic barriers to employment, and support transitional employment and upskilling.
- Support continued federal investment in Kansas City-based federal agencies and encourage reforms to federal hiring that reduce time-to-hire and align with regional workforce needs.
- Maintain and expand federal roles that anchor workforce stability in the region and support the region’s role in national security, logistics, and research.
- Coordinate federal immigration policy with workforce programs to ensure high-skill and in-demand workers can remain in the United States, contributing to regional innovation and economic growth.

## KC CHAMBER FEDERAL PUBLIC POLICY TEAM



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# KC CHAMBER PUBLIC POLICY COUNCIL

## PREMIER INVESTORS

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC)  
Children's Mercy

City of Kansas City, Missouri  
Civic Council of Greater Kansas City

## EXECUTIVE INVESTORS

AdventHealth  
Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City  
AT&T  
Black & Veatch  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City  
CBRE  
Centric  
Commerce Bank  
CommunityAmerica Credit Union  
Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City  
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Garmin  
Google Fiber  
H&R Block  
Hallmark  
Health Forward Foundation  
Heavy Constructors Association  
HNTB  
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Kansas City University  
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REACH Healthcare Foundation  
Saint Luke's Health System  
SchoolSmart KC  
Shook Hardy & Bacon  
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The Builders, a chapter of the AGC  
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The University of Kansas Health System  
T-Mobile  
University Health  
University of Missouri - Kansas City  
VanTrust Real Estate

## KC CHAMBER PUBLIC POLICY CHAIR

Jason Klindt, Senior Director of External Affairs, Evergy

## 2026 DC FLY-IN

Monday, April 13 - Wednesday, April 15