



LENEXA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Top Issues for the 2018 Legislative Session

TAXATION

Support Tax Policies That Preserve Johnson County's Economy & Quality of Life

The Chamber strongly supports pursuing balanced income, sales, and property tax policies that adequately fund the core state budget while preserving Johnson County's economic competitiveness and quality of life, including maintaining fair and competitive tax rates that do not unreasonably burden Kansas businesses, preserving competitive sales tax exemptions, and continuing the sales tax exclusion for professional services.

Retain Flexible Revenue & Spending Authority

The Chamber opposes the imposition of state or local tax and spending lids and other unreasonably burdensome mandates for reporting and approving tax or budget measures and supports repeal of the mandated public vote on utilization of increased local property tax revenues.

EDUCATION

Support K-12 Public Education Funding Fair to Johnson County

The Chamber supports K-12 education funding that treats Johnson County students fairly, does not unreasonably burden taxpayers or adversely impact other core state services, maximizes fiscal resources by correlating district funding to actual operational costs, encourages administrative consolidation, rewards efficiency and outcomes, and respects local control over funding, spending, and curriculum choices.

To help ensure access and quality for all students, the Chamber also opposes programs that divert public funds, directly or indirectly, to private alternatives not subject to the same mandates, regulations, and accountability requirements governing public schools.

Fund a Strong & Affordable Public Post-Secondary Education System

The Chamber supports state investment that sustains and prioritizes public post-secondary education to help ensure affordable access and quality for all students, rewards efficiency and outcomes, promotes programs that match workforce needs including career/technical training and certifications, and supports R&D and commercialization.

TRANSPORTATION

Protect Dedicated Investment in Transportation Infrastructure

The Chamber supports preserving the full and direct transfer of dedicated transportation funding as passed in T-WORKS and opposes diverting those funds to other purposes.

KEY BUSINESS COSTS

Respect Employer-Employee Relations

Because employers and employees should remain empowered to decide employment issues based upon individual market circumstances, the Chamber opposes legislation that substantially intercedes in employer-employee relations, including unreasonable mandates or restrictions in hiring, compensating, accommodating, or terminating employees.

Support an Impartial & Cost-Effective Legal System

The Chamber supports a fair, nonpartisan, efficient, stable, and cost-effective legal system to resolve business disputes and a non-election process for selecting judges.

Maintain Unemployment Comp and Workers Comp Reforms

The Chamber supports unemployment compensation and workers compensation policies and reforms that promote stability and fairness, protect employer costs, reduce administrative burdens, and encourage employment and accountability.

Promote Affordable Health Care Coverage

The Chamber supports to the extent possible market-driven health care that reduces costs and promotes greater efficiency, prevention, and enhanced quality of care without imposing substantial new mandates, penalties, or increased cost.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Preserve Competitive Economic Development

The Chamber supports maintaining competitive state and local economic development tools that can attract or retain a variety of job creation and capital investment opportunities, including continuing to improve the effectiveness and financial return of state incentive programs and strengthening workforce development initiatives.

Standing Positions

Strongly-held principles that may or may not arise during a given session.

SUPPORT: A stable and limited regulatory environment with minimal administrative burden.

SUPPORT: A property tax appraisal and appeals system that is equitable, rational, and consistent.

SUPPORT: Preservation of local control and home rule authority of local governments, community college boards of trustees, and public school boards of education, over the funding, regulation, and provision of services to meet the needs of the communities they serve, including determination of partisanship of local elections.

SUPPORT: A diverse long-term energy plan that responsibly balances environmental goals with ample statewide power and reasonable costs, including incentive-based measures rather than imposing unreasonable mandates, caps or penalties.

SUPPORT: A balanced immigration policy created and enforced at the federal level to ensure consistency, rather than state-level action that creates additional costly or time-consuming mandates for employers or threatens unreasonable penalties for employers who unintentionally hire or assist undocumented workers.

SUPPORT: Kansas Open Records Act exemptions and other privacy provisions that protect confidential proprietary business information.

OPPOSE: Unfunded mandates on local governments, shifting state responsibilities to cities and counties without the accompanying continuous financial resources necessary for implementation.

OPPOSE: Expansion of current initiative and referendum provisions in Kansas.

Questions or comments?

Contact the Chamber's Legislative Affairs Director Ashley Sherard at asherard@lenexa.org.