



# **LENEXA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

## **Top Issues for the 2019 Legislative Session**

### **TAXATION**

#### **Support Tax Policies That Preserve Johnson County's Economy & Quality**

The Chamber 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 tax rates that do not unreasonably burden or disadvantage Kansas businesses;
- Preserving market-driven sales tax exemptions;
- Continuing the sales tax exclusion for professional services;
- Establishing a framework under which out-of-state online retailers doing business in Kansas must collect state and local sales tax, with a de minimis threshold exempting small retailers (as defined by low sales volume and low number of transactions) and flexibility in the use of new sales tax revenues;
- Reinstating for non-corporate business taxpayers the income tax expensing deduction for capital investments, in parity with corporate taxpayers; and
- Retroactively decoupling certain state income tax provisions from federal provisions, including the option to take itemized deductions.

#### **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**

The Chamber supports K-12 operational funding and early childhood resources that:

- Adequately enable Johnson County students to prepare for post-secondary success and workforce-readiness;
- Do not unreasonably burden taxpayers or shortchange other core state services;
- Reward efficiency and administrative consolidation; and
- Respect local control over funding, spending, and curriculum choices, including eliminating the cap on capital improvement bond elections.

To help ensure access and quality for all students, the Chamber 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 in public post-secondary education that:

- Helps 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**

#### **Continue Dedicated Investment in Transportation Infrastructure**

The Chamber supports authorization of a new statewide multi-modal infrastructure program, including continuing the direct transfer of dedicated revenues to the State Highway Fund, and opposes diverting dedicated funds to other purposes.

## KEY BUSINESS COSTS

### Support a Stable and Reasonable Regulatory Environment

The Chamber supports a stable and limited regulatory environment with minimal administrative burden.

### 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 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

### Maintain Competitive Economic Development and Adequate Workforce

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 property tax appraisal system that is equitable, rational, and consistent.

**SUPPORT:** Preservation of local control and home rule authority for local governments 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 and caps.

**SUPPORT:** A balanced immigration policy created and enforced at the federal level to ensure consistency, rather than state-level action that creates additional mandates for employers or threatens unreasonable penalties for employers who unintentionally hire or assist illegal 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 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](mailto:asherard@lenexa.org).