

Lenexa Chamber of Commerce
2016 State Legislative Platform

Taxation

Support Tax Policies That Preserve Johnson County's Economy

The Chamber strongly supports pursuing balanced income, sales, and property tax policies that preserve Johnson County's economic competitiveness and quality of life, including maintaining competitive sales tax rates, exemptions, and the exclusion for professional services.

Retain 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 newly-mandated public vote on utilization of increased local property tax revenues.

Education

Support K-12 Public Education Operating Funds

The Chamber supports maximizing fiscal resources by better correlating district funding to actual operational costs, encouraging administrative consolidation, rewarding efficiency and outcomes, and respecting local control over funding, spending, and curriculum choices.

To 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 Higher Education System

The Chamber supports state investment that sustains and prioritizes public higher education to help ensure access and quality for all students, preserves quality and affordability, rewards efficiency and outcomes, promotes programs that match workforce needs, and supports R&D and commercialization.

Transportation

Restore Investment in Transportation Infrastructure

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

Other 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 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 quality of care without imposing substantial new mandates, penalties, or increased cost.

Economic Development

Preserve Competitive Economic Development Tools

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.

Standing Positions

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

SUPPORT: Stable and limited government regulation in the marketplace.

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

SUPPORT: Preservation of local control and home rule authority for 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: Fostering 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: Maintaining 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.