

2018 WIN/LOSS AGENDA



THE CHAMBER
WICHITA REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

State Budget -- The Wichita Regional Chamber believes the state should practice fiscal discipline.

- LOSS** Reduce or maintain state spending at FY18 (July 2017-June 2018) level
- WIN** Seek out efficiencies and implement priority- or performance-based budgeting throughout all levels of state government
- Partial Win** Encourage legislature to follow state law and fund 7.5% ending balance
- Partial Win** Establish Rainy Day Fund by placing State General Fund ending balance into fund
- LOSS** Develop Commission of Legislators and Business to pursue closure, realignment or privatization of government functions and agencies
- Partial Win** Move the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System from a defined benefit system to a defined contribution system
- LOSS** Support expansion of Medicaid (KanCare) that is revenue neutral and encourages personal responsibility
- LOSS** Funding decisions should be at the sole discretion of the legislature and not the court system

Taxation -- The Wichita Regional Chamber believes in a fair and equitable system of taxation that promotes private sector growth and makes Kansas more competitive.

- NA** Support continued business tax reform including reduction of the Kansas corporate income and Kansas privilege tax
- NA** Continued support of long-term state tax structure reform including reduction/elimination of personal income tax
- LOSS** Oppose increases in business taxes and fees that would negatively impact Kansas' competitive environment
- WIN** Oppose repeal of any existing sales tax exemptions on business inputs and services

Economic Development -- The Wichita Regional Chamber believes the state should invest in economic development and develop programs that result in jobs and investment.

- WIN** Support continued funding for the National Institute for Aviation Research
- WIN** Create competitive economic development incentives and making Kansas a leader in innovative research, manufacturing, and technology
- Partial Win** Retain and enhance tax incentives to include more flexible investment and job development tax credits with options for cash incentives
- NA** Support advancement of entrepreneurial programs
- LOSS** Pass HB 2036, Aviation Tax Credits, as a tool to attract the aviation workforce
- WIN** Support efforts by local and state leaders on initiatives to attract more skilled manufacturing workers to meet the growing demands of the aviation industry and advanced manufacturing

Environmental Resources -- The Wichita Regional Chamber believes environmental management must take a balanced and reasonable approach that protects the environment without placing unnecessary burdens on business.

- NA** Support the "50 Year Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas" including the protection and future use of the Equus Beds and surface water

Investment-friendly Business Environment -- The Wichita Regional Chamber believes a low-cost business environment is critical in order to be a competitive and attractive business destination.

- LOSS** Support legislation to allow transparency through admission of evidence that shows plaintiff's losses have been compensated from other sources such as insurance or workers compensation, known as "collateral source"
- LOSS** Support legislation allowing parties to collect attorney fees as a prevailing party
- WIN** Encourage federal resolution to immigration reform and oppose state legislation increasing penalties or threatening the business licenses of employers
- WIN** Maintain fair labor practices by opposing unfair advantages for union organizations

Regulatory Environment -- The Wichita Regional Chamber believes there must be certainty in the regulatory environment in order for business to grow and relocate in Kansas.

- WIN** Prohibit State and Federal Agencies from misusing rule and regulation authority in place/lieu of policy decisions made by the legislature
- WIN** Protect workers compensation and unemployment insurance reforms
- NA** Support EPA administrator's proposal to repeal Clean Power Plan

Transportation -- The Wichita Regional Chamber believes a strong transportation infrastructure is critical in developing and expanding commerce.

- Partial Win** Ensure dedicated transportation funding streams only be used for the transportation program
- WIN** Support the current comprehensive state transportation program
- NA** Ensure that South Central Kansas receives equitable distribution of transportation funding

Education and Workforce Development -- The Wichita Regional Chamber believes a strong and integrated education system, from pre-school through higher education, is vital in workforce and talent development.

- WIN** Support a funding formula for school districts with high-density poverty that supports the needs of ESOL, foster, poverty and special education/needs students
- WIN** Support equalization aid necessary to address the property tax challenges faced by rural, urban and suburban districts
- WIN** Oppose funding cuts to public education
- Partial Win** Encourage education reform initiatives
- NA** Support a continual improvement model of educational innovation such as those in the "Kansas Can" vision, including a student-focused system that provides support and resources for individual success, including supporting higher standards in academic skills, employability and citizenship skills
- NA** Encourage the Legislature to allow local school districts to have more flexibility in how education general fund dollars are spent within their school districts
- WIN** Support growing the Kansas economy through applied research and private-public partnerships, like university/business innovation programs, at all higher education institutions
- WIN** Support expanded funding for career and technical education programs, including the "Excel in CTE Initiative" (formerly Senate Bill 155), to ensure a skilled workforce and meet the needs of advanced manufacturing and other industry sectors critical to the South Central Kansas Economy
- WIN** Encourage full funding and oppose any budget provisos that interfere with the Postsecondary Tiered Technical State Aid Cost Model, including the distribution of new funding
- NA** Support an increased focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning initiatives
- WIN** Support the continuation of the University Engineering Initiative Act to increase the number of engineering graduates in Kansas