

## 2020 WIN/LOSS AGENDA



**THE CHAMBER**  
WICHITA REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, TALENT AND EDUCATION

- LOSS** Support income tax credits for workers enrolling in qualified training for aerospace jobs
- WIN** Support expanded funding for workforce development programs, including the Excel in CTE initiative, the National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT), and apprenticeships
- LOSS** Support occupational licensing reciprocity legislation that directs licensing agencies in the State of Kansas to honor occupational licenses in good standing earned by workers in other states
- WIN** Advocate for criminal justice reform and enhanced re-entry programs that encourage ex-offenders to re-enter the workforce and support programs that encourage work to help recipients of government assistance with obtaining employment
- LOSS** Promote systems of diverse and inclusive educational options that can be tailored to meet the needs of individual students, like the innovative “Kansas Can” vision of continual improvement, the student-focused Kansas Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship, and a greater emphasis on certifications and college credit during high school
- WIN** Support growing the Kansas and local economy through applied research and private-public partnerships, like the National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR), university/business innovation programs (WSU’s Innovation Campus), and the aviation pathway for high school students
- WIN** Support an increased focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning initiatives, including support for computer science classes in schools

### TAXATION AND BUDGET

- LOSS** Support passage of legislation that addresses the federal tax “windfall” caused by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 by decoupling the Kansas state tax return from the federal tax return and federal corporate income tax provisions
- WIN** Oppose increases in business taxes and fees that would negatively impact Kansas’ competitive environment
- LOSS** Encourage government to reduce spending and pursue efficiencies through consolidation, privatization, and innovation

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND TECHNOLOGY

- LOSS** Promote and expand critical tax/economic development incentive programs that result in jobs and investment, including the High Performance Incentive Program (HPIP), the Promoting Employment Across Kansas (PEAK) incentive, the Kansas Industrial Training (KIT) program, and funding for small businesses and entrepreneurs like the Angel Investor Tax Credit
- LOSS** Support enhancements and increased focus on entrepreneurship and the technology sector as contributors to economic growth

## HEALTHCARE

- LOSS** Support expansion of Medicaid (KanCare) that is revenue neutral and encourages personal responsibility
- LOSS** Encourage the legislature and administration to consider additional investments designed to address the treatment of mental health and substance abuse in South Central Kansas

## TRANSPORTATION

- WIN** Ensure dedicated transportation funding streams are only used for the transportation program
- WIN** Support a comprehensive state transportation program that equitably taxes and distributes funding to address critical needs in South Central Kansas, including the North Junction and other regionally significant projects identified by the South Central Kansas Transportation Coalition

## ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND REGULATION

- WIN** Support policies and incentives that will improve the competitiveness of Kansas utility rates
- N/A** Prohibit state and federal agencies from misusing rule and regulation authority in lieu of policy decisions made by the Legislature
- WIN** Protect workers compensation and unemployment insurance reforms
- LOSS** Restore caps on non-economic damages in tort lawsuits

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19, the Kansas Legislature adjourned their regular session quite a bit earlier than planned on Mar. 19. Before adjournment, legislators dealt with a handful of critical priorities such as unemployment insurance benefits, the Governor's emergency powers and a budget to allow the state to operate through the next fiscal year. A new, comprehensive 10-year transportation plan was also approved.

While the Legislature was expected to return to action during veto session on Apr. 27, concerns with the spread of COVID-19 required them to delay their return until sine die: May 21. Following a long day of work, several pieces of legislation were passed including utility rate reductions, COVID-19 liability protections for businesses and property tax reform (including waiver of interest penalties for delinquent property tax payments). Unfortunately, the bill waiving interest penalties for late property tax payments was vetoed by the Governor, as was the liability protections bill (which also included checks on the Governor's emergency powers). Governor Kelly called the Legislature back for a Special Session on June 3, to get a bill that she was willing to sign regarding emergency powers. Legislative leadership and the Governor agreed on a compromise bill, which also took care of COVID-19 liability protections for (some) businesses.

Due to the unusual way that the 2020 Legislative Session wrapped up in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, several bills the Wichita Chamber supported died on the vine. In fact, many bills that otherwise had a good chance of passage during the end of regular session or in veto session faced this same fate. Some of the bills relevant to the Chamber's legislative agenda that failed to pass this year include licensing reciprocity, tax decoupling for individuals and corporations, Medicaid expansion, STAR bonds, liability protections for businesses hosting students in work-based learning programs, decoupling HPIP from KIT/KIR, angel investor tax credit extension and expansion and allowing school districts to pay for dual enrollment. The Chamber's government relations team will have our hands full with policy priorities to pass through the process next session.