



THECHAMBER
WICHITA REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**ONE OF THE LARGEST
BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS IN KANSAS**

2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



Workforce Development, Talent, and Education

- Support innovative approaches to addressing critical workforce shortages through tax incentives, tuition forgiveness, and other creative means
- Support expanded funding for workforce development programs, including the Excel in CTE initiative, the National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT), and apprenticeships
- 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 and help recipients of government assistance with obtaining employment
- Promote systems of diverse and inclusive educational options that can be tailored to meet the needs of individual students, like the innovative "Kansans 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
- 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 career pathways for high school students
- Support an increased focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning initiatives, including support for computer science classes in schools
- Support funding for the Wichita Biomedical Campus
- Support need-based aid for post-secondary credentials, that includes accountability measures
- Support policies that expand access to affordable childcare options
- Support expanded reciprocity for professional licensing, allowing licensed professionals, including teachers, from other states to obtain licensure more quickly/easily in Kansas



Taxation and Budget

- Oppose increases in business taxes and fees that would negatively impact Kansas' competitive environment
- Encourage government to reduce spending and pursue efficiencies through consolidation, privatization, and innovation



**SUCCESS FOR OUR MEMBERS
LEADERSHIP FOR OUR COMMUNITY
PROSPERITY FOR OUR REGION**

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Economic Development, Entrepreneurship, and Technology

- Promote and expand critical tax/economic development incentive programs that result in more jobs and investment
- Support enhancements and increased focus on entrepreneurship and the technology sector as contributors to economic growth
- Support the extension of the APEX program



Healthcare

- Support expansion of Medicaid (KanCare) that is revenue neutral and encourages personal responsibility
- Encourage the Legislature and administration to consider additional investments designed to address the treatment of mental health and substance abuse in South Central Kansas, including a state mental health hospital located in the Wichita region
- Oppose mandates and excessive regulations that increase the cost of providing affordable healthcare coverage to employees



Transportation

- Ensure dedicated transportation funding streams are only used for the transportation program
- Support the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (IKE) and encourage equitable taxing and distribution of funding to address critical needs in South Central Kansas, including the regionally significant projects identified by the South Central Kansas Transportation Coalition
- Encourage policies that would draw Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) federal transportation dollars to the South Central Kansas region



Energy, Environment, and Regulation

- Support policies and incentives that will improve the competitiveness of Kansas utility rates
- Prohibit state and federal agencies from misusing rule and regulation authority in lieu of policy decisions made by the Legislature
- Protect and strengthen workers compensation and unemployment insurance reforms
- Support legislation to allow businesses to levy a surcharge to customers who choose to pay with a credit or debit card
- Oppose unjust shutdowns of businesses and regulations that unnecessarily restrict business activities
- Oppose government requirements on businesses to enforce government mandates
- Reform regulations to ensure Kansas is competitive with other states related to childcare regulations



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Support policies that strengthen access and opportunity for diverse populations and promote racial justice
- Advocate for reforms that address racial disparities in the criminal justice system and support appropriate training and adequate funding for law enforcement

POINTS OF CONTACT

John Rolfe, President & CEO

jrolfe@wichitachamber.org • 316-268-1112

Toni Porter, VP of Government Relations

tporter@wichitachamber.org • 316-268-1135

Jason Watkins, Lobbyist

jason@wsks.us • 316-461-8112