

COALITION OF LOCAL CHAMBERS

THE VOICE FOR THOUSANDS OF KANSAS BUSINESSES ACROSS THE STATE

The Coalition of Local Chambers of Commerce listed below, representing thousands of Kansas businesses across the state, small and large, are aware of the difficult choices the state government has been faced with in recent years due to a challenging economy and dwindling revenues.

Our Kansas local chambers, governed by local businesses, believe it is critical to emphasize how statewide decisions impact efforts to attract and retain jobs in cities across our state. State government is responsible to educate our children, to provide reliable and adequate infrastructure for mobility of our citizens as well as the movement of goods and services, and to care for those Kansans who are unable to look after themselves.

We have joined together to present these position statements to advocate for policies which we believe create a strong economy, a qualified and nimble workforce, a sustainable infrastructure and ultimately a quality of life which retains our best and brightest and attracts businesses and talent to Kansas. Our members stand ready to work with you to bring our collective vision to reality.

Abilene Area Chamber of Commerce
Derby Chamber of Commerce
Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce
Gardner Edgerton Chamber of Commerce
Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce
Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber
Lawrence Area Chamber of Commerce
Liberal Chamber of Commerce
Manhattan Chamber of Commerce
McPherson Chamber of Commerce
Northeast Johnson County Chamber
Olathe Chamber of Commerce
Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
Pittsburg Area Chamber
Salina Area Chamber of Commerce
Shawnee Chamber
Spring Hill Chamber of Commerce
Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce

Allison Blake
Mark Staats, President and CEP
Jeanine McKenna
Jason Camis
Joe Reardon
Matt Pivarnik
Debra Teufel
Bonnie Lowe
Rozelle Webb
Lyle Butler
Jennifer Burch
Deb Settle
Tim McKee
John Coen
Tracey Osborne Oltjen
Blake Benson
Don Weiser
Kevin Fern
Sharon Mitchell
Gary Plummer

These local chambers have endorsed the above positions as of February 19, 2019.

2019 POLICY PRIORITIES

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Availability of a trained and competent workforce is the number one economic issue facing Kansas. The Coalition contends it is critical that the State work with employers to develop creative approaches to workforce development and talent attraction and that it devote greater, more focused attention and resources to higher education, career technical training and certification and further collaboration among all the relevant stakeholders (K-12, higher education, early childhood education providers, technical educators, community colleges and the business community) in the area of workforce training.



TRANSPORTATION

The Coalition recognizes the importance of a quality, well-maintained highway system and urges the Legislature to ensure that dedicated transportation funding streams are used only for the transportation program. The Coalition supports the work of the Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Task Force and urges the Legislature to develop an adequately-funded comprehensive state transportation program that is based on input the Task Force received from stakeholders across the state. The Coalition supports the funding and completion of the remaining infrastructure projects outlined by T-WORKS. The Coalition believes that analysis of future infrastructure projects should consider economic impact as an important factor and give appropriate consideration to public-private partnerships and the input of local governments.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To facilitate and enhance economic development and job growth throughout the state, the Coalition strongly encourages the creation of a comprehensive and coordinated statewide economic development plan. The development and execution of a comprehensive statewide plan should draw on the experience of local economic development professionals throughout the state; enhance effectiveness of programs and incentives; maximize return on investment and create a long-term vision for economic development in Kansas.

In addition to the creation of a comprehensive plan, the Coalition also supports:

- Preservation of existing programs and other resources including PEAK, HPIP and the STAR Bond program
- Reaffirming the Department of Commerce as the lead state agency for economic development initiatives at the state level
- Staffing the Department of Commerce with the professionals needed to compete globally

