

# WICHITA REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## 2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, TALENT & EDUCATION

- WIN** Support innovative approaches to addressing critical workforce shortages through tax incentives, tuition forgiveness and other creative means.
- LOSS** Support expanded funding for the Excel in CTE initiative.
- WIN** Support expanded funding for workforce development programs, including the Level Up Kansas initiative, the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act, the National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT) and apprenticeships.
- 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 and help recipients of government assistance with obtaining employment.
- NA** Promote systems of diverse and inclusive educational options that can be tailored to meet the needs of individual students, like 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 career pathways 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 & BUDGET

- WIN** Oppose increases in business taxes and fees that would negatively impact Kansas' competitive environment.
- NA** Support decreases in business taxes and fees that would positively impact Kansas' competitive environment.
- LOSS** Support the elimination of sales tax on commercial remodeling.
- LOSS** Support policies that would reduce property taxes.
- NA** Support a reduction and simplification of the income tax code at the corporate and individual levels.
- WIN** Encourage government to pursue efficiencies through consolidation, privatization and innovation.



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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & TECHNOLOGY

- WIN** Address the community corrections formula that penalizes Sedgwick County for past success and innovation.
- WIN** Promote and expand critical tax/economic development incentive programs that result in more jobs and investment.
- WIN** Support enhancements and increased focus on entrepreneurship and the technology sector as contributors to economic growth.
- WIN** Support policies that ensure Kansas is competitive with other states related to childcare regulations
- NA** Support policies that ensure Kansas is competitive with other states related to the acquisition and development of national defense work.

### HEALTHCARE

- WIN** Oppose mandates and excessive regulations that increase the cost of providing affordable healthcare coverage to employees.
- WIN** Support increases in Medicaid reimbursement rates and inpatient mental health beds.
- WIN** Support the identification and implementation of innovative and effective strategies to reduce and treat substance abuse.
- N/A** Support policies and programs to address homelessness.
- LOSS** Support expansion of Medicaid (KanCare) that is revenue neutral and encourages personal responsibility.

### TRANSPORTATION

- WIN** 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.
- NA** Encourage policies that would draw Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) federal transportation dollars to the South Central Kansas region.
- LOSS** Support policies that expand air service at Eisenhower Airport.
- NA** Support policies that would allow for regional transportation authorities.



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### ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & REGULATION

- LOSS** Support policies and incentives that will improve the competitiveness of Kansas utility rates.
- WIN** Protect and strengthen workers' compensation and unemployment insurance reforms.
- LOSS** Support policies that preempt local units of government from banning products and services that are not prohibited by the state.
- WIN** Support legislation to address the municipal water supply and regulatory uncertainty for the region.
- LOSS** Support a Constitutional amendment allowing the legislature to override agency rules or regulations via a resolution.

### INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES

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

### GOVERNMENT RELATIONS INVESTORS

#### PINNACLE

Cox  
Koch  
The Boeing Company

#### VISIONARY

Evergy

