



SOUTH KANSAS CITY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Connecting, Educating, Growing Together



# 2016 Legislative Priorities

**The Grandview and South Kansas City Chambers collectively represent the voices of over 420 businesses and organizations employing 10,000+ people in the region.**

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## **Top 2016 Priorities**

### **Transportation**

Support a long term, sustainable transportation funding plan that delivers a sound approach to maintaining existing roads and bridges, improving safety and providing for economic development. We also encourage investment in all modes of transportation including roads and bridges, public transit and bicycle/pedestrian facilities.

### **Earnings Tax**

Oppose legislation that would eliminate the earnings tax in Kansas City and St. Louis.

### **Economic Development Incentives**

Support retaining existing state economic development incentives and programs.

### **Education**

Support legislation that will fund, as a part of the Missouri foundation formula for public schools, high quality pre-kindergarten education for all four year olds, regardless of the district's accreditation status.

### **Medicaid Expansion**

Support the expansion of Medicaid to maintain a stable tax environment and maintain the financial health of hospitals in Eastern Jackson County and throughout the state.

## **Business and Economic Development**

*The Chambers support a system of fair and equitable taxes, tax incentives and tax credits that encourage business growth and the economic growth and development of the South Kansas City and Grandview areas.*

### **Economic Development**

- Support enhancing initiatives to improve the climate for small business growth and development including seed capital funds and programs, and additional funding for state innovation centers and small business and technology development centers.
- Support retaining existing state economic development incentives and programs - including MODESA, TIF, state tax credits, historic and low income tax credits and Chapter 100 bonds – that benefit Kansas City and Grandview area businesses.
- Support the creation of new economic development tools that help to compete with other states, focusing incentives on companies that create high paying new jobs for the region.
- Support public policy that enables and encourages free market competition and infrastructure investment in the areas of voice, video and data services.
- Support the 2016 Kansas City Consensus Agenda for Economic Development.
- Support securing competitive funding for the Missouri Technology Corporation.

### **General Business**

- Support tort reform initiatives including measures to protect employers from frivolous lawsuits and eliminating joint and several liabilities.
- Oppose legislation to eliminate the earnings tax in Kansas City and St. Louis.
- Support legislation that extends the length of time between required elections to approve the earnings tax to at least 20 years.

## **Energy Efficiency and Reliability**

*The Chambers encourage investments in energy reliability and efficiency and support policies that provide balance between public health and environmental protections without unreasonable economic burdens on industry, business and Missouri residents.*

- Support development and voluntary use of alternative, domestic, and renewable energy resources that are considered economical and environmentally-friendly, including policies that support expansion and development of energy infrastructure, such as alternate-fuel transmission systems and infrastructure to deliver energy to the Kansas City region and other high demand areas.
- Support regulatory models that promote the region's history of affordable and reliable energy.
- Support legislation that facilitates aging infrastructure replacement as well as infrastructure expansion for safety and economic development purposes for all utilities.
- Support policies encouraging the increased use of alternative fuel vehicles and the deployment of the Clean Charge Network in the metropolitan area.

## **Health Care**

*The Chambers support healthcare and wellness initiatives and legislation that ensure sufficient funding for providers and greater access to coverage for the uninsured.*

- Support the expansion of Medicaid for the benefit of reducing the burden on local government and businesses and maintaining the financial health of hospitals in Eastern Jackson County and throughout the state.

## **Education**

*The Chambers support all levels of education and special education funding to strengthen the quality of education in the area, thus improving the business viability and workforce development of the region.*

### **• Pre-K through 12 Education**

- Support legislation that would guarantee full funding of the Missouri foundation formula for public schools.
- Support legislation that recognizes transferring students out of unaccredited school districts is not in the best interest of all students and communities and does not lead to the improvement of unaccredited districts and replaces the use of punitive solutions for improving districts with an intervention model of support.
- Support legislation that will fund, as a part of the Missouri foundation formula for public schools, high quality pre-kindergarten education for all four year olds, regardless of the district's accreditation status.

### **• Higher Education**

- Support providing adequate funding to support all public colleges' and universities' operating budgets and developing a plan to make substantial, ongoing investment in these educational institutions.
- Increase funding for technical occupation training programs, programs that enhance workforce competitiveness and economic development. Keep the A+ promise. Students who meet the requirements to receive A+ scholarship awards should receive what they are promised: full tuition and fees at a community college or area career/technical school.
- Support legislative efforts which continue to allow access to a college education at all of the state's post-secondary institutions, including private colleges, through the Access Missouri program.

## **Transportation**

*The Chambers support a long term, sustainable transportation funding plan that delivers a sound approach to maintaining existing roads and bridges, improving safety and providing for economic development. We also encourage investment in all modes of transportation including roads and bridges, public transit and bicycle/pedestrian facilities.*

- Support, at a minimum, maintaining existing funding levels for existing infrastructure.
- Support new and innovative ways to fund all modes of transportation throughout the state.
- Support and monitor the development and implementation of a comprehensive multimodal transit strategy for the Kansas City area that encourages business, retail and housing development along future high-service and existing interstate corridors, especially I-49
- Support legislation that mandates local agreement for major state improvements within a municipal boundary.
- Support the creation of a Waterways Trust Fund which would fund capital improvement projects for ports across the state and would serve as a dedicated funding source of general revenue dollars.
- The Chambers support allowing MoDOT to pass federal transportation funds down to city and county road agencies that can provide a match when it cannot, rather than lose those funds to another state.

## **Other Issues**

- Oppose mandates to municipalities that reduce local control and negatively impact local budgets.
- Support legislation to authorize a county option surcharge and/or a statewide fee on wireless communications services and/or prepaid wireless devices to support operation and enhancements of the 9-1-1 system.
- Support repealing or amending recently passed law allowing motor vehicles ten years old or older to be scraped without presenting a title which has led to a substantial increase in theft of older vehicles in Kansas City.
- Support enacting meaningful limits on interest rates for payday or title loans.
- Support legislation that would make Missouri's seatbelt law a primary enforcement law, allowing a law enforcement officer to stop a driver solely for failure to wear a seat belt.
- Support legislation that would prohibit all drivers from texting and driving when operating a motor vehicle.
- During the process of rulemaking, when holding hearings and meetings to gain public input, state agencies, especially those that deal with environmental justice matters, should insure that opportunities are provided for face-to face input around the state, not just in Jefferson City.

## **Local Priorities**

### **Bannister Federal Complex** (South Kansas City)

Support successful disposition of the Bannister Federal Complex including proper environmental remediation as well as reinvestment to assure future commercial viability.

### **135<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction in Martin City** (South Kansas City)

Support funding for the reconstruction of phase 3 of 135<sup>th</sup> Street in Martin City.

### **155<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction** (South Kansas City & Grandview)

Support funding for the reconstruction of 155<sup>th</sup> Street from I-49 to the former Richards-Gebaur Airforce Base.

### **Blue River Road Repairs** (South Kansas City)

Support funding for the repairs of Blue River Road south of Bannister Road which is currently closed due to the road washing out.

### **Asphalt Plant** (South Kansas City & Grandview)

Assess environmental concerns for the asphalt plant at MO-150 & I-49.

### **Airport Redevelopment** (South Kansas City)

Support citizen involvement in decisions to redevelop Kansas City International Airport.

### **I-49 Improvements** (Grandview)

Seek assistance from MoDOT to implement improvements to infrastructure along I-49 and its frontage roads to improve access to existing and prospective businesses and services in Grandview.

### **I-49 Circulation** (Grandview)

Support efforts to implement pedestrian and non-motorized circulation along and across I-49.

### **Environmental Standards** (Grandview)

- Ensure existing businesses and future business development complies with current environmental standards and that a natural resource review be part of the site development planning process.

**Health & Environment Protection** (Grandview)

Seek legislation and regulations that mandate City concurrence for oil or gas drilling permits within a city's boundary.

**Utilities** (Grandview) Seek tariff revision that would allow cities and electric utilities to share the benefits of using more energy efficient street lighting luminaries.

**Issues to Monitor**

*Though no legislation is currently being discussed on the following issues, these issues are very important to the Chamber and we will continue to monitor any legislation that may arise.*

- Monitor any legislation that exchanges income tax for consumption tax.
- Monitor any legislation that would require sales tax on internet transactions.
- Monitor the progress of the Kansas City Regional Rapid Rail
- Monitor ethics reform
- Monitor efforts to reduce the incidence and costs of tobacco-related illness and other common chronic illnesses.
- Monitor legislation that would redefine misconduct by employees and would restore employers' rights against unacceptable behavior by employees.
- Monitor Right to Work legislation.

## **Federal Issues**

### **Education**

- The Chambers support legislation that would help minimize student debt following college.

### **Health Care Reform**

- The Chambers support legislation to repeal and reformulate provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that have negative impacts on businesses' ability to do business such as the employer mandate, and the new taxes that will be passed onto employers and employees in the form of higher premiums.
- The Chambers support maintaining Medicaid funding and provider taxes at levels that allow Missouri to sustain vital safety net coverage for families as well as important medical education programs.

### **Budget**

- The Chambers encourage Congress and the administration to work toward a reduction of the budget deficit.

### **Energy**

- The Chambers encourage investment in energy reliability and efficiency and support policies that provide balance between public health and environmental protections without unreasonable economic burdens on industry/business and support the development and voluntary use of alternative and renewable energy resources and policies that support expansion and development of energy infrastructure.

### **Taxation**

- The Chambers support a simpler, predictable and less burdensome tax system.

### **Other**

- The Chamber supports funding to extend the partially constructed flood wall in the Dodson Industrial Area of South Kansas City. (South Kansas City)
- The chamber supports the continued disposition of the Bannister Federal Complex including proper environmental remediation as well as reinvestment to assure future commercial viability. (South Kansas City)
- Support reinstatement of funding through the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) for public safety agencies in the Kansas City metropolitan area to allow them to respond effectively to manmade or natural disasters. (South Kansas City & Grandview)