

THE CHAMBER OPPOSES:

- Restrictions on tax abatements
- School vouchers
- Tax and spending lids
- Tax policies that shift the tax burden to other areas of state government or to other levels of government, including municipal government
- Legislation that weakens the current Open Records/Open Meetings statutes
- Unfunded or under-funded mandates
- Binding arbitration in employment disputes
- Restriction on cities ability to utilize unilateral annexation
- Initiative and referendum
- Prohibition on public lobbying
- Burdensome reporting requirements of nonprofit expenditures which put Kansas economic developers at a competitive disadvantage



OLATHE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
2016 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM
Advocating for Business and the Olathe Community

Olathe Chamber of Commerce
Business to Government Steering Committee

D.P. Bonham
Brian Brown
Karin Brownlee
Scott Coup
Gordon Docking
Bill Garton
Michael Horrell
Josh Maxfield
Gerald McKay

Tim McKee
Darren Odum
Jason Parker
Jason Peters
Matt Smith
Barry Sutherland
Frank Taylor
Nicolle Welsh

Contact Information

Natalie Bright

Business to Government Advocacy
(316) 640-1422 • natalie@brightcarpenter.com

Marlee Carpenter

Business to Government Advocacy
(785) 213-0185 • marlee@brightcarpenter.com

Olathe Chamber of Commerce

18001 W. 106th St., Suite 160
Olathe, Kansas 66051-0098

(913) 764-1050
Fax: (913) 782-4636



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OLATHE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
18001 W. 106th St., Suite 160 - P.O. Box 98
Olathe, KS 66051-0098
(913) 764-1050 - www.olathe.org

The Olathe Chamber of Commerce continues to be the voice of business that advances the economic well-being and quality of life in Olathe.

BUDGET & TAXES: Our vision is to achieve a balanced tax base while continuing to fund our most important economic development assets.

- Repeal 2015 tax lid imposed on local government as it impedes the ability of the City of Olathe and other business partners to provide and maintain infrastructure necessary to support growth.
- Preserve and expand state and local economic development tools to bring additional revenue to the state by attracting new companies and creating new jobs.
- Support continued funding of the state infrastructure, including the state comprehensive transportation plan.
- Develop a consistent and predictable tax code to allow businesses to plan more effectively and operate more efficiently, as well as remain competitive with surrounding states. Specifically, oppose the implementation of new sales tax on services or increase taxes on food.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: We believe that the future success of Kansas business depends on continued investment in educational excellence and workforce development.

- Continue competitive funding for K-12 education at levels that fund and promote excellence in education, while addressing costs associated with growth, diversity, operational and capital costs.
- Develop and utilize a School finance formula that maximizes resources, increases flexibility and expands local control over raising and spending funds for education.
- Invest and support innovative programs in higher education and research to preserve affordability and produce a well-trained workforce.

- Advocate for workforce development, technical training, and higher education initiatives, especially in the fields of engineering, math, science and healthcare.
- Support initiatives that provide for certification and licensing in agricultural and food emergency response, federal law enforcement and intelligence.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND WORKERS COMPENSATION: We support measures that allow employers to create jobs and are dedicated to getting workers back on the job.

- Monitor improvements to the administration of the Kansas Unemployment Compensation System, including eliminating overpayments, payment of unqualified benefits and neutral interpretation of the unemployment insurance laws as well as ensure that implementation of the revised employer rate structure provides Fund solvency and fairly assesses Kansas employers based on their utilization of the system.
- Monitor Workers' Compensation costs, while maintaining reasonable reimbursement for providers and monitor court interpretation of recent reforms to assure intent of reforms are upheld.

HEALTH CARE: We advocate for a health care system that is fair and affordable for both employers and individuals.

- Monitor healthcare reforms and support innovative incentives and enhanced delivery systems that allow more employers to offer affordable health benefits to their employees.
- Support health reforms for all businesses, making health care more affordable.
- Maintain adequate reimbursement rates for Medicaid providers in spite of state budget challenges.

IMMIGRATION: Our vision includes immigration measures that protect employers.

- Monitor immigration reform measures, their impact on businesses and the costs to cities and counties to enforce.

- Oppose measures that impose burdensome mandates or penalties on Kansas businesses, such as revocation of business licenses or required use of E-verify.

JUDICIAL SELECTION: We support a fair and impartial judiciary branch of government.

- Support a process that limits the role of politics in the selection of judges and provides for a fair and impartial Kansas judicial system.

STANDING POSITIONS OF THE OLATHE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Olathe Chamber has developed the following standing positions, which are reviewed annually for their continued merit and reflect the general will of the Chamber.

THE CHAMBER SUPPORTS:

- Policies which keep Kansas competitive with surrounding states
- Retention of the constitutional power of eminent domain with local control
- Current sales tax situs law on motor vehicles
- Efforts to reform the tort system in order to decrease the cost of doing business in Kansas
- Monitoring state-wide energy policy changes related to the EPA's Clean Power Plan rule which could cause increased energy costs
- Efforts to coordinate a strategic, modernized approach to travel and tourism with professional leadership, including initiatives appropriate to travel and tourism-related entities and proper use of transient guest tax
- Optimizing state funding for Medicaid home and community-based waivers for vulnerable populations (elderly, development, physical and mental disabilities) in order to receive Federal Medicaid match

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