

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
- The taking of dedicated transportation funding and using it for other purposes.



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OLATHE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2018 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Advocating for Business and the Olathe Community

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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.

- 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 on food.
- 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 states' infrastructure and core services, including the state comprehensive transportation plan.
- Repeal 2015 tax lid imposed or support targeted exemptions to provide relief from the tax lid 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.

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

- Support measures to strengthen the Department of Commerce and enhance the state's ability to compete in the global economy and facilitate job growth.
- 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 sufficient funding and adequate reimbursement rates for Medicaid providers despite state budget challenges including restoration of recent cuts to Kansas providers.
- Address the cost shifts of uninsured Kansans being passed on to businesses and other consumers by supporting health care solutions that improve the quality and efficiency of the current KanCare/Medicaid system while maximizing coverage available through state and federal funding.

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.

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 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
- Limiting the role of politics in the selection of judges so there is an impartial judiciary branch of government

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