

2010 Standing Positions Actively Promoted Whenever the Issue or Opportunity Arises

POSITIONS ARE NOT PRESENTED IN PRIORITY ORDER

SUPPORT: An ongoing review of the taxation system at state level to maintain an equitable, competitive and progressive position. Sales, income, property and other taxes should be reviewed and balanced to meet the needs of the state without compromising the economic competitiveness of the state.

OPPOSE: Implementation of new sales tax on services not currently taxed.

SUPPORT: Protection of tax increment financing tools (TIF) and other economic development initiatives.

OPPOSE: Changes to the current sales tax situs law on motor vehicles.

OPPOSE: Tax policy changes that simply shift the tax burden to business and local levels of government.

SUPPORT: Enforcement of the tax law requiring fair market valuation of property taxes throughout the state.

SUPPORT: Regulatory framework which results in consistent and predictable application of state policies, procedures and regulations.

SUPPORT: Current state of Kansas status as a right to work state.

SUPPORT: The retention of all current exceptions to the Kansas Open Records Act, which protect the confidentiality rights and interests of private business.

SUPPORT: Full implementation of 2007 phased repeal of the state's franchise tax.

OPPOSE: Binding arbitration in employment disputes.

OPPOSE: Initiative and referendum.

OPPOSE: Legislation that would either materially alter the current selection process for Supreme Court justices or shift an inappropriate level of control over judicial nominations to the legislative branch; thereby threatening the independence of the judiciary and the balance and separation of powers between the three branches of government.

2010 Governmental Affairs Committee

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2010 State Legislative Agenda

The Shawnee Chamber of Commerce promotes the business interests of Shawnee and serves as a leading advocate for the enhancement of economic growth and education excellence for our community. In furtherance of the Chamber's vision to drive economic prosperity, and to educate and inform the community on issues and platforms, the Chamber has approved the following legislative agenda for the 2010 session.



Business & Economic Development

To continue to facilitate a strong and diverse economy, the Chamber supports business and economic development legislation that promotes the creation of jobs, business growth and expansion.

- Support the continued development of the infrastructure aimed at increasing entrepreneurial ventures and incentives to small businesses.
- Support maintaining funding of the Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF) through the Kansas Lottery. The Chamber supports either raising the \$50 million cap on lottery funds earmarked for EDIF or building, into the reauthorization, an annual percentage increase in funding for EDIF.
- Support expansion of Kansas business incentives to compete in the national marketplace by shifting from reliance on tax credits to cash-based incentive programs.
- Support reducing administrative burden for small businesses to apply for state economic development incentives and tax credits.
- Support rescinding the 2006 eminent domain legislation and returning the authority back to local control.
- Support job creation through tax initiatives focused on technical and bioscience workforce training.
- Support tax policies that foster competitive positioning for Kansas businesses within national and global markets.
- Support the broadening of qualifying criteria for the statutory property tax exemption from exclusively manufacturing firms to a wider array of enterprises more reflective of the modern economy.
- Support the Kansas Tourism Initiative (KTI) to provide for an organizational structure that better adapts to a changing marketplace of tourism.
- Oppose any changes to the 2009 legislation which created Community Improvement Districts (CID's).
- Support the continuation of the Promoting Employment Across Kansas (PEAK) program with KEDA Competitiveness Task Force suggested amendments.

Education

Education excellence is one of the most important factors to stimulate economic prosperity and growth in the state of Kansas. The Chamber continues to support adequate funding for schools in order to provide quality education with the increasing standards of No Child Left Behind. The Chamber will continue to support the following initiatives:

- Support changes to the school finance formula that would reallocate funding to be more consistent with the findings of the independent study by Legislative Post Audit (LPA) and oppose any further reductions to districts that are currently funded below the LPA recommendation.
- Support increased local authority, allowing districts to provide programs that meet the needs and desires of local communities. State equalization assistance should be provided to districts with lower assessed valuation. The gap in the funding of districts should be closed by increasing high enrollment weighting each year.
- Support a redistribution of state funding to provide increased support for those districts that have unfunded excess special education costs and oppose any changes to the special education catastrophic aid law until a fairer distribution of all special education funding is achieved.
- Support funding for higher education to keep Kansas institutions competitive.
- Support innovative university programs promoting math and science (M&S) such as a loan forgiveness program for graduates to teach M&S in Kansas K-12. Support K-12 increasing emphasis for students on M&S curriculum.
- Support funding measures to address deferred maintenance on university infrastructure in the state.

Animal Health/Bioscience

- Support funding for the University of Kansas Cancer Center's efforts to achieve NCI designation.
- Support legislation to authorize local governments to issue special obligation bonds to fund bioscience redevelopment costs.
- Support education and workforce development focused toward the life sciences, including veterinary and agricultural programs.

Transportation

The Chamber recognizes the importance of basic infrastructure to the economic health, job growth, public safety and overall quality of life. It supports funding of a comprehensive, multi-year transportation program to include all forms of transportation—highway, rail, public transit, intermodal and air. It also supports measures to encourage regional approaches to public transit and funding, and to transportation planning. The Chamber supports maintaining all transportation funding from the state to city and county governments to meet their transportation needs.

Energy & Environment

- Support the development of a long-term energy plan that balances environmental and cost benefits, while ensuring reliable and ample power for the region.
- Support policies that promote investment in energy efficiency measures.
- Support incentives to promote sustainability for consumers, businesses and communities.
- Support development and voluntary use of alternative fuels and energy resources that are economical and environmentally friendly, including policies that support expansion of wind energy and development of transmission systems.
- Support actions by the state of Kansas to promote affordable solutions to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in state government operations.

Healthcare

Healthcare costs continue to rise at an alarming rate, which puts a tremendous financial burden on the business community to provide healthcare benefits to their employees. Given the impending federal healthcare reform bills being proposed, the Chamber will continue to monitor the final results. At that time, the Chamber will re-address its current healthcare position. The Chamber supports initiatives that result in incentives for business owners to provide healthcare coverage for their employees and an enhanced healthcare delivery system and initiatives, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Oppose health insurance mandates that put undue financial demands on employers who provide group insurance benefits for their employees.
- Support removing the barriers to suppliers of Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) related products to foster greater competition and consumer services for HSAs.
- Support and encourage open-market access to healthcare within and outside the U.S. In the event of passage of Small Business Health Plan enabling legislation in the U.S. Congress, the state should ensure that the necessary legislation is in place in order to allow Kansans the immediate ability to pool risk and take advantage of this type of healthcare offering.

Oppose Tax or Spending Lids

The Chamber opposes TABOR/Proposition K or any other efforts to place lids on state and local taxing authority or efforts to impose artificial spending lids, which restricts the ability of government to respond to growth in a timely manner or make needed investments in the future of the economy for the state. This includes opposing the "supermajority" 2/3 vote by state or local governing bodies to approve tax increases.