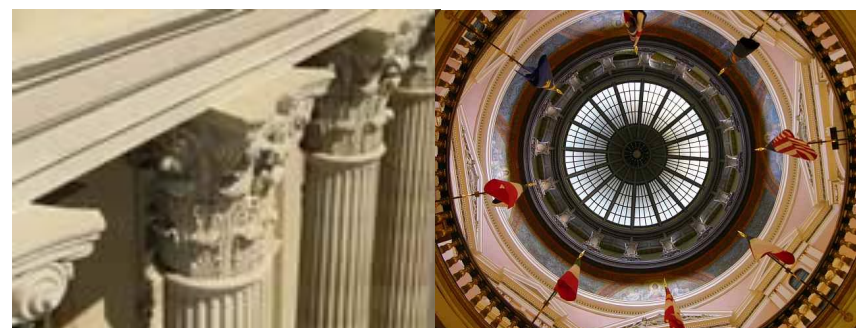


2011 Standing Positions Actively Promoted Whenever the Issue or Opportunity Arises

POSITIONS ARE NOT PRESENTED IN PRIORITY ORDER

- SUPPORT: An ongoing review of the taxation system at state level to maintain an equitable, competitive and pragmatic 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.
- SUPPORT: Protection of tax increment financing tools (TIF) and other economic development initiatives.
- SUPPORT: Current laws regarding exemptions to the Kansas Open Records Act.
- SUPPORT: Enforcement of the tax law requiring fair market valuation of property taxes throughout the state.
- SUPPORT: Current state of Kansas status as a right to work state.
- SUPPORT: Full implementation of 2007 phased repeal of the state's franchise tax.
- OPPOSE: Implementation of new sales tax on services not currently taxed.
- OPPOSE: Changes to the current sales tax situs law on motor vehicles.
- 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.



2011 Governmental Affairs Committee

Justin Nichols, Chair | Lathrop & Gage, L.L.P.

Tim Harmon, 2010 Chairman of the Board | Harmon Construction, Inc.

David Blankenship | AXA Advisors, LLC

Brian Brown | Sharon Lane Health Services

Chris Carroll | AT&T

Steven Cowen | Home Builder's Association of Greater Kansas City

Jack Deyoe | Unified School District #232

Steve Hale | Brotherhood Bank & Trust

Phil Hammond | The Land Source

David Herndon | First State Bank

Dave Huston | Olson Manufacturing & Distribution

Scott Jones | KCP&L

Dawn Kuhn, City Councilmember | Bank Midwest

John Miller | Lake Quivira Country Club

Dennis Monahan | Metcalf Bank

Tim Rooney | Shawnee Mission School District

Paul Snider | KCP&L

Kevin Tubbesing | The Land Source

Jeff Vaught, City Councilmember | The Vaught Group

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2011 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 2011 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 creation of a discretionary fund for closing economic development projects for use by the senior leadership of the state.
- Continue the transition to cash-based economic development tools for the state in lieu of relying on tax credit based programs to attract jobs and investments.
- Support the continuation of the Promoting Employment Across Kansas (PEAK) program.
- Support reducing administrative burden for small businesses to apply for state economic development incentives and tax credits.
- Support job creation through 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 limitations on non-economic damages or other litigation reforms necessary to maintain or lower the costs of doing business in the state

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.
- Support an increase in the state support to school districts in 2010-11 to maintain funding at \$4,012 base aid per pupil level. As an additional \$92 million of Federal Education Jobs Funding is provided to the state to be spent on education, any reductions to the current state appropriation should leave sufficient funding to maintain the \$4,012 base state aid per pupil.
- Support legislation allowing school districts to lower local property tax rates by offsetting motor vehicle tax collections in special weighting funds against the available authority. Based on recent opinions by the Kansas Attorney General and the Kansas Department of Education, motor vehicle tax collections applicable to tax rates in these funds can be retained by the districts but current law does not allow the proceeds to offset the amount of property and real estate taxes to be collected.
- Support legislation that would balance the interest of a claimant in a special education due process hearing with appropriate cost containment so the process does not unnecessarily take resources from other school district programs.
- 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 measures to encourage regional approaches to public transit and funding, and transportation planning. The Chamber supports the full preservation of the Kansas State Highway Fund and opposes the diversion of state highway funds for any use other than the funding of the eligible transportation projects for which it was created. The State

should consider diverse funding strategies, while maintaining flexibility, accountability and opportunities for local input and support.

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.

Promote Fair Competition in the Marketplace

When a marketplace is governed effectively by market dynamics, government should seek to minimize regulatory burdens. Government policy should ultimately seek to empower customers, not regulators. Accordingly, government should refrain, to the maximum extent possible, from unnecessarily regulating the marketplace so as to promote robust competition and stimulate an atmosphere of innovation that leads to investment.

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. The Chamber supports initiatives that result in incentives for business owners to provide health care 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.

Oppose Tax or Spending Lids

The Chamber opposes 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.