

2012 Standing Positions

POSITIONS ARE NOT PRESENTED IN PRIORITY ORDER

- SUPPORT:** Protection of development tools (TIF, CID, Star Bonds) 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 statewide.
- SUPPORT:** Current State of Kansas status as a right to work state.
- SUPPORT:** Initiatives that result in incentives for business owners to provide health care coverage 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:** Encourage open-market access to healthcare within and outside the U.S.
- 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.
- OPPOSE:** Health insurance mandates that put undue financial demands on employers who provide group insurance benefits for their employees.

2012 Governmental Affairs Committee

David Herndon, GAC Chair | First State Bank

Steve Hale, Chairman of the Board | Brotherhood Bank & Trust

David Blankenship | AXA Advisors, LLC

Marilyn Breitenstein | Business Consultant

Brian Brown | Sharon Lane Health Services

Chris Carroll | AT&T

Phil Hammond | The Land Source

Tim Harmon | Harmon Construction, Inc

Dave Huston | Olson Manufacturing & Distribution

Scott Jones | KCP&L

Dawn Kuhn | City Councilmember | Bank Midwest

Patricia Lyles | State Farm Insurance

John Miller | Lake Quivira Country Club

Dennis Monahan | Metcalf Bank

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

Jim Neighbor | City Councilmember

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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Shawnee Chamber of Commerce State Legislative Agenda 2012



- Advocates for public policies and positions
- Promotes the interests of Shawnee businesses
- Drives economic prosperity
- Educates and informs members on legislative issues and platforms
- Builds alliances with like-minded organizations to provide a voice on statewide issues



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 legislation that gives senior leaders authority to utilize the job creation fund for closing economic development projects to leverage local community funds.
- 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 reducing administrative burden for small businesses to apply for state economic development incentives and tax credits.
- Support funding for the University of Kansas Cancer Center's efforts to achieve NCI designation.
- 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 will continue to support the following initiatives:

- Support adoption of a new finance formula for the funding of K-12 education in the state. The new formula should be fair, financially sustainable, provide for greater local authority, equalized at appropriate levels and include other like principles as outlined in the guiding principles for school finance reform as endorsed in 2010.
- Support a redistribution of state funding to provide increased support for those districts that have unfunded excess special education costs.

- 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 sufficient 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.
- Support in-state tuition for all Kansas residents.
- Support education and workforce development focused toward the life sciences, including veterinary and agricultural programs.

Taxation

- Support an ongoing review of the taxation system at state level to increase the competitive economic position of the state. 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 or overburdening the local economy.
- Oppose implementation of new sales tax on services not currently taxed.

Promote Fair Marketplace Competition

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.

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 economic long-term energy plans that ensure ample power and reliability for the region, balancing environmental and cost benefits, including policies that promote investment in energy efficiency, sustainability, transmission and distribution and voluntary use of alternative and renewable fuels and energy resources.

Immigration



A balanced immigration policy should be created and enforced at the federal level. Oppose state action that creates additional costly or time-consuming mandates for employers or that imposes unreasonable penalties on employers who unintentionally hire undocumented workers.

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 similar to TABOR, 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. Oppose a "supermajority" vote by state or local governing bodies to approve tax increases.