

# 2021 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



**KANSASCHAMBER**  
UNITED FOR BUSINESS

SAFEGUARDING OUR SYSTEM OF FREE, COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE



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THE MISSION OF THE KANSAS CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE IS TO CONTINUALLY  
STRIVE TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE  
FOR THE BENEFIT OF EVERY BUSINESS AND  
CITIZEN AND TO SAFEGUARD OUR SYSTEM OF  
FREE, COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE.



Through the trials and tribulations of 2020, I witnessed the spirit of the Kansas business community lead our state throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

From the early days and weeks when our members repurposed their facilities to develop much needed personal protection equipment (PPE) and sanitizer, to establishing safe workplaces through the summer and fall months as businesses reopened and employees returned to work, it is this spirit that makes Kansans so great.



Unfortunately, much like our state's historical economic performance, our recovery during the second half of 2020 has lagged behind the rest of the states. As vaccinations are delivered and the economy reopens, Kansas must take the necessary steps to improve our state's business climate to encourage investment.

The Kansas Chamber team takes the business community's spirit of leadership and innovation back to the Kansas Statehouse with an aggressive 2021 Legislative Agenda, ranging from tax policy to extension of COVID liability protection for employers. We will advocate to lower the cost of doing business in the state so Kansas will become a more attractive investment option going forward.

Rampant unemployment insurance fraud and the Kansas Department of Labor's struggles to pay claims has placed a high priority on modernizing the agency's computer system so employers can efficiently and effectively manage their UI accounts.

We will work to overcome Governor Laura Kelly' veto last session of comprehensive property tax reform. Legal reform efforts also will be a focus in 2021 following the Kansas Supreme Court's decision to eliminate caps on non-economic damages which has eroded what was once a sound legal climate. Above average energy costs continue to negatively impact Kansas businesses, especially high-energy users in manufacturing and production.

These are just a few highlights of the **2021 Legislative Agenda** we will present to Governor Kelly and the Kansas Legislature. The recent elections strengthened support for Kansas businesses, and we are hopeful many of our policy proposals will be considered during the session.

We thank you for your continued investment with the Kansas Chamber to support our mission and goals. It is an honor to serve as your leader and I look forward to seeing you at our events and member meetings in 2021.

Sincerely,

Alan Cobb  
President & CEO, Kansas Chamber





# KANSAS BUSINESS AT A GLANCE

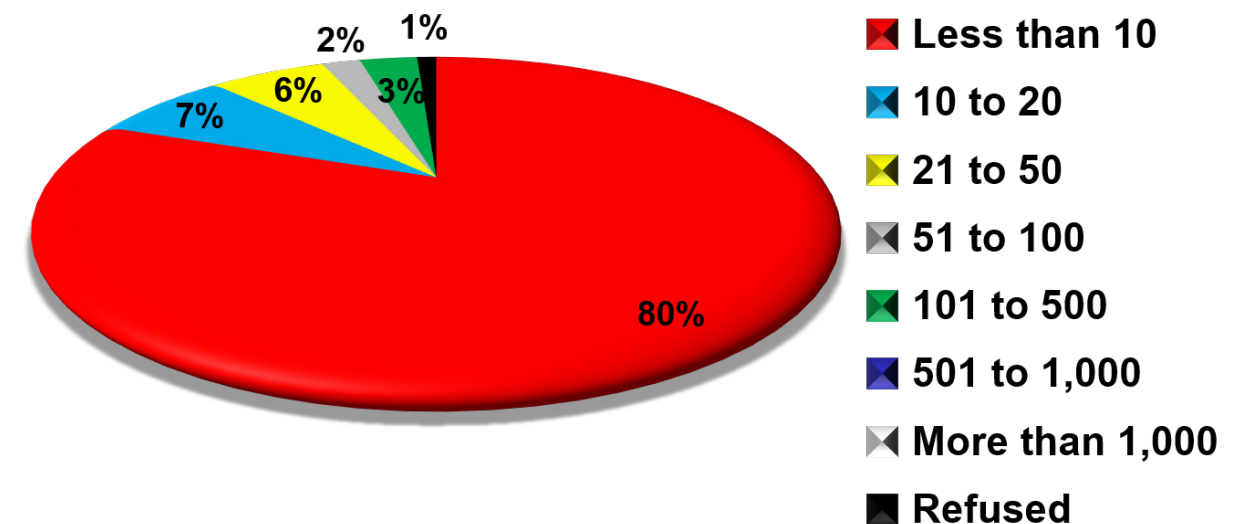
The Kansas Chamber commissions Cole Hargrave Snodgrass & Associates annually to poll 300 member and non-member businesses that reflect the Kansas business community geographically as well as by industry makeup and size of the employer. The issues identified by our state's business community in the Business Leaders Poll help lay the foundation for the **2021 Legislative Agenda**.

## Most Important Issues Facing Kansas Businesses\*



\*Source: The Kansas Chamber's 2020 Business Leaders Poll

## Number of Employees in Businesses Polled\*



## Most Important to Profitability\*

Lower taxes on business: **52%**

Manage health care costs: **34%**

Decrease regulations/mandates: **25%**

Limit growth of government: **16%**

Reduce fuel/energy costs: **14%**

Economic Incentives: **12%**

Stop frivolous lawsuits/tort reform: **10%**

Workers' compensation: **8%**

Unemployment compensation: **6%**

## OTHER POLL NOTES FROM KANSAS BUSINESS LEADERS\*

- ▶ 77% believe to balance the state budget Kansas should cut spending rather than increase taxes
- ▶ **75% want more K-12 funding going into classrooms**
- ▶ 63% believe it would help the Kansas economy if state taxes were lowered
- ▶ **65% believe the Kansas Supreme Court overstep its authority in its rulings involving K-12 school funding**
- ▶ 54% do not believe Kansas has the best business climate when compared to other states
- ▶ **69% say COVID-19 has impacted their supply lines**
- ▶ 57% find job applicants don't have soft skills while 25% say applicants lack the needed tech skills



## TAXATION\*

### REDUCE TAXES, ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT AND GROWTH

The Kansas Chamber urges the legislature to reduce the cost of doing business, and will encourage efforts to:

- ▶ Support passage of legislation addressing federal tax windfall caused by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.
- ▶ Make permanent the ability of businesses to expense capital investments.
- ▶ Support legislation regarding collection of sales taxes to correct the imbalance between in-state and out-of-state retailers and using additional revenue to lower tax rates.
- ▶ Reduce government spending instead of increasing the cost of doing business through tax increases.
- ▶ Support legislation which grants corporate taxpayers the choice between the current three-factor apportionment formula and a new, single-factor sales-based formula.
- ▶ Oppose efforts which would subject professional services to sales tax.
- ▶ Retain and enhance tax incentives to include more flexible investment and job development tax credits with options for cash incentives.
- ▶ Oppose elimination of the High Performance Incentive Program (HPIP) and reinstate the same qualifying investment thresholds for all Kansas counties.
- ▶ Oppose efforts to freeze or eliminate the Promoting Employment Across Kansas (PEAK) program.
- ▶ Support property tax reform which replaces the public vote requirement with a truth in taxation model.
- ▶ Oppose the sunset or repeal of existing sales tax exemptions on business inputs and ensure business to business transactions are exempt from sales tax.
- ▶ Support legislation which moves Kansas from a destination-based state to an origin-based state for the purposes of collecting sales tax on intrastate transactions.
- ▶ Reimburse retailers a percentage of the cost to comply with collecting and remitting sales and excise taxes to the state.
- ▶ Oppose any proposal to redirect the current .4 cent sales tax dedicated to the State Highway Fund and support completion of the projects encompassed in the Comprehensive Highway Plan.

\* Both a federal and state issue

### Kansas Corporate Tax Structure, 2010-2020



Source: Tax Foundation. Prepared for Kansas Chamber Annual Competitiveness Index by GrowthEconomics, Inc.

### What does it mean?

The Tax Foundation's Corporate Tax Index strives to measure fairness and balance across all businesses. It favors tax systems that are simple and have low tax rates across a broad base. Phased-in legislative changes in Kansas Corporate Tax in 2012 and 2013 led to improvement in 2015, with the state's ranking trending mildly higher since. Kansas' rise to 31st in 2020 is because of state's conformity to the temporary adoption of the five-year net operating loss carryback provisions afforded by the CARES Act. The state's overall tax index rank remains at 35th.

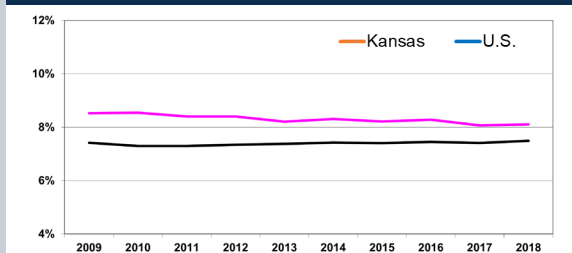
## EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### SUPPORT AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION SYSTEM WHICH PRODUCES A WELL-EDUCATED, WELL-TRAINED KANSAS WORKFORCE FOR TOMORROW'S BUSINESS NEEDS

The Kansas Chamber supports increasing the quality of education for tomorrow's workforce and the efficient use of tax dollars through policies that:

- ▶ Support a constitutional amendment for the democratically elected legislature to have exclusive authority to determine funding for schools in an effort to eliminate endless litigation over school funding.
- ▶ Support policies which promote coordination of resources and alignment of curriculum between K-12 and higher education institutions to ensure the workforce needs of Kansas businesses and career needs of students are being met.
- ▶ Strengthen requirements to enhance in-classroom spending and eliminate inefficient spending.
- ▶ Support vigorous and dynamic Kansas-based primary and secondary education standards that focus on college and career readiness and which ensure acquisition, retention and comprehension of an essential base of knowledge at every step of the educational process toward a career suited to each student's interest and ability.
- ▶ Make it easier for qualified subject matter experts to have the opportunity to provide instruction by limiting certification restrictions.
- ▶ Support efforts to offer parents and students a variety of educational choices regardless of their socio-economic status, and support efforts to create innovative school environments designed to maximize the educational experience for all students.
- ▶ Support efforts to include computer science as a core science elective for high school students.
- ▶ Support work-based learning opportunities for high school students ages 16 and older through legislation limiting liability to the businesses participating in school sponsored programs.
- ▶ Support efforts to attract and retain the best and brightest teachers for the benefit of our Kansas students through a system that rewards excellence in teaching and innovation.

### Administrative Per Pupil Spending as % of Total Public K-12 Spending



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Public Education Finances.  
Prepared for the Kansas Chamber Annual Competitiveness Index by GrowthEconomics, Inc.

### What does it mean?

Opportunities for improvement in K-12 efficiency remain - administrative spending as a percent of total K-12 spending persistently exceeds the U.S. average by roughly 10%. Between 2010 and 2013, there were signs of improvement, followed by several years of gradual positive change, and then holding steady in 2017 and 2018. Today's gap is below that of ten years earlier.

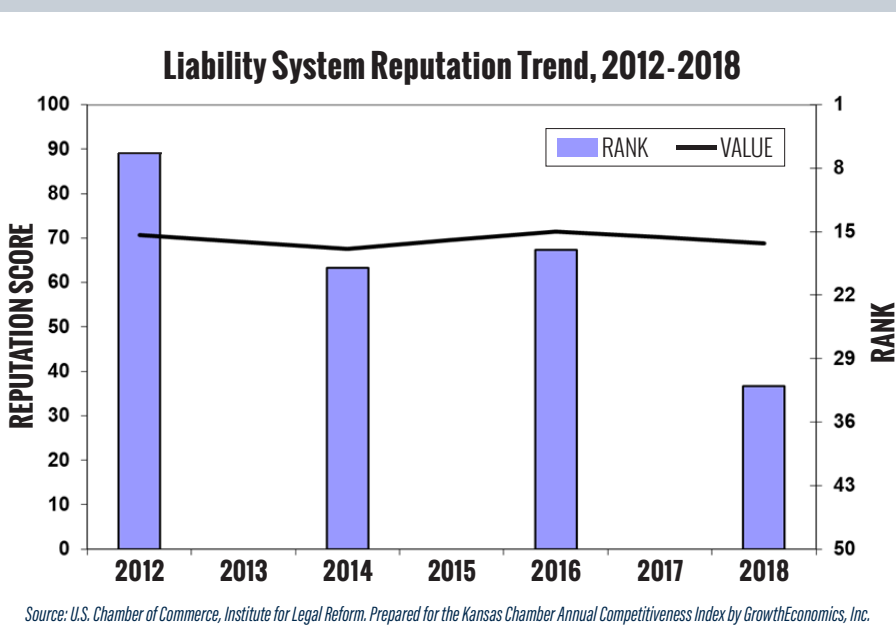


## LEGAL REFORM

### PROMOTE FAIRNESS, REDUCE LIABILITY

The Kansas Chamber supports efforts to improve the legal climate in Kansas by reducing incentives for litigation that disproportionately awards plaintiffs and will support legislative efforts to:

- ▶ Support reform of Kansas law regarding awards of attorneys' fees against insurance carriers who contest coverage for loss under a policy that includes coverage for damage because of lightning, fire, tornado or hail.
- ▶ Support reinstating caps on non-economic damages.
- ▶ Support statutory preemption of local units of government from hiring outside counsel to initiate class action litigation unless approved by the Attorney General.
- ▶ Support legislation which requires disclosure of third-party financing of litigation.
- ▶ Support legislation regarding admissibility of evidence of seat belt use.
- ▶ Support legislation implementing safeguards to protect consumers against misleading lawsuit advertising.
- ▶ Repeal provisions of the current collateral source rule that prevents juries from hearing evidence that some of Plaintiff's claimed damages have already been paid.
- ▶ Support amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure to enable assessment of attorney fees against the losing party in a lawsuit under appropriate circumstances.
- ▶ Support judicial selection reform measures that provide for a greater level of transparency, public input and accountability and encourage the legislature to construct a reasonable reform measure that addresses these objectives.



### What does it mean?

The U.S. Chamber Lawsuit Climate Survey is conducted by the Harris Poll to measure U.S. business perceptions. The survey samples individuals familiar with the legal climate in each state, including in-house general counsel, senior litigators and select senior executives of large corporations. Kansas scored consistently well until its ranking dropped significantly in 2018, the latest report. Kansas has lost its comparative edge as scores of other states gradually improved, lowering Kansas rank from fifth in 2012 to 32nd in 2018.



"It's critically important that Kansas is economically competitive. Cox supports the Chamber's efforts to ensure lawmakers understand the impact their decisions have on all Kansas businesses and Kansans."

**Coleen Jennison, Kansas Market Vice President, Cox**

"The Kansas Chamber provides a direct communication line from our business to what is happening in the Kansas Legislature. When you are out in western Kansas, it can be challenging to stay on top of all of the proposed legislation that will affect business life. The Kansas Chamber keeps us informed and up-to-date so we can focus on the business at hand and effectively take care of our customers."

**H.J. Swender, President, American Warrior, Inc.**



## HUMAN RESOURCE ISSUES\*

### REDUCE COSTS TO PROMOTE GROWTH

The Kansas Chamber supports policies that promote fairness and protect employer costs and will:

- ▶ Support criminal justice reform efforts and re-entry programs that offer the opportunity for individuals with criminal records to re-enter the workforce.
- ▶ Support policies which maintain the integrity of the Employment Security Trust Fund, and accurately reflect the employer experience rating when determining contribution rates.
- ▶ Defend the workers' compensation system and the recent reforms with policies that fairly compensate workers legitimately injured performing duties for their jobs, while maintaining low costs for employers.
- ▶ Oppose state-led efforts which put employers in conflict with federal discrimination laws.
- ▶ Encourage federal resolution to immigration reform and oppose state legislation increasing penalties or threatening the business licenses of employers who have unintentionally hired illegal workers. In the event Congress again fails to address the immigration situation, support legislation allowing states to implement guest worker programs that address each state's particular workforce needs while protecting our borders from the criminal element.
- ▶ Maintain fair labor practices by opposing unfair advantages for union organizations.

\* Both a federal and state issue



## INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

### PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT

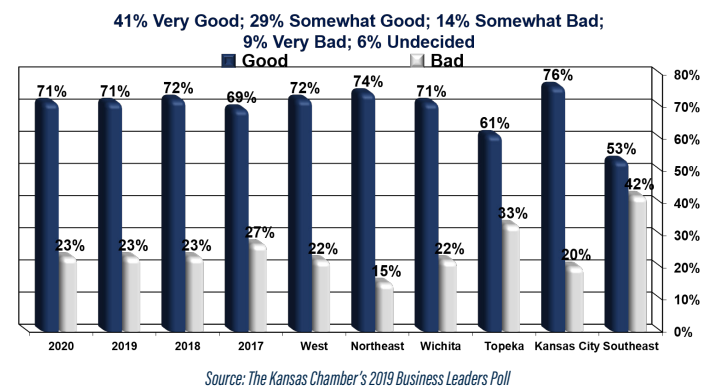
The Kansas Chamber supports innovation and investment in start-up companies through policies that:

- ▶ Ensure financial barriers for business filings and start-up-related expenses are limited.
- ▶ Promote and expand small business development loans for Kansas start-ups through private institutions rather than the State.
- ▶ Minimize or eliminate barriers for transition of business ownership.
- ▶ Support continuation and expansion of Angel Investor Tax Credit program.

#### What does it mean?

Nearly two-thirds of Kansas business leaders continue to believe the state is a good place to start a business. There are some concerns with business leaders in Topeka where there is greater dependence on government jobs and Southeast Kansas where businesses face increased workforce and capital investment challenges.

#### Is Kansas a good place to start a business?



## REGULATORY AFFAIRS\*

### SUPPORT FREE ENTERPRISE, ENCOURAGE COMPETITION

The Kansas Chamber supports a regulatory climate that promotes a healthy business climate and instills regulatory certainty, through policies that:

- ▶ Maintain a set of clear requirements in the regulatory process that instills confidence for businesses that follow the rules when seeking to do business in the state.
- ▶ Prevent imposition of burdensome state and federal regulations on business and industry.
- ▶ Encourage the least restrictive method of regulation for occupational licensing that support the goal of protecting the public without limiting competition.

\* Both a federal and state issue

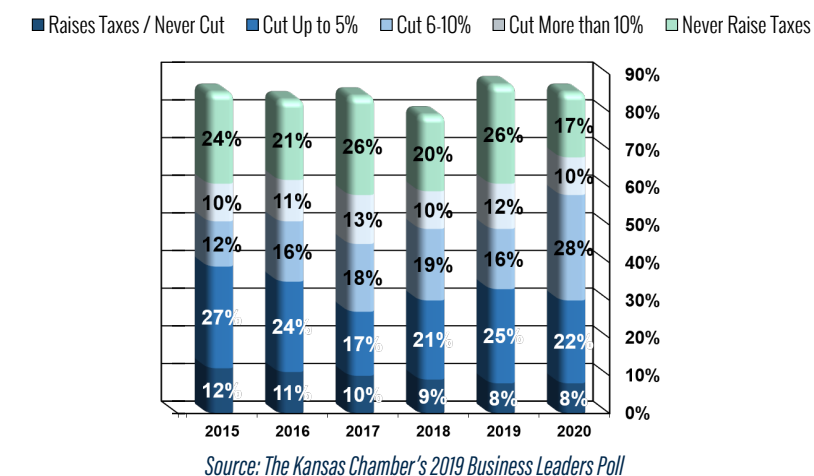
## GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

### CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT FOR JOB GROWTH

The Kansas Chamber encourages government reform aimed at lowering the overall cost of state government so it is more affordable to Kansas businesses and residents through policies that:

- ▶ Promote adoption of "Lean Government" practices to transform the state into a more efficient enterprise.
- ▶ Support continued implementation of priority- or performance-based budgeting throughout all levels of state government.
- ▶ Support requirement of Governor to submit existing resources budget to the legislature before proposing tax increases.
- ▶ Support targeted cost-saving measures identified in the 2016 Alvarez & Marsal efficiency study which do not negatively impact the business community.
- ▶ Establish transparency and uniformity in budgeting for all levels of government.
- ▶ Establish a "BRAC-like" process for closure or realignment of government functions and agencies.
- ▶ Support outsourcing state government functions to the private sector while maintaining needed services and lowering the cost of doing business in Kansas.
- ▶ Establish a framework to encourage and incent the realignment of state and local units of government.
- ▶ Support efforts to continue identifying strategies to reduce the State pension burden on Kansas taxpayers while maintaining actuarially sound funding levels.
- ▶ Oppose use of public funds to bring litigation in pursuit of more public funding.

#### How Much Should Be Cut? 2015 - 2020



#### What does it mean?

While there is a decrease in the number who never want taxes raised, Kansas business leaders continue to want the governor and the Kansas Legislature to cut state government spending instead of raising taxes.





"As a local chamber, we are focused on removing barriers to businesses each and every day. Partnering with the Kansas Chamber allows us to join forces and fight for business needs and have them prioritized at the statehouse. Together, we are a stronger voice to make change happen for the whole state."

**Anna Bjerken, President/CEO, Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce**

"The Kansas Chamber takes on the responsibility of keeping a positive business environment in Kansas. With that responsibility lifted off our shoulders, entrepreneurs and business owners can continue to focus on maintaining and growing their businesses. The Chamber deals with the politics and policies so business owners can do their work."

**Jim Echols, CEO, Renaissance Management & Training Solutions LLP**



## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT\*

### PROMOTE MARKET-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE ENERGY COSTS

The Kansas Chamber supports efforts to maintain a comprehensive energy policy that balances a diverse portfolio of energy sources and technologies, and will:

- ▶ **Support implementation of key recommendations from the legislative study on the competitiveness of Kansas energy rates to improve our state's electricity costs.**
- ▶ **Support legislation which prevents local government from limiting consumer choice of energy sources.**
- ▶ Support the exploration of an electric generation deregulation study to reduce electricity cost and provide consumer choice.
- ▶ Support incentives for businesses to voluntarily utilize energy more efficiently versus penalties and/or mandates.
- ▶ Avoid picking winners and losers among energy sources and technologies.
- ▶ Oppose mandates and policies that increase business costs when sourcing energy.
- ▶ Support efforts to limit or block state and federal regulations which overreach and impose undue expense and regulatory burdens on Kansas businesses and industries.
- ▶ Support review and reform of current rate-making policies and processes to ensure fairness and equity among ratepayer classes.
- ▶ Promote the development of market-driven energy technologies.

*\* Both a federal and state issue*

## HEALTH CARE\*

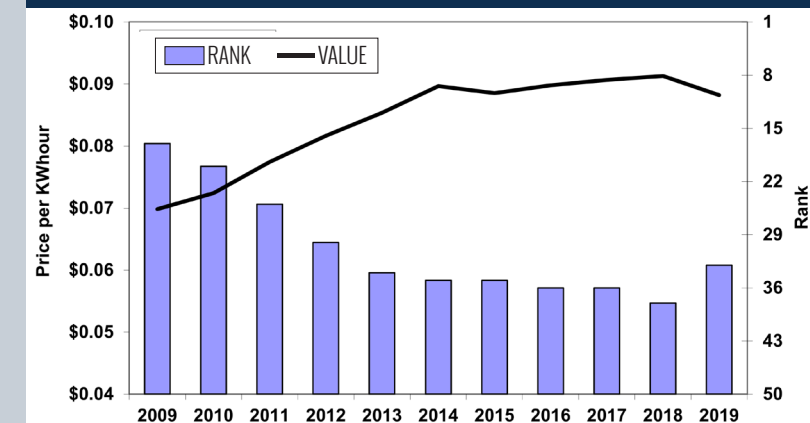
### REDUCE EMPLOYER COSTS, PROMOTE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Kansas Chamber supports meaningful health care reform aimed at lowering the overall cost of health care so it is more affordable for employers and will encourage policies that:

- ▶ Oppose expansion of Medicaid eligibility.
- ▶ Oppose government competition with the private market.
- ▶ Oppose mandated employer-based coverage or payment.
- ▶ Expand tax incentives available for employers and individuals choosing to purchase individual policies or health savings plans.
- ▶ Defend the rights of employers to choose the health insurance plans they offer.
- ▶ Support state-level implementation of policy measures which improve efficiency and effectiveness of health systems, including the continuation of delivering Medicaid services through a managed care model (KanCare).
- ▶ Oppose cost-increasing mandates insurers are required to include in policies so that more affordable plans are available for employers.
- ▶ Increase personal participation in health care purchasing.

*\* Both a federal and state issue*

### Kansas Energy Costs, 2009-2019



Source: Energy Information Administration. Prepared for the Kansas Chamber Annual Competitiveness Index by GrowthEconomics, Inc.

### What does it mean?

Although of less importance than labor, health insurance, and taxes, energy costs are nonetheless a core concern of employers, especially for manufacturing industries and are highly variable across states. Electric energy costs and reliability are a major concern to the information services industries. Kansas experienced a steady increase in industrial and commercial electricity prices between 2008 and 2014, resulting in a drop in its ranking from 14th to 35th. However, Kansas prices and its rank have stabilized the last four years, while still rising somewhat. In 2018, the state fell to its lowest rank in a decade.





The Kansas Retail Council (KRC) focuses on retail business issues that impact small and large retailers in Kansas. The mission of KRC is to provide knowledge, resources and support to Kansas retailers so they can prosper. Through the Kansas Chamber, the KRC gives Kansas retailers a strong, unified voice on legislative and public policy matters.

## TAX

- ▶ Support passage of legislation addressing federal tax windfall caused by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.
- ▶ Support legislation regarding collection of sales taxes to correct the imbalance between in-state and out-of-state retailers and using additional revenue to lower tax rates.
- ▶ Protect against changes to long-standing valuation methodology which attempts to take income into consideration when valuing property.
- ▶ Oppose efforts which seek to impose a tax on sugary beverages.
- ▶ Support lowering of state sales tax.

## EMPLOYMENT LAW

- ▶ Protect against repeal of Kansas law which prevents local units of government from imposing harmful mandates not required by state or federal law including:
  - Fair scheduling
  - Minimum wage
  - Paid leave

## PRODUCTS

- ▶ Oppose bans on plastics, straws, chemicals and other items.
- ▶ Oppose food labeling mandates.
- ▶ Support ability for all stores to sell full strength beer, wine and spirits.



The Kansas Manufacturing Council (KMC) is the leading advocacy organization for Kansas manufacturers and companies serving manufacturers, representing small and large manufacturers across the state. The mission of KMC is to provide knowledge, resources and support in order to create a stronger and more prosperous manufacturing sector. Through the Kansas Chamber, KMC has a powerful voice for the state's manufacturing community to advocate for a policy agenda that helps manufacturers compete in the global economy and create jobs across Kansas.

## TAX

- ▶ Support passage of legislation addressing federal tax windfall caused by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.
- ▶ Make permanent the ability of businesses to expense capital investments.
- ▶ Reduce government spending instead of increasing the cost of doing business through tax increases.
- ▶ Support legislation which grants corporate taxpayers the ability to choose between the current three-factor apportionment formula and a new, single-factor sales-based formula.

- ▶ Support the exploration of an electric generation deregulation study to reduce electricity cost and provide consumer choice.
- ▶ Avoid picking winners and losers among energy sources and technologies.
- ▶ Support incentives for businesses to voluntarily utilize energy more efficiently versus penalties and/or mandates.
- ▶ Support legislation which prevents local government from limiting consumer choice of energy sources.

## ENERGY

- ▶ Support implementation of key recommendations from the legislative study on the competitiveness of Kansas energy rates to improve our state's electricity costs.

## REGULATORY AFFAIRS

- ▶ Maintain a set of clear requirements in the regulatory process.
- ▶ Prevent imposition of burdensome state and federal regulations on business.

## EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Support policies which promote coordination of resources and alignment of curriculum between K-12 and higher education institutions to ensure the workforce needs of Kansas businesses and career needs of students are being met.
- ▶ Support vigorous and dynamic Kansas-based primary and secondary education standards that focus on college and career readiness and which ensure acquisition, retention and comprehension of an essential base of knowledge at every step of the educational process toward a career suited to each student's interest and ability.

- ▶ Support efforts to offer parents and students a variety of educational choices regardless of their socio-economic status, and support efforts to create innovative school environments designed to maximize the educational experience for all students.
- ▶ Support efforts to include computer science as a core science elective for high school students.
- ▶ Support work-based learning opportunities for high school students ages 16 and older through legislation limiting liability to the businesses participating in school sponsored programs.

## THE NEW KANSAS CHAMBER APP

Stay up to date with the Kansas Legislature through the new Kansas Chamber app. The Chamber app gives you direct access to legislative calendars, journals, district maps and live stream audio from the House and Senate floor – all on your phone. Scan the corresponding QR code to download our app on your iOS or Android device today.

iOS



Android





# RELIEF & RECOVERY

## AGENDA

### GET KANSANS BACK TO WORK

These are simply unprecedented, unpredictable, and unforeseen times.

The economic fallout is real. The health concerns are real.

The Kansas business community is being pro-active on responding to the crisis, from making every effort to keep their doors open, employees at work, and product and service lines moving to re-purposing employees to provide equipment and supplies needed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kansas must allow all businesses to operate if they are able to operate safely and assist workers impacted by the virus. It must remove barriers, so Kansans have the access to needed healthcare and healthcare professionals. And it must act to become more efficient and provide a more competitive environment.

Kansas was one of the last states to fully recover from the 2008-09 recession. The economic impact of the COVID-19 crises will have long-term consequences. The Kansas Chamber's **Recovery and Relief Agenda** provides a path to speed our state's recovery.

### EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE

**Create a Medical Expense Tax Credit** Create a 2020 tax credit to defray costs of out-of-pocket medical expenses associated with treatment for COVID-19 illness.

**Remove Barriers to Unemployment Benefits** Waive the one-week waiting period for unemployment benefits.

**Extend Unemployment Benefits** Extend unemployment benefits to 26 weeks.

**Ensure Policies Incentivize Employment** Make sure policies help workers who lose their jobs by no fault of their own during tough economic times and incentivize them to become reemployed.

### TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

**Increase Highway Weight Limits** Increase highway weight limits so products and supplies may be delivered efficiently and timely.

**Federal and State Infrastructure Plans** Continue to efficiently utilize Kansas infrastructure resources based on needs of our state.

**Temporarily Reallocate Roadway Use** Encourage local governments to temporarily reallocate a portion of street parking for loading and unloading zones for deliveries as well as for local businesses without loading docks.

### ECONOMIC RECOVERY

**Ensure All Business Operations May Continue** Prohibit state and local government from closing Kansas businesses who follow appropriate regulations and restrictions.

**Defer Sales Tax Payments** Allow Kansas businesses who collect sales tax to defer sales tax payments without penalty to the Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR).

**Pause State Tax Audits** Require the KDOR to pause all tax audits.

**Extend Property Tax Payment** Provide a 90-day extension to business and residential property owners on their next property tax payment installments on properties that do not have escrow accounts set up for payments.

**Refund tax overpayments** Provide a quick refund request option for businesses that have overpaid state taxes.

**Exempt federal COVID-19 stimulus funding** Exempt COVID-19 forgivable loans and grants from state taxes, like the federal government does.

**Establish Property Tax Transparency** Institute property tax accountability for local governments and provide transparency and accountability to taxpayers.

**Allow flexibility in economic development incentive agreements** Allow Kansas Department of Commerce the flexibility to help companies through the crisis and recovery phases, including granting flexibility of existing incentive agreements where appropriate.

**Limit Business Licensing Fees** Waive or delay any state or local imposed business licensing fees.

### Compensate Businesses Impacted by COVID-19 Government Restrictions

Compensate businesses impacted by the state government's stay at home order and other pandemic-related restrictions as allowed by the Kansas Emergency Management Act.

**Allow Decoupling and Itemization Tax Policy** Allow for individual and small business taxpayers to itemize when not itemizing at the federal level. Decouple from federal tax on foreign income.

**Expand Kansas' Linked-Deposit Loan Program** Expand the state's linked-deposit loan program by enabling Kansas banks and other lenders to utilize our state's idle tax funds to make low-cost loans to Kansas businesses.

**Expand Research & Development Tax Credit** Make Kansas' Research Tax Credit fully refundable and available to all businesses.

**Create COVID-19 Employee Pay Tax Credit** Create a 2020 refundable tax credit for businesses who choose to continue paying employees who must self-isolate or care for family members who self-isolate as a result of COVID-19 illness, or who opt to pay employees even after shutting down.

**Unemployment Insurance Reform** Prohibit unemployment benefit withdrawals made during the COVID-19 crisis from counting against an employer's experience rating for unemployment tax calculations.

**Tax Credit for Remote Work Costs** Provide a corporate tax credit for business costs incurred for working remotely, including for purchases of laptops, high-speed internet, phone line, office equipment, etc.

# RELIEF & RECOVERY AGENDA

## REGULATORY AND LIABILITY RELIEF

### Extend Licensing Renewal Deadlines

Continue extension of licensing renewal deadlines so those on the frontline of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and those supplying products and services for all Kansans may continue to operate uninterrupted.

### Temporarily Waive Continuing Education Requirements

Continue the temporary waiver of continuing education requirements so those on the frontline of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and those supplying products and services for all Kansans may continue to operate uninterrupted.

### Temporarily suspend state or local inspections

Temporarily suspend state or local inspections required before a business that was temporarily closed because of COVID-19 can reopen.

### Make Regulations Waived During the Emergency Permanent

Review and repeal regulations that proved not needed during the COVID-19 crisis.

### Remove Regulatory Obstacles to Production of Personal Protective Equipment

As manufacturers ramp up production or to switch production to producing PPE, state regulations and approvals should be relaxed.

### Limit Liability for PPE Manufacturers

Continue enacted liability protections for manufacturers of all types of Personal Protection Equipment.

### Limit Liability for Business Owners From COVID-19 Infection Claims

Continue enacted liability protections for business owners from allegations by patrons who claim they contracted COVID-19 at a place of business.

### Protect Employers from Liability for Keeping Their Workers & Workplaces Safe

Continue enacted liability protections which allow a business to screen its employees and other visitors for illness prior to entrance into a facility and for employers who require employees to engage in proper hygiene procedures.

### Limit Liability for Frontline and Essential Businesses

Continue enacted liability protections for frontline and essential businesses.

### Clarify Remote Worker Hours

Clarify for employees working remotely that small amounts of time spent performing tasks such as checking email, voicemail, or texting is not compensable work time.

### Allow Employee Health Inquiry

Allow employers to legally inquire about an employee's health before COVID-19 symptoms are exhibited and/or prior to an employee returning to the workplace.

### Reinstate caps on non-economic damages

Reinstate caps on non-economic damages to restore certainty in insurance markets and avoids insurance cost increases among businesses and individuals.

## HEALTH CARE PRIORITIES

**Grant Flexible Licensing** Remove license restrictions so healthcare professionals in good standing may provide more services consistent with their education, training, and experience.

**Use Single-use Containers and Bags** Stop the potential spread of COVID-19 and other viruses by having Kansans use disposable plastic or paper bags, instead of reusable bags.

**Prioritize Testing & Vaccines** Prioritize essential employees for COVID-19 testing and vaccines as capacity increases to ensure the virus doesn't spread throughout a vital workforce.

**Permanently Expand Telemedicine** Expand telemedicine to provide Kansans better access to healthcare and to allow out of state health professionals in good standing to provide services.

**Eliminate APRN collaboration agreement requirement** Eliminate the APRN collaboration agreement requirement so Advanced Practice Registered Nurses may respond directly to patient healthcare needs.

## GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

**Prioritize Budget Resources** Prioritize budget resources on essential needs and fully implement the performance-based budgeting process.

**Implement Government Reforms** Implement reforms recommended in the 2016 Alvarez and Marshall study.

**Incentivize Government Cost-Savings Measures** Reward public employees who identify costs saving measures and operations efficiencies.

**Address IT Needs** Identify and prioritize IT infrastructure needs to make government more efficient.

**Reward Gov't Merging** Develop a plan for counties and cities to merge duties of local units of government.

**Utilize Federal Relief** Utilize federal relief resources in most effective manner and with as much transparency as possible.

## WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION

**Expand Apprenticeship Program** Expand the Kansas Registered Apprenticeship Program with additional short-term transition support services for high-demand occupations.

**Provide Scholarships for High-Demand Jobs** Enact the Kansas Promise Scholarship Program for students enrolled in community colleges and technical schools for high demand occupations.

**Develop Targeted Training Programs** Create incentives for community colleges to develop short term certificate programs to retrain displaced employees.

**Limit Apprenticeship Liability** Allow school district insurance to cover students participating in off campus, work-based learning, internships, and apprenticeship programs.



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