

The cover features a white background with large, bold, blue and orange geometric shapes. A blue-tinted image of a classical building with columns and a pediment is visible in the lower-left quadrant. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout.

KCK Chamber **PUBLIC POLICY** **AGENDA**

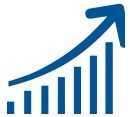
2024

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2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Support education and workforce development initiatives.



Invest in economic development and infrastructure.



Tax and administration reform.

AGENDA FORWARD

The KCK Chamber supports a transparent legislative process that follows the traditional committee format to ensure a fair hearing of all legislative issues facing the State of Kansas for the benefit of the citizens of the state.

FEDERAL AGENDA

Infrastructure Investment

The KCK Chamber **encourages and supports** federal investments in infrastructure projects in Wyandotte County. Infrastructure includes but is not limited to transportation, public works and utilities.

Economic Development Tools

The KCK Chamber **supports** expanding federal economic development tools like or similar to opportunity zone investments, as a redevelopment tool to revitalize and encourage long-term capital investment within the community.

Income Tax

Keep in place legislation that equalizes the tax treatment of small businesses as compared to large enterprises.

Immigration Reform

The KCK Chamber **supports** and **encourages** federal resolution to immigration reform that addresses the need of our businesses through workforce expansion. The KCK Chamber **opposes** increasing penalties or threatening the business licenses of employers who have unintentionally hired unauthorized workers.

E-Commerce/Remote Sales Tax

The KCK Chamber **supports** the collection of sales and use taxes on e-commerce / remote sales in such a way that does not place an unreasonable or onerous compliance burden on business, specifically small businesses that have less ability to administer compliance. We believe that such a taxation system must be Origin based versus Destination based and recommend a model similar to the Online Sales Simplification Act (OSSA).

The Chamber **strongly opposes** both the Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA) and the Remote Transactions Parity Act (RTPA) because their Destination based model places an unreasonable and onerous burden on business, specifically small businesses that have less ability to administer compliance.

STATE AGENDA

TAX AND ADMINISTRATION REFORM

Infrastructure Investment

The KCK Chamber **encourages and supports** federal investments in infrastructure projects in Wyandotte County. Infrastructure includes transportation, public works and utilities.

Sales Tax

The KCK Chamber **opposes** any increase to the state sales tax rate past its current rate and **supports** removing sales tax on utilities for businesses.

Origin vs. Destination Based Sales Tax

The KCK Chamber **supports** origin-based sales tax for intrastate purchases so that it does not place an onerous burden on business, specifically small businesses that have less ability to administer compliance.

Property Appraisal

The KCK Chamber **supports** a property appraisal process that provides the business community with a high level of certainty and consistency. The Chamber also **supports** valuation methodology that does not take into consideration income, current occupancy status or other similar external factors when valuing commercial property.

Property Tax

The KCK Chamber **supports** a property tax system that phases in changes to appraised values over time to alleviate the burden placed on taxpayers when there is a material change to property value in a single year.

The KCK Chamber **supports** adding sensible items to the list of exemptions to the property tax lid that are allowable without an election and its associated costs. Such additional exemptions should be limited to those that **support or increase** the economic development of the community and not those that would address items classified as administrative in nature. Examples would include transportation and infrastructure projects.

Homestead Expansion

The KCK Chamber **supports** legislation that would limit property tax increases on the homestead of those 65 years and older regardless of income or home value. The KCK Chamber also **supports** modification to the Golden Years tax exemption to allow for non-payment with application approval of exemption.

Apportionment of Business Income

The KCK Chamber **supports** a single factor apportionment of business income, based on sales/revenue.

STATE AGENDA

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The KCK Chamber **supports** strategic investment for a comprehensive pipeline of high-quality early learning, K-12, special education, post-secondary and adult education opportunities. This includes affordable in-state colleges and universities that are cost competitive to surrounding states.

Early Education and Development

The KCK Chamber **supports** policies and funding to improve working families' access to affordable, quality childcare that is necessary for a stable and adequate workforce for businesses.

K-12 and Post-Secondary

The KCK Chamber **supports** adequate funding for Post-Secondary Education to help ensure a high-quality career ready workforce.

The KCK Chamber **supports** funding for Adult and Incumbent Workforce Development programs to meet the needs of existing businesses and to attract new employers to the region.

The Chamber **supports** funding for programs that help increase workforce readiness, worker certification programs and financial support for families to meet basic needs while obtaining workforce training.

The Chamber requests State funding support for Kansas City Kansas Community College downtown campus initiative which will spur economic development and workforce development for Wyandotte County.

University of Kansas Medical Center (School)

The KCK Chamber recognizes the unique and vital role played by the University of Kansas Medical Center as an academic center and **supports** efforts to create and promote the region as a nationally recognized medical education institution. The KCK Chamber **supports** actions and efforts which will increase funding and grow KU Medical Center's presence and impact in Wyandotte County.

University of Kansas Hospital

The KCK Chamber **supports** KU Hospital staying as the state-owned hospital and a public authority.

Healthcare

The KCK Chamber **supports** adequate funding for Post-Secondary Education to help ensure a high-quality career ready The KCK Chamber **supports** the development of a Kansas specific health care plan to address health insurance coverage for low-income Kansans, which should leverage additional federal dollars (such as expanding the Medicaid program) and include a stable funding mechanism to avoid negative impact on the state budget.

Healthy Communities

The KCK Chamber **supports** increased funding for public health to ensure a productive and healthy workforce and a viable business community.

STATE AGENDA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Star Bonds

The KCK Chamber **supports** the continuation of STAR Bonds which have been an unparalleled success in Wyandotte County. The Chamber also **supports** modification to the program that would factor in the historical or ethnic value of a project in addition to the financial value.

Transportation

The KCK Chamber **supports** the continued funding of the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program. We oppose any further use of these funds to balance the State's general fund budget. Any reduction to ELTP funding would jeopardize existing programs. The KCK Chamber **supports** the completion of all ELTP projects.

Alternate Construction Delivery

The KCK Chamber **supports** changes in State law to allow local governments to use alternative delivery methods including design-build, progressive design-build, engineer procure construct and construction manager at risk techniques for public construction projects. Allowing these alternative delivery methods shortens delivery time and save tax dollars.

Tourism

Tourism is a key economic driver for the Kansas City Kansas region. The KCK Chamber **supports** efforts that will continue further development in Wyandotte County and the State. The KCK Chamber **urges** the State of Kansas to secure adequate funding for Kansas, Wildlife, Parks and Tourism in order to continue to **promote and advance** tourism as economic development in Kansas.

Buy Local

The KCK Chamber **supports** legislation designed to provide school districts, state universities and other publicly funded governmental entities the latitude necessary to direct their purchases to local vendors when there is minimal difference in price, relative to an out of area vendor. Directing tax dollars back to Kansas based businesses is a pro-growth policy that will result in a stronger economy and more and better job opportunities for our citizens.

LOCAL AGENDA

Economic Development

The Chamber **supports** economic development in Wyandotte County that **improves and enhances** the community through increased tax revenue, workforce expansion and collaborates with local business.

Workforce Development

The KCK Chamber **supports** education and workforce development programs that support local businesses and create economic growth for the community.

Infrastructure Investments

The Chamber **supports** strategic infrastructure investment that does not adversely affect existing businesses or residents, maintains the integrity of neighborhoods' and improves quality of life.

Historic Preservation

The Chamber **supports** historic property designation with property owner consent. The Chamber **opposes** any Historic Preservation Districts that limit building modifications or development without property owners' approval.

Permitting / Code Enforcement

The KCK Chamber **supports** streamlining the permitting process in the county, reducing both the elapsed time and administrative requirements to levels that meet or exceed those of neighboring cities and counties. Furthermore, in order to protect current investment in the community, as well as to encourage further investment, the KCK Chamber **supports** consistent and predictable enforcement of zoning regulations, planning & development codes and county ordinances.

Unlicensed Businesses

The KCK Chamber **supports** the Unified Government's efforts to ensure that all Wyandotte County businesses have the proper City and County licenses. The KCK Chamber **supports** an effort by the office of the District Attorney to address unlicensed businesses.