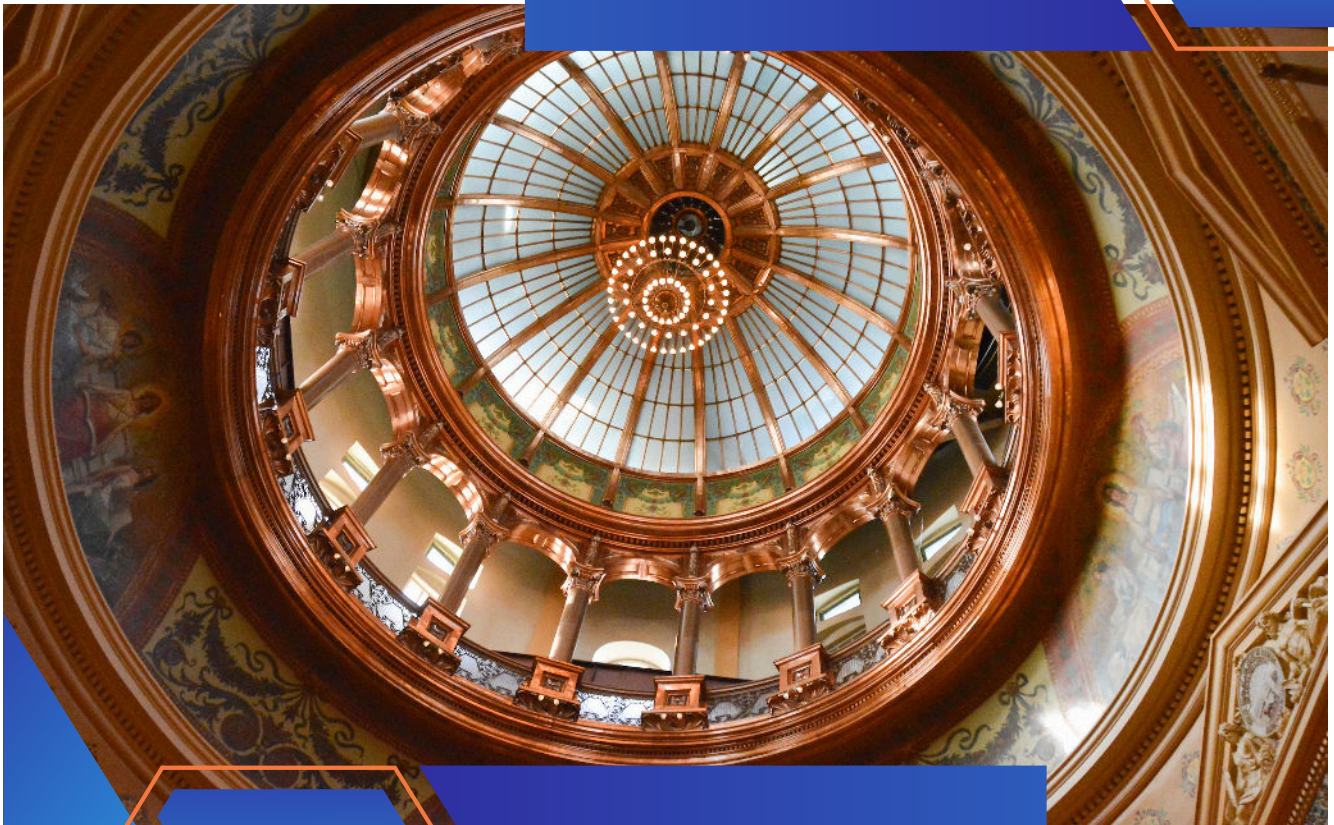


KCKChamber

2026 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

727 MINNESOTA AVE.
KANSAS CITY, KS 66101
(913) 371-3070
KCKCHAMBER.COM



2026 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, accountable legislative process at both the state and federal levels—ensuring fair, informed debate, public input, and strong representation of Wyandotte County’s voice on policies that drive economic growth, business success, and future opportunity for our community.

FEDERAL AGENDA: Federal Policy Priorities for a Stronger Regional Economy

The KCK Chamber supports thoughtful, balanced federal policies that strengthen the economic vitality of Wyandotte County. Our priorities reflect input from members, align with regional economic strategies, and are grounded in the belief that sound policy should support sustainable growth, responsible governance, and opportunity for all.

Infrastructure: Foundations for the Future

We support increased federal investment in Wyandotte County infrastructure, including transportation, utilities, broadband, and public works projects. These are the foundational elements that drive long-term economic vitality and quality of life.

Economic Development Tools

We advocate for the expansion of federal programs—such as Opportunity Zones and similar initiatives—that encourage private capital investment and long-term redevelopment in areas with high potential for economic growth.

Equitable Tax Policy for Business Growth

The Chamber supports federal tax policies that provide fair treatment for both small and large businesses, fostering entrepreneurship, job creation, and a competitive business environment.

Immigration Reform

We support pragmatic federal immigration policy that addresses labor market needs and supports workforce stability. The Chamber opposes disruptive measures that place undue burden on employers who act in good faith to meet compliance requirements.

E-Commerce/Simplified and Fair Remote Sales Tax Collection

The KCK Chamber supports a streamlined, origin-based approach to the collection of sales and use taxes on e-commerce and remote sales—one that minimizes compliance burdens, particularly for small businesses. We oppose destination-based models, including the Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA) and the Remote Transactions Parity Act (RTPA), which impose disproportionate administrative challenges on smaller businesses.

STATE AGENDA: State Policy Priorities for Economic Stability and Growth

The KCK Chamber advocates for responsible, pro-growth policies that create a stable environment for businesses, support long-term investment, and ensure fairness in taxation and administration at the state level.

TAX AND ADMINISTRATION REFORM

Streamlining Tax Policy and Administration

We support a clear, streamlined tax structure that provides consistency for businesses and aligns with modern operations—reducing administrative burden and strengthening Wyandotte County’s economic competitiveness.

Supporting Fair and Competitive Sales Tax Policy

We oppose any increase to the state sales tax rate beyond its current level and support removing the sales tax on business utilities to ease cost pressures.

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 Consistency

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

Property Tax Impacts

The Chamber supports phased adjustments to appraised values to prevent dramatic year-over-year tax increases. We also support expanding exemptions under the property tax lid—limited to infrastructure or economic development projects that directly benefit the community, not administrative expenses.

Protecting Aging Homeowners

We support legislation that limits property tax increases for homeowners aged 65 and older—regardless of income or property value—and encourage updates to the Golden Years exemption to allow for non-payment upon approval.

STATE AGENDA CONT.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: Building Talent for Kansas and Wyandotte County

A strong, inclusive economy depends on a well-educated, well-prepared workforce. We **support** 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.

Strengthening K-12 and Post-Secondary

The KCK Chamber supports sustained investment in post-secondary education to develop a career-ready workforce. We advocate for funding that supports adult and incumbent worker training programs to meet the evolving needs of existing businesses and to attract new employers to Wyandotte County.

The Chamber also supports state investment in workforce readiness initiatives, including worker certification programs and supportive services that help families meet basic needs while completing training. We specifically request funding support for the Kansas City Kansas Community College Downtown Campus initiative, which will drive both workforce and economic development in the urban core of 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 Chamber supports maintaining KU Hospital's status as a state-owned public authority and ensuring it receives adequate support to continue serving Kansas residents. We also support the development of a Kansas-specific healthcare coverage plan that expands access for low-income individuals, leverages federal dollars, and includes a sustainable funding mechanism.

Healthy Communities, Strong Workforce

We support increased investment in public health infrastructure and services to ensure a healthy, productive workforce and a resilient business environment throughout Wyandotte County and the state.

STATE AGENDA CONT.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STAR Bonds

The Chamber supports the continuation of the STAR Bond program, which has produced transformative results in Wyandotte County. We also support thoughtful revisions that recognize a project's historical or cultural significance in addition to its financial impact—while maintaining flexibility and avoiding unnecessary regulation that could limit future growth.

Long-Term Transportation Investment

We support the completion of the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (ELTP) and oppose reallocating its funds to the state's general budget. Reducing ELTP resources risks delaying or jeopardizing critical infrastructure projects. We also support increased state investment in public transportation and regional mobility solutions.

Supporting Modern Construction Methods

The Chamber advocates for changes to state law that would allow local governments to use alternative construction delivery methods—including design-build, progressive design-build, and construction manager-at-risk approaches. These methods improve efficiency, shorten timelines, and deliver cost savings on public projects.

Growing Kansas Through Tourism

Tourism is a vital economic driver for Kansas and its communities. The Chamber supports increased investment in statewide tourism initiatives and organizations that attract visitors, elevate Kansas as a destination, and stimulate long-term economic activity.

Maximizing the Impact of the 2026 FIFA World Cup

The Chamber strongly supports coordinated state and regional efforts to prepare for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. This global event presents a unique opportunity to showcase Kansas on the world stage, boost tourism, and generate lasting economic benefits across the region.

Buy Local

We support legislation that gives school districts, state-funded universities, and government entities flexibility to prioritize local vendors when cost differences are minimal. Keeping public dollars in Kansas supports local job creation, small business growth, and long-term economic resilience.

LOCAL AGENDA

Economic Development That Strengthens Wyandotte County

The KCK Chamber supports inclusive, strategic economic development that enhances Wyandotte County's tax base, strengthens the workforce, promotes local business growth, and improves quality of life. We advocate for policies that balance community investment with long-term economic sustainability.

Workforce Development

The Chamber supports education and workforce programs that align with the needs of local employers and drive economic growth, particularly in high-demand sectors such as STEM and innovation.

Strategic Infrastructure Development

We support infrastructure investments that enhance mobility, improve access, and protect the integrity of neighborhoods—without placing undue burden on existing residents or businesses.

Historic Preservation

The Chamber supports historic property designations that are made with the consent of property owners. We oppose preservation districts that restrict development or alterations without owner approval.

Improving Permitting and Code Enforcement

We support streamlining the permitting process to improve efficiency and reduce delays—bringing Wyandotte County in line with or ahead of neighboring jurisdictions. Consistent and predictable enforcement of zoning, planning, and development codes is essential to protecting current investment and encouraging future growth.

Ensuring Fair Business Licensing

The Chamber supports efforts by the Unified Government and the District Attorney's office to ensure all businesses in Wyandotte County are properly licensed. A fair and consistent licensing system supports public trust and a level playing field for all businesses.

Fostering a Vibrant Downtown

The Chamber supports initiatives that promote downtown Kansas City, Kansas as a hub for commerce, culture, and community engagement. Revitalizing the urban core is key to attracting visitors, supporting small businesses, and enhancing tourism appeal.

Showcasing Wyandotte County During the 2026 World Cup

We support coordinated regional efforts to prepare for and maximize the impact of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, including support for local tourism, small business promotion, and infrastructure readiness.