
KCK Chamber

**LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA**

2021

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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.

STAR Bond Revenue

The KCK Chamber **supports** a fair and comprehensive distribution of STAR Bond revenue in such a way that provides for the best long-term benefit to the community, and advances KCK as a positive place to live and conduct business.

The KCK Chamber **strongly supports** a local government process that includes the KCK business community in public discussions on how the STAR Bond revenue distribution should be advanced.

Permitting/Code Enforcement

Development and investment are critical to the future success of Wyandotte County, particularly the urban core. 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** an effort by the office of the District Attorney to address unlicensed businesses in the community. Due to their illegitimate nature, and the likely absence of proper insurance and training, these businesses resent a safety risk to both the general public as well as their employees. Furthermore, their unlicensed status means that taxes and fees are likely not being collected in full or at all. Avoiding costs such as these allows unlicensed businesses to unfairly compete with legitimate businesses.

In addition to the above, the KCK Chamber **supports** the Unified Government's efforts to ensure that all Wyandotte County businesses have the proper City and County licenses.

Stormwater Rate Change

The KCK Chamber **supports** a stormwater plan that (i) generates sufficient funding for certain identified critical infrastructure improvements and operations and maintenance costs for a definite and set period of time, (ii) equitably, objectively and reasonably allocates the related increased financial obligations across all property types, and (iii) provides for the utilization, where and available, of additional sources of funding to equitably replace the stormwater fees assessed to all property types.

Covid-19

The KCK Chamber **supports** continued funding for businesses and access to all Covid-19 resources. The KCK Chamber **supports** businesses remaining open during the pandemic in a safe manner and in alignment with Public Health ordinances.



Historic

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.

Property Appraisal and Valuation

The KCK Chamber **supports** a property appraisal process that provides the business community with a high level of certainty and consistency.

Property Tax

The KCK Chamber **aggressively supports** a property tax system for non-agriculture property that phases in changes to appraised values over a period of time to alleviate the onerous burden placed on tax payers which occurs when there is a material change to non-agriculture property value in a single year. This “phase-in” structure should extend over several years. Such a system is necessary to allow homeowners and businesses to adequately plan and budget for tax increases associated with material changes in appraised values. Likewise, this system would allow governmental entities time to adjust to revenue decreases associated with a drop in appraised values.

Notwithstanding the above, 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.

Payday Lending/Usury Reform

The KCK Chamber **supports** payday lending reform that ensures clarity of loan terms to the consumer. This would include simple and easy to understand language on interest rate, pay-off total, and any additional fees. The Chamber **supports** legislation that would ensure a loan pay-off process that is simple, timely and easy to understand for all consumers. The Chamber **supports** adopting standards of disclosure and pay-off that meet or exceed those of the Community Financial Services Association (CFSA).

STAR Bond Revenue

The KCK Chamber **supports** a reauthorization of STAR Bond legislation.

Abandoned Structures

The KCK Chamber **supports** legislation which streamlines and expedites the process for local governments and neighborhood organizations to deal with the growing blight of abandoned, nuisance and foreclosed housing and commercial dwellings.

Education and Workforce Development

The economic and social prosperity of a community relies on the educational and workforce preparedness of its citizens and the close alignment of this preparedness with business and industry workforce needs. The KCK Chamber **supports** strategic investment for a comprehensive pipeline of high-quality Early Learning, K-12, Post-Secondary and Adult Education opportunities.

Early Education and Development

The KCK Chamber **supports** continued funding through the Communities Aligned in Early Development and Education (CAEDE) program to The Family Conservancy in support of their work to retain, expand and improve the quality of childcare in our community. Adequate resources to provide quality childcare services for working families contributes to a stable workforce for businesses and subsequently contribute to a strong local economy. Funding through the CAEDE program of \$1 million annually for three years has resulted in an expansion of nearly 300 childcare slots in Wyandotte County and improved quality of care throughout that sector.

K-12 and Post-Secondary

The KCK Chamber **supports** adequate funding for Post-Secondary Education to help ensure a high-quality career ready workforce and additional demands placed on institutions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chamber **supports** restoration of previous years' funding cuts, full funding of Excel in CTE and additional assistance to help offset educational expenses for need-based students and high-expense programs that prepare individuals for high-wage and high-demand jobs.

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.

Healthcare

The KCK Chamber **supports** the development of a Kansas specific health care plan to address health insurance coverage for low-income Kansans, many of whom are part of the workforce. This plan should leverage additional federal dollars (such as expanding the Medicaid program) and include a stable funding mechanism so as to avoid negative impact on the state budget. This will have the benefit of reducing the burden on local government, growing a healthy workforce, strengthening economic viability of Kansas communities and stabilizing the financial health of hospitals in Wyandotte County, and throughout the state. The KCK Chamber further **supports** preserved funding for the State's safety net clinics.

Gaming

As it pertains to Sports Gaming, the KCK Chamber **supports** expanding gaming in Kansas to include Sports Wagering.

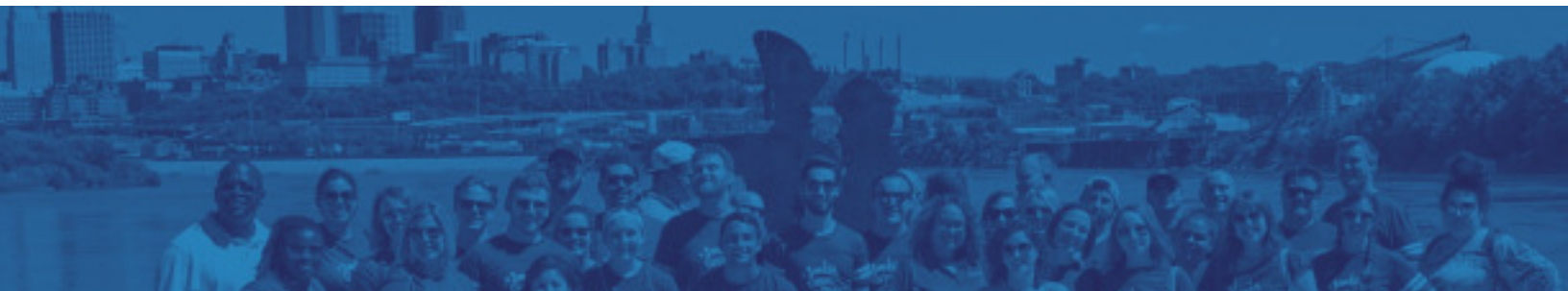
Regulation

The KCK Chamber **opposes** mandated functions, activities, or regulations across all units of government that do not include the appropriate financial resources to carry out those mandates.

Taxes

The KCK Chamber **opposes** any increase to the state sales tax rate past its current rate.

The KCK Chamber **supports** lowering the food sales tax rate to an acceptable level which does not place an undue burden upon the citizens of the state of Kansas.



Origin vs Destination Based Sales Taxes

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.

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. Current State laws have cost requirements and restrictions that make these methods difficult to use for community development and growth. 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.

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 **strongly 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 the 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.

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

The KCK Chamber **supports** legislation streamlining the forgiveness process by granting blanket forgiveness for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans of less than \$150,000 with the completion of a simple statement that the funds were used in accordance with the program guidelines. Loans of \$150,000 and less account for 85% of the total loans granted, but only 26% of PPP loan dollars overall.

The KCK Chamber **supports** allowing small businesses demonstrating a particular level of revenue loss to receive second PPP loans.

I-70 North Loop

The KCK Chamber **opposes** any changes to the Interstate Highway System that would reduce or eliminate access from the North Loop of I-70 to downtown KCK and Fairfax. The Chamber **supports** changes that would improve access to and from the Interstate Highway System at all entry points to the KCK community.

Opportunity Zones

The KCK Chamber **supports** the use of opportunity zone investments as an economic development and redevelopment tool to revitalize and encourage long-term capital investment into qualified opportunity zones within the community.

Fort Leavenworth

The KCK Chamber **supports** a strong, vibrant military base at nearby Fort Leavenworth and will work in support of local, state and federal officials to further policies and support which enhance the operations at Fort Leavenworth.

Immigration Reform

The KCK Chamber **supports** and **encourages** federal resolution to immigration reform. Said federal resolution should compassionately address situations of individuals currently in the country. The KCK Chamber **opposes** increasing penalties or threatening the business licenses of employers who have unintentionally hired unauthorized workers.

Internet Sales Tax

The KCK Chamber **supports** the collection of sales and use taxes on e-commerce sales in which sales taxes are collected 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.

