

Coalition of Local Chambers

The Voice for over 13,000 Kansas Businesses

The coalition of local chambers of commerce listed below, representing more than 13,000 Kansas businesses, small and large, are aware of the difficult choices state government has been faced with in recent years with a challenging economy and dwindling revenues.

Our Kansas local chambers, governed by local businesses, believe it is critical to emphasize how statewide decisions impact efforts to attract and retain jobs in cities across our state. State Government is responsible to educate our children, provide certain levels of infrastructure for travel of our citizens as well as the movement of goods and services, and additionally to care for a percent of our population which do not have the ability to care for themselves.

We have joined together to present these position statements to advocate for policies which we believe create a strong economy, a qualified and nimble workforce, a sustainable infrastructure and ultimately a quality of life which retains our best and brightest and attracts businesses and talent to Kansas. Our members stand ready to work with you to bring our collective vision to reality.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The Coalition recognizes the critical importance of excellence in higher education to a successful business climate and workforce development. Thus, the Coalition strongly opposes further cuts to the funding levels of our universities, community colleges and technical schools and supports the restoration over the next two years of the funding cut to higher education passed by the 2016 legislature.

See back for endorsements

These local chambers have endorsed this 2017 Legislative Position as of February 9, 2017:

Derby Chamber of Commerce – Mark Staats, President & CEO

DeSoto Chamber of Commerce – Sara Ritter, IOM, Executive Director

Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce – Jeanine McKenna, IOM, President & CEO

Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce – Steve Dyer, IOM, President

Gardner Edgerton Chamber of Commerce – Jason Camis, IOM, President

Grant County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism – Marieta Hauser, Director

Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce – Matt Pivarnik, IOM, CCE, President & CEO

Hutchison/Reno County Chamber of Commerce – Kirk Johnson, Interim President

Junction City Area Chamber of Commerce – Dennis Beeson, President & CEO

Kansas City Chamber of Commerce – Joe Reardon, President & CEO

Lawrence Chamber of Commerce – Larry McElwain, President & CEO

Liberal Area Chamber of Commerce – Rozelle Webb, CEO

Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce – Lyle Butler, IOM, President & CEO

Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce – Deb Settle, President & CEO

Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce – John Coen, President & CEO

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce – Tracey Osborne, IOM, CCE, President

Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce – Blake Benson, IOM, CCE, President

Salina Area Chamber of Commerce – Don Weiser, IOM – President & CEO

Shawnee Chamber of Commerce – Linda Leeper, IOM, President & CEO