





### **2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

### CONTINUE BUILDING A COMPETITIVE TAX CLIMATE

Kentucky has revolutionized its tax code in recent legislative sessions with major pro-growth reforms to business taxes and a bold plan to reduce and phase out individual income taxes. 2023 presents an opportunity to build on this important work by following through on phasing out the individual income tax, positioning the state for future reforms to business taxes, and improving the competitiveness of local taxing structures throughout the Commonwealth.



A continued commitment to investing in infrastructure is critical in order to spur job growth and protect Kentucky's status as a global logistics hub. While the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act from 2021 was a huge win for Kentucky at the federal level, further investment in local roads and bridges is needed to keep the Commonwealth competitive with surrounding states. Six of seven states bordering Kentucky have made moves to up their commitment to infrastructure in the past five years, and we cannot afford to be left behind.

### FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACROSS KENTUCKY

While 2021 and 2022 marked historic levels of growth and investment in Kentucky, policymakers must focus on fostering economic development across the Commonwealth, especially in rural communities and areas affected by recent natural disasters. This should include collaborative planning and strategic pro-growth policies aimed at encouraging population growth, improving quality of life, and attracting economic investments and jobs in every corner of Kentucky.

### **IMPROVE LIABILITY CLIMATE**

Kentucky's liability climate is a major barrier to economic growth and costly to consumers. Lawmakers should pass meaningful reforms to Kentucky's legal liability system and block legislation that can worsen conditions by driving up litigation costs and slowing the process by which parties resolve cases.



### GROW KENTUCKY'S SIGNATURE INDUSTRIES

Lawmakers should ensure that signature industries in Kentucky can flourish by working with leaders from the agricultural, bourbon, and equine sectors to ensure regulations are designed to foster growth, not impede it. The Chamber will continue to advocate for fair treatment of the distilling industry when it comes to taxation, for sports betting to be administered by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission to keep that industry competitive, and against gray machines, a non-regulated entity operating in gas stations and convenience stores across the state.



### **SOLVE THE WORKFORCE CRISIS**

The 2022 General Assembly took important steps to address Kentucky's dwindling workforce. It is critical to expand on these efforts to continue a multifaceted approach to solving our workforce crisis.



**CHILD CARE:** Build on recent efforts to address child care affordability and capacity through a mixed-delivery model by ensuring the sector's stability, addressing child care workforce challenges, and supporting employer-led efforts like the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership.

**BENEFITS CLIFFS:** Provide productive pathways and supports for Kentuckians to transition off of public benefits and achieve upward mobility and self-sufficiency.

**RE-ENTRY & RECOVERY:** Remove barriers to success for Kentuckians in recovery from substance use disorder or with criminal backgrounds by encouraging fair-chance hiring and professional licensing, making expungement more accessible, and ensuring exiting inmates have photo IDs.

**POSTSECONDARY:** Invest in higher education to increase postsecondary attainment, make FAFSA a requirement for high school graduation, and expand KEES eligibility for nontraditional education paths.

**HEALTH:** Improve Kentucky's health outcomes by reducing smoking rates, raising the cigarette tax, and removing smokers as a protected class.

**RESOURCES ALIGNMENT:** Support the success of Kentucky's workforce development programs through improved resource alignment, tracking workforce spending, and evaluating programs for return on investment.





### WANT TO READ MORE?

You can read more about these and other priorities in the full **2023 Legislative Agenda** at **kychamber.com.** 



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POLITICAL AND BUSINESS NEWS

FROM THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER







### POLITICS AND TOP POLICY PRIORITIES DISCUSSED AT 2023 KENTUCKY CHAMBER

### Legislative Preview Conference

Over 300 business leaders gathered at the Kentucky Chamber's Legislative Preview Conference, presented by Westlake Corporation, in November to hear from legislators and the governor on top issues heading into the 2023 session.

Lawmakers provided an update on how last year's tax reform legislation will impact the Commonwealth, which starts with a reduction in Kentucky's income tax from 5 to 4.5 percent.

House Appropriations and Revenue Committee Chair Jason Petrie said every half point the income tax lowers, \$600 million remains in the pockets of Kentuckians. He said "those are simply investments" when talking about the impact that has on local communities across the Commonwealth.

Senate President Robert Stivers, House Speaker David Osborne, and Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts discussed the outcomes of the 2022 election, also pointing out that 2023 will be the first time in four years that the legislature will not craft a budget.

Coming off the most recent elections, Representatives-elect Amy Neighbors and Wade Williams and Senator-elect Amanda Bledsoe joined freshmen lawmakers Reps. Keturah Herron and Sarge Pollack to talk about their priorities for office, their experiences on the campaign trail, and much more.

Lawmakers from regions that have seen major devastation over the past year, including Reps. Richard Heath, John Blanton, and Angie Hatton, and Sen. Jason Howell, discussed where things stand in their regions, how communities are rebuilding, and how to build upon the progress of legislation passed in 2022.

Providing an update one year after passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Secretary Jim Gray highlighted that federal funding has increased from \$700 million to \$900 million as a result of the legislation.

Senate Majority Floor Leader Damon Thayer and House Majority Floor Leader Steven Rudy discussed the monumental new laws in Kentucky around tax reform, unemployment insurance reforms, school choice, child care, and much more.



and CEO Ashli Watts discuss 2023 priorities

### Small Business Day at the Capitol on March 1 SCANME

Join the Kentucky Chamber for its 2023 Small Business Day at the Capitol! Don't miss the opportunity to network with small business leaders from across the state, have discussions with key legislators, and watch Chamber leaders testify on top issues in front of the House Small Business and IT Committee.

During his address, Governor Beshear thanked Kentucky businesses for doing their very best during the pandemic and recognized Kentuckians for coming together during the recent natural disasters.

"We are at a fundamental moment where we have a chance to truly improve the Commonwealth and be a top ten state economy," Beshear said.





### Call for Nominations – Who Should We Honor Next?

The Kentucky Entrepreneur Hall of Fame celebrates the stories of Kentucky's most successful entrepreneurs.

Nomination requirements include revenue & profit achieved; employment generation; contribution to industry; contributions to community-oriented projects and society; and innovation of product or service.

Help us choose the class of 2023 by submitting a nomination! Deadline is May 5, 2023. Visit www.entrepreneurhof.com/nominate.

### **MEET THE 2022 INDUCTEES**

### ENTREPRENEURS of the Wear



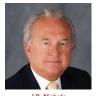
Lois Howard Gray
Co-Founder
Gray Construction



Founder, Chairman and CEO



Co-Founder & Chairman Emeritus
MCM CPA and Advisors



Chairman
NTS Development Company

### EMERGING ENTREPRENEURS of the Year



EO, GoodMaps



Kirsten Moorefield Cofounder & CEO, Cloverleaf



Darrin Murriner Cofounder & CEO, Cloverlea



CEO & Co-founder, Hippo

### **EXECUTIVE** of the Year INVESTOR of the Year



Spencer Coates
Former President, Houchen
Industries, Inc. (Retired)



William H. (Bill) Lomicka

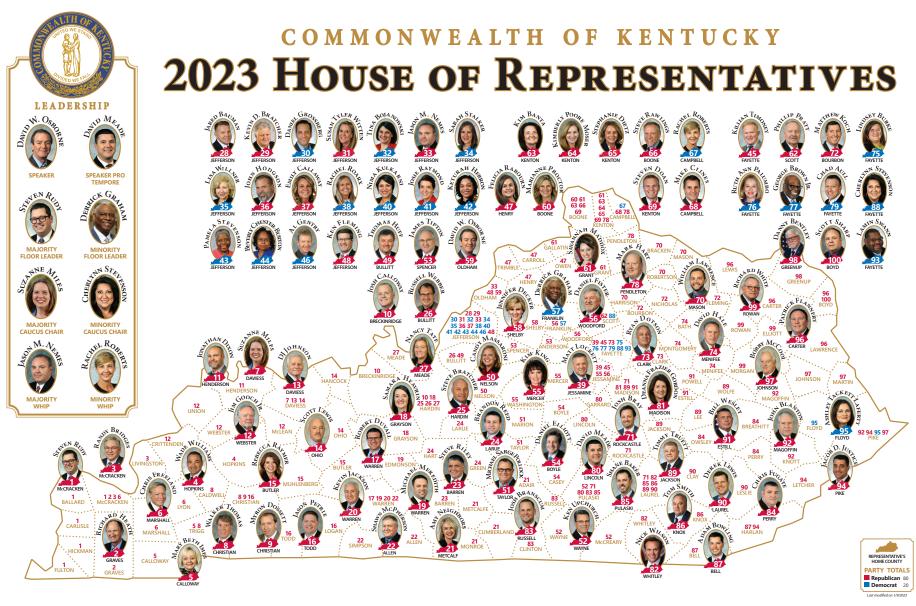


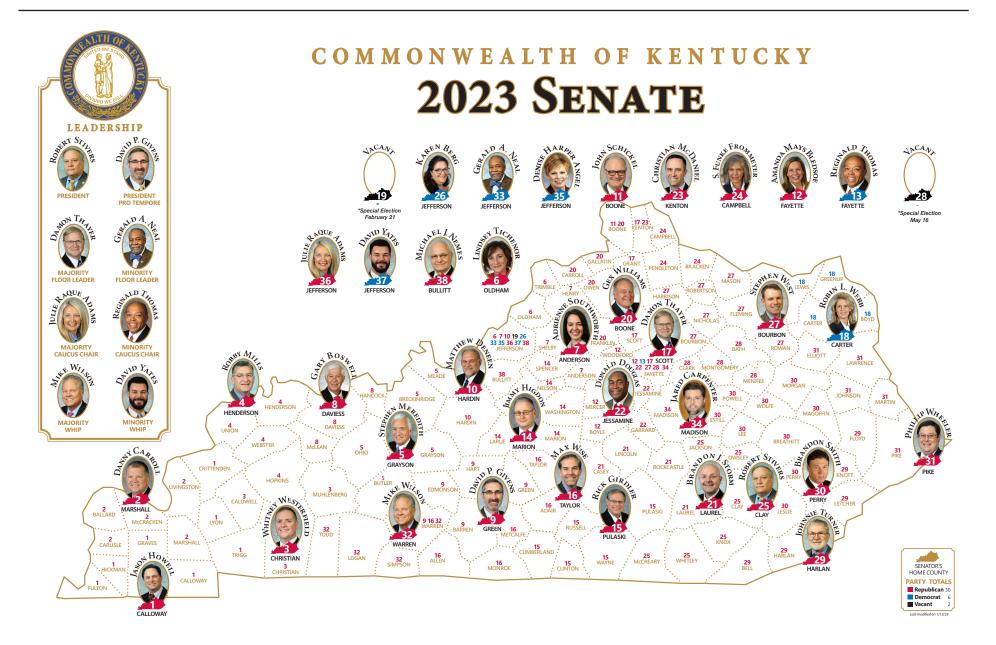
Jackson Andrews
Managing Director
Endeavor



### know your Legislators

With many significant pieces of legislation moving through the Kentucky General Assembly, your elected officials need to hear from **YOU** on key issues to help improve the state's business climate. Watch for action alerts from the Kentucky Chamber throughout session and call your legislators at **1-800-372-7181** to express your support for priority bills important to the business community.







### SENSE OF BELONGING FOR ALL KENTUCKIANS EMPHASIZED AT INAUGURAL

### Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Summit

More than 400 Kentuckians gathered for the Kentucky Chamber's Inaugural Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) Summit, presented by Frost Brown Todd, to have conversations on business practices, supplier diversity, education, and much more.

U.S. Chamber Senior Vice President of Strategic Alliances and Outreach Rick Wade kicked off the conference by noting that DE&I cannot become a political football and instead the country must focus on the fact that everyone benefits when the equity gap is closed.

In a panel about the role of public policy in fostering DE&I in the Commonwealth, lawmakers highlighted the recent work of the General Assembly to establish the Commission on Race and Access to Opportunity to begin holding vitally important conversations and bring necessary data to the forefront.

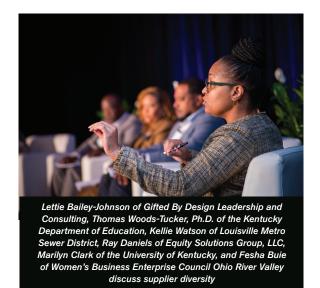
Supplier diversity is a crucial area that companies across the state and nation

are taking a harder look at in recent years. During the summit, a panel with representatives from Women's Business Enterprise Council Ohio River Valley, the University of Kentucky, Equity Solutions Group, Louisville Metro Sewer District, and the Kentucky Department of Education discussed the importance, impact, and barriers to making those efforts a reality.

Frost Brown Todd Chief Diversity Officer Chris Johnson offered the keynote on how the DE&I space is evolving, and the work must involve transparency, community, well-being and psychological safety, social responsibility and sustainability, employee engagement, and authenticity.

### **LEARN MORE**

Read more at kychamberbottomline.com.







### Employee Child Care Assistance Soon

In 2022, the Kentucky General Assembly passed legislation to create the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership (House Bill 499). Through this program, employers can partner with the state to provide financial assistance to

employees struggling with the cost of quality child care. The program offers employers a powerful employee attraction and retention tool and an opportunity to double the size of an employee benefit with assistance from the state.

As the Cabinet prepares to roll out the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership in the coming months, find out several key steps employers should be taking now.



### **SCAN THE QR CODE**

To learn more about the program and when to apply.





### KENTUCKY SPORTS RADIO, KENTUCKY CHAMBER FOUNDATION PRESENT DONATIONS TO KENTUCKY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AND VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA TO

### Help Rebuild & Support Communities Impacted by Tornadoes

To support recovery from the December 2021 tornadoes, Kentucky Sports Radio (KSR) and the Kentucky Chamber Foundation presented a \$951,000 donation to Kentucky Habitat for Humanity on October 27 in Dawson Springs and a \$700,000 donation to Volunteers of America Mid-States (VOA) on January 5 in Owensboro.

Following the devastating tornados in December 2021, the Kentucky Chamber Foundation and KSR partnered to create the KSR Tornado Relief Fund, which raised almost \$1.7 million from more than 7,100 individuals, businesses, and groups across the world.

In conjunction with the fundraiser, the Kentucky Chamber Foundation and KSR hosted a roundtable event that brought together local elected officials, nonprofit organizations, charities, and other leaders to coordinate recovery efforts and meet the needs of the impacted areas.

"One of our major concerns after the tornadoes was that if Habitat did not respond quickly and boldly, families would have little option but to move away from their communities, friends, families, and jobs," said Kentucky Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Mary Shearer. "With support from the Kentucky Chamber

Foundation and KSR, we can now work together to rebuild not only homes but also assist communities and help rebuild lives."

"We are so thankful to our partners at Kentucky Sports Radio and the Kentucky Chamber. In 2021 they sent significant funds to support survivors of the tornadoes in Western and Central Kentucky. This generous gift will help VOA expand our nationally-recognized Freedom House program and continue to help more Kentucky families take back their lives and overcome substance use disorder," said VOA Mid-States President and CEO Jennifer Hancock.

The donation to VOA will support residential beds and treatment resources at Freedom Houses for Kentuckians that have been directly affected by the tornadoes as well as funding for a workforce re-entry specialist to help Kentuckians impacted by tornadoes get back into the workforce.

### **READ MORE**

Read more at kychamberbottomline.com.



### BIDEN, MCCONNELL, AND BESHEAR APPEAR TOGETHER TO TOUT Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project

In late December, U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear, and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project was awarded over \$1.6 billion in federal grants and funding.

During the first week of January, President Joe Biden appeared with Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, Gov. Beshear, and several other high-profile officials in Covington to tout the funding secured for the project, which will improve the flow of traffic between Ohio and Kentucky.

"For decades, people have been talking about the Brent Spence Bridge," Biden said. "But folks, talking is over. Through the bipartisan infrastructure law, we're finally going to get it done."

"The Kentucky Chamber has long advocated at both the state and federal levels for increased investment in our Commonwealth's infrastructure," Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts said in a statement following the announcement. "We knew in order to secure funding for the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project, one of the most significant infrastructure undertakings in the country, it would take members of our state and federal delegation working across party lines. We appreciate President Biden, Leader McConnell, Governor Beshear, the Kentucky

General Assembly, and everyone else who had a hand in making this project a reality."

Constructed in the 1960s, the Brent Spence Bridge was designed to carry around 80,000 vehicles a day, but the daily traffic load on Interstate Highways 75 and 71 has doubled to reach 160,000 vehicles in recent years.

Project plans call for the construction of a companion bridge to the west of the existing Brent Spence Bridge, as well as improvements to the current bridge and the roadway network that ties into each river crossing.

This announcement comes one year after Congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which, over five years, will deliver billions of dollars to Kentucky to improve the Commonwealth's roads, bridges, airports, railroads, waterways, broadband and more.

### **READ MORE**

Read more at **kychamberbottomline.com.** 

### Thank you for your investment.

The following is a list of new members of the Kentucky Chamber. Please help us thank these companies for investing in the Chamber's mission by giving them your business.

### **CHAMPION**

Savion LLC

### **ADVISOR**

Aware Recovery Care

### **TRUSTEE**

Bechtel Parsons Bluegrass
Bellarmine University
Matrix Integration
NextEra Energy Resources, LLC
Partners for Rural Impact
ServPro of Madison, Rockcastle, Garrard
& Lincoln Counties

### **EQUITY PARTNER**

20/Twenty Strategic Consultants Lakeshore Learning Materials Louisville Regional Airport Authority Maryhurst, Inc. Metro United Way Steel Technologies, Inc.

### **CORNERSTONE**

Terracon Consultants Inc.

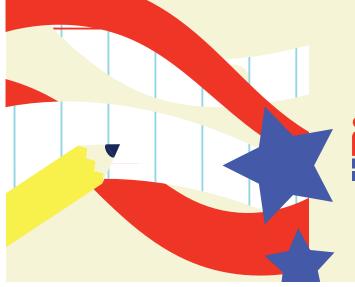
### **STAKEHOLDER**

Ballard Wright, MD, PSC dba The Pain Treatment
Center of the Bluegrass
Bolus Law Office
Builders By Design
D.A.D.S. Bobcat Service, LLC
DSR Contracting & Interiors
DSS Distributing Inc.
EBridge Procurement
Elizabethtown Emergency Physicians
ELSCO
Encore Energy Inc.
Glasgow Insurance Inc.

Jackson-Breathitt County Chamber of Commerce
JCC Accounting Solutions
Martin Elite Realty
Millennium Events
Power Services, LLC
Rather Management Group
Riverport Business Association
Royal Electric & Design Inc.
Save-a-Lot Food Store

### KENTUCKY CHAMBER NEWS

For address changes and subscription information, call **502-848-8723**.







### Local Chambers to Host Civics Bee Competition for Middle School Students

Between now and February 24, Kentucky middle school students are invited to submit essays on how to improve their community. Each local Civics Bee, hosted by chamber partners across the state, will invite the top 20 essayists to participate in a live quiz competition this spring in front of a live panel of judges for a chance to win a cash prize. The top three finalists from each local competition will compete at the Kentucky Civics Bee, hosted by the Kentucky Chamber Foundation, for the chance to win an increased cash prize!

The National Civics Bee is the civics literacy program of The Civic Trust, a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation initiative to promote greater civic knowledge and civic participation across the country.

### **LEARN MORE**

Visit **kychamber.com/kycivicsbee** to find a local bee near you.

### KENTUCKY CHAMBER, AT&T KENTUCKY PARTNER ON DIVERSITY IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Kentucky Chamber public affairs team has hired Nafisa Nigmatova, a student at the University of Kentucky, and Ciara Robinson, a student at Kentucky State University, for the Diversity in Public Affairs Internship Program.



This program is in partnership with AT&T Kentucky in an effort to increase interest in the public affairs profession among diverse populations, and provide hands-on experiences that will contribute to students' future careers.



NAFISA NIGMATOVA STUDENT University of Kentucky



CIARA ROBINSON STUDENT

### Mark Your Calendars

February 21-22, 2023 | 8th Annual Kentucky Workforce Summit – Lexington

March 9-10, 2023 | 21st Annual Kentucky Environmental Conference – Lexington

March 14-15, 2023 | Supervising and Managing People – Bowling Green

March 15, 2023 | OSHA Forklift - Train the Trainer - Bowling Green

March 22, 2023 | Kentucky Wage and Hour Update - Lexington

March 28, 2023 | 5th Annual Kentucky Recovery in the Workplace Conference – Lexington

April 11-12, 2023 | OSHA 10-Hour General Industry Voluntary Compliance Course - Louisville

April 11-14, 2023 | OSHA 30-Hour General Industry Voluntary Compliance Course - Louisville

April 13, 2023 | Advanced Workers' Comp Seminar - Louisville

May 11-12, 2023 | 35th Annual Kentucky Human Resources Update - Lexington

May 17-18, 2023 | 12th Annual Kentucky Energy Management Conference – Lexington

May 25, 2023 | Navigating Sales and Use Tax in Kentucky – Louisville

June 8, 2023 | 19th Annual Best Places to Work in Kentucky – Lexington

June 13, 2023 | Strategies, Tips and Insights for the Safety Management Toolbox – Lexington

June 14, 2023 | Navigating Sales and Use Tax in Kentucky – Lexington

June 14, 2023 | OSHA Lockout/Tagout Train the Trainer – Lexington

July 18, 2023 | 3rd Annual Women's Summit - Lexington

August 9-10, 2023 | 26th Annual Ky. Environmental Permitting & Reporting Conference - Lexington

August 15-16, 2023 | Supervising & Managing People Seminar - Louisville

August 16-17, 2023 | OSHA Fall Protection Competent Person Certification - Louisville

August 18, 2023 | OSHA Forklift: Train the Trainer - Louisville

August 29-31, 2023 | 39th Annual KYSHRM Conference - Lexington

September 20, 2023 | Kentucky Chamber 77th Annual Meeting Dinner – Louisville December 5, 2023 | OSHA 10 Hour Voluntary Compliance Course – Lexington December 5, 2023 | OSHA 30 Hour Voluntary Compliance Course – Lexington

**December 6-7, 2023** | Supervising and Managing People – Lexington

### **REGISTER OR SPONSOR AN EVENT**

To register for an event visit kychamber.com or contact Lori Jo Goff at 502-848-8727 or lgoff@kychamber.com.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for many of these events. To learn more, contact **Andrea Flanders**, Director of Sponsorship Relations, at **502-848-8786** or **aflanders@kychamber.com**.

### KENTUCKY CHAMBER FOUNDATION'S CENTER FOR **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND** INCLUSION

### Celebrates One Year Anniversary

In its first year, the Kentucky Chamber Foundation's Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) has led robust efforts





to build an inclusive and equitable Commonwealth.

In 2021, the Foundation hired Joe Frazier as the executive director of the Center for DE&I to spearhead the Chamber's efforts to engage and educate business leaders, transform workplaces, and create meaningful, long-term change.

The Center for DE&I has established a task force of more than 35 business, education, and civic leaders with the goal of launching and advancing initiatives that will lead the business community to create a stronger future for all Kentuckians.

"I am so proud of the many accomplishments the Center for DE&I has had in its first year. The success we have already seen in this program is such a strong testament to the critical need for this work in Kentucky," said Kentucky Chamber Foundation's Center for DE&I Interim Chair Kim Sweazy, Community Relations and External Affairs Analyst at Toyota Motor Manufacturing North America.

One of the major initiatives of the Center for DE&I has been to provide ways for businesses to diversify their supply chains and promote minority-owned businesses. As part of this effort, the Foundation launched the Kentucky Minority-Owned Business Database—the first-ever centralized listing of all certified minority-owned businesses across the Commonwealth.



Recently, the Center for DE&I expanded its staff to help continue and advance the organization's initiatives, hiring Nathan Bird and Darleen Horton as senior program managers.

### LEARN MORE

Learn more at kychamber.com/DEICenter.

### Kentucky Chamber Key Investors

Commonwealth Partner \_\_\_\_\_



















Chairman's Circle .

































































































































Addiction Recovery Care

Amteck of Kentucky

Clark's Pump N Shop

















### Trustee

AppHarvest

Association of Equipment Manufacturers Atlas Air Avantor Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Bellarmine University Big Ass Fans Brenntag Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital CareSource Carespring Healthcare Management, LLC Century Aluminum of Kentucky, LLC CertainTeed Citizens National Bank

Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated Commonwealth Credit Union Community Trust Bancorp, Inc. Computer Services, Inc. Dba CSI Consoliplex Corning Incorporated Country Oven Bakery Dean Dorton Deloitte Consulting Diageo North America Dismas Charities Domtar Paper Company Dorman Double Kwik **EDF** Renewables English Lucas Priest & Owsley, LLP Family Wealth Group

Farmers National Bank of Danville First Breckinridge Bancshares Inc. Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership Galt House Hotel & Suites Geenex Solar German American Bank Gray Construction Hyster-Yale Group Inc. Johnson & Johnson Services, Inc. Kentucky Community and Technical System Kentucky League of Cities, Inc. Laurel Grocery Company Louisville Water Company Manchester Memorial Hospital Marwood Land Company Matrix Integration McBrayer PLLC

Merck & Co. Meritor-Florence Merrick Hardwoods, Inc. Mississippi Lime Mubea North America National Grid Renewables NextEra Energy Resources, LLC Park Community Credit Union Partners for Rural Impact Pathways, Inc. Pinnacle Treatment Centers Piramal Pharma Solutions Planters Bank, Inc. Primary Care Centers of Eastern Kentucky Republic Bank Republic National Distributing Company

Restoration Systems

Robert W, Baird Co. Incorporated Scotty's Contracting & Stone LLC ServPro Stantec Stock Yards Bank and Trust Sullivan University System Tennessee Valley Authority Thoroughbred Engineering Tiffany & Co. Transit Authority of River City Verizon Washington Penn Plastic Co., Inc. Whitaker Bank YMCA of Central Kentucky Zillow Group



JAN UARY 2023

you to PAY LESS for your everyday business needs. Your Kentucky Chamber membership allows



**MEMBER SAVINGS** 

DVANTAGE

### INDIVIDUAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Small business plans designed to serve employers with 2-50 employees,

all backed by Anthem of Kentucky.

SMALL GROUP HEALTH COVERAGE

individuals, gig workers, and 1099 contractors. These plans are designed to fit your Anthem Enhanced Choice is a new option that offers six plans for entrepreneurs, budget and coverage needs in a changing world.

# **WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE**

ClearPath Mutual is helping employers save money and protect their employees. 10% discount. All members who meet underwriting guidelines will receive a

# **HUMAN RESOURCES AND SALARY DATA**

Salary.com is the leading provider of human resources compensation data, reports and surveys. Members receive free data and exclusive pricing.

## **OFFICE SUPPLIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

Chamber members save 15-30% on office supplies, cleaning supplies, technology and onsite printing services. Discounts apply to instore and online purchases with free next day shipping on \$50+ orders.















# **EGISLATIVE** PRIORITIES