



**TIME TO  
COMPETE**



**2022**

**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**  
TO BUILD A COMPETITIVE KENTUCKY

# NOW IS THE TIME TO POSITION KENTUCKY FOR FUTURE GROWTH...



**ASHLI WATTS**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO  
KENTUCKY CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

As Kentucky and the nation continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, now is the time to position Kentucky for future growth and to outcompete other states for jobs and workers. The economy is changing: new technologies are emerging, workforce trends are evolving, and businesses and industries are pivoting and restructuring. Public policy in Kentucky must change as well in order for the Commonwealth to compete in today's shifting economic landscape. The Kentucky Chamber's 2022 legislative priorities provide a roadmap for lawmakers to implement the policies that Kentucky needs.

The Chamber's legislative priorities were determined by Kentucky business leaders through surveys, research, and discussion, and were ultimately approved and vetted by our seven policy councils and Board of Directors. They serve as the agenda for the public affairs team as we advocate on behalf of our membership during the 2022 session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

Sincerely,

*Ashli Watts*

# AND TO OUTCOMPETE OTHER STATES FOR JOBS AND WORKERS



# 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## **BUILD A COMPETITIVE TAX SYSTEM**

Kentucky took important steps forward in building a modern, competitive tax code in 2018 and 2019. Now is the time to build on those reforms. The General Assembly should pass bold tax reform measures that will position the Commonwealth to compete aggressively for jobs and workers. To keep unemployment insurance (UI) taxes on Kentucky employers competitive, reforms should incorporate changes to the UI tax structure, and lawmakers should fully restore the state UI trust fund to pre-pandemic levels.



## **INVEST IN KENTUCKY'S INFRASTRUCTURE**

Investment in infrastructure will spur job growth and protect Kentucky's status as a global logistics hub. Kentucky has waited far too long to make the investments that our surrounding states are already pursuing. Investments must be made in all forms of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, highways, water, wastewater, aviation, freight, and broadband.



## **PROTECT EMPLOYER RIGHTS**

The Kentucky Chamber strongly believes in the rights of employers to decide on the best vaccination policies for their workplaces and staff. Every workplace is different, and decisions regarding vaccines should be left up to employers, as is currently long-standing Kentucky law. The Chamber will oppose any effort to roll back these rights. This includes efforts to restrict the ability of employers to mandate vaccines as well as efforts to require employers to mandate vaccines.



## **ENSURE LIABILITY PROTECTIONS FOR BUSINESSES**

Kentucky's liability climate is a major barrier to economic growth. Lawmakers should pass meaningful reforms to Kentucky's legal liability system and extend the protections in Senate Bill 5, passed in the 2021 regular session, which helps support Kentucky's economic recovery by protecting businesses from unwarranted COVID-related lawsuits.



## **REFORM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Reducing incarceration and recidivism should remain top priorities for lawmakers. The General Assembly made progress with criminal justice reform through passage of legislation such as felony theft and juvenile justice reform. The Kentucky Chamber supports reclassifying possession charges as a misdemeanor and reforming Kentucky's cash-bail system.



## GROW KENTUCKY'S SIGNATURE INDUSTRIES

Lawmakers should ensure that signature industries in Kentucky are allowed to flourish by working with leaders from the agricultural, bourbon, and equine sectors to ensure regulations and taxes are designed to foster growth, not impede it. The Chamber will advocate for measures to keep Kentucky horse racing competitive nationally with such features as historical horse racing and sports betting at racetracks.



## SOLVE THE WORKFORCE CRISIS

As the Kentucky Chamber Foundation's report, "20 Years in the Making: Kentucky's Workforce Crisis," illustrates, the Commonwealth needs a multi-faceted approach to solving our workforce crisis.



**CHILD CARE:** Remove child care as a barrier to employment by investing in the Child Care Assistance Program, supporting the development of the child care workforce, and cultivating a mixed-delivery model of high-quality care.

**UNEMPLOYMENT AND RE-EMPLOYMENT:** Emphasize rapid re-employment for unemployment claimants by enhancing Kentucky's work search requirement, providing more effective re-employment services, and implementing reforms to reduce the amount of time individuals spend on unemployment.

**RE-ENTRY:** Support successful re-entry for formerly incarcerated Kentuckians by repealing the ban on KEES eligibility for ex-felons, removing barriers to second-chance licensing, ensuring exiting inmates have photo-IDs, and increasing access to expungement.

**POST-SECONDARY:** Invest in higher education to increase post-secondary attainment, and make FAFSA a requirement for high school graduation.

**SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER:** Reignite efforts to fight the opioid epidemic and substance use disorder crisis by leveraging federal relief dollars and providing necessary resources to communities in most need.

**HEALTH:** Improve Kentucky's health outcomes, including reducing smoking rates by 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 2022 Legislative Agenda at [kychamber.com](http://kychamber.com).



## JOIN A POLICY COUNCIL TODAY!

If you are interested in joining a policy council, contact **Claire True** at **502-848-8757** or [ctrue@kychamber.com](mailto:ctrue@kychamber.com).

# ENGAGE IN A POLICY COUNCIL

## YOUR INVOLVEMENT MATTERS!

Make your voice heard on Kentucky's key issues, and join a policy council today! The Kentucky Chamber has seven policy councils composed of business leaders from around the state, each of which is responsible for developing legislative positions and priorities for their respective policy areas.

## EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

**CHAIR:** **Kelley Workman**, *Planters Bank*



Kentucky's economic viability is directly linked to the education and skills of its citizens. With a focus on lifelong learning, this council develops policies to support and improve education at all levels to build a productive and diverse workforce.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

**CO-CHAIRS:** **Ryan Lindsey**, *CRH Americas Material*  
**Stephanie Bell**, *Kinetic by Windstream*



This council is responsible for the formation of the Chamber's legislative and federal agenda as it relates to infrastructure and focuses on all types of infrastructure including transportation, utility, and broadband.

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

**CHAIR:** **David Huyck**,  
*Westlake Chemical Corporation*



This council seeks to promote Kentucky as an energy leader and supports policies to achieve environmental protection without unnecessarily hindering economic development and business growth.

## KENTUCKY COMPETITIVENESS

**CHAIR:** **Jay Ingle**, *Jackson Kelly PLLC*



This council seeks to increase Kentucky's competitiveness, not only with our border states but around the world. Economic development practices, labor laws, human resource policies, taxation, criminal justice, and the state budget are among the focuses of the council.

## SMALL BUSINESS

**CHAIR:** **Sarah Whitaker**,  
*Williams Advertising*



Because small businesses are often disproportionately affected by challenges facing the economy, this council ensures that issues of particular importance to small businesses are adequately represented by the Chamber's policies.

## HEALTH CARE

**CHAIR:** **Rodney Shockley**, *Forcht Group*



Rising health care costs have become a significant financial threat to Kentucky's businesses. As such, this council is focused on developing solutions to slow the increasing costs of health care and to improve the overall health and well-being of Kentuckians.

## AGRICULTURE & EQUINE

**CO-CHAIRS:** **Vince Gabbert**, *Keeneland*  
**Adam Hinton**, *Hinton Mills*



This council brings together signature industry leaders to help develop, guide, and advocate policies to strengthen these key sectors of Kentucky's economy.

# 2022 KENTUCKY CHAMBER LEADERSHIP

## Executive Committee

**Board Chair**



**Diane Medley**  
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**Kevin Smith**  
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President & CEO  
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**Vice Chair,  
Membership &  
Business Services**



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CEO  
St. Elizabeth Healthcare

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Public Affairs**



**LaJuana S. Wilcher**  
Partner  
English Lucas Priest &  
Owsley, LLP

**Treasurer**



**Scott Davis**  
Chairman & CEO  
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**Small Business  
Representative**



**Conrad Daniels**  
President  
HJI Supply Chain Solutions

**Chair, Kentucky  
Chamber Foundation**



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Cincinnati/Northern KY  
International Airport

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Houchens Industries, Inc.

**At-Large Member**



**Susan Elkington**  
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Toyota Motor Manufacturing  
Kentucky, Inc.

**At-Large Member**



**Mark Newman**  
Executive Vice President  
for Health Affairs  
UK HealthCare

**President & CEO**



**Ashli Watts**  
President & CEO  
Kentucky Chamber of  
Commerce

## Board of Directors

*Business leaders from every region in the state who govern the Kentucky Chamber*



**Matt Adams**  
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Affairs & Human Resources  
Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems



**Shannon Arvin**  
President & CEO  
Keeneland Association



**Calvin Barker**  
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Truist



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**Melissa Norman Bork**  
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Dentons Bingham  
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**Gabby Bruno**  
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**Jonathan Copley**  
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**John Crockett III**  
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LG&E and KU Energy LLC



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**Dr. Paul Czarapata\***  
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Kentucky Community &  
Technical College System

## Board of Directors Cont.



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Regional President  
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**Jason Keller**  
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AEP - Kentucky Power



**John Megibben**  
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**OJ Oleka\***  
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**Chris Perry**  
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Kentucky Association of  
Electric Cooperatives



**Scott Powell**  
Market President & Senior  
Commercial Team Leader  
U.S. Bank



**Edward Quinn**  
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Group LLC



**Lennie Rhoades**  
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Big Ass Fans



**Jay Richert**  
Refining General Manager  
Marathon Petroleum  
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**Nick Rowe**  
Sr. VP Southeast Division  
& President  
Kentucky American Water



**Mark Sommer**  
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**Hollie Spade**  
Director Legislative Affairs  
AT&T



**Matthew Tackett\***  
President & CEO  
Kentucky Association for  
Economic Development



**Aaron Thompson\***  
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Kentucky Council on  
Postsecondary Education



**Sharon Votaw**  
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Resource Officer  
Lexmark International, Inc.



**Cathy Waddell**  
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**Art Walker, III**  
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President, Kentucky  
Commercial Business  
Anthem Blue Cross and  
Blue Shield of Kentucky



**Elmer K. Whitaker**  
CEO  
Whitaker Bank, Inc.



**Kelley Workman**  
President  
Planters Bank, Inc.

## Local Chamber Advisory Board:

**Candance Brake**, *President & CEO*, Greater Owensboro Chamber\*

**Ron Bunch**, *President & CEO*, Bowling Green Area Chamber\*

**Bobby Clue**, *Executive Director*, Somerset Pulaski County Chamber\*

**Brent Cooper**, *President & CEO*, Northern Kentucky Chamber\*

**Tim Gibbs**, *President & CEO*, Ashland Alliance\*

**Jordan Gibson**, *President & CEO*, Southeast Kentucky Chamber, KCCE President\*

**Deanna Herrmann**, *CEO*, London-Laurel County Chamber\*

**Bob Quick**, *CCE, President & CEO*, Commerce Lexington Inc.\*

**Sarah Davasher-Wisdom**, *President & CEO*, Greater Louisville Inc.\*

**Sandra Wilson**, *President*, Paducah Area Chamber\*

# AGGRESSIVE ADVOCACY

## OUR TEAM WORKS FOR YOU.

Our public affairs team represents you before the Kentucky General Assembly and in Washington D.C. to curb burdensome regulations, reduce taxes, and create a healthy, business-friendly climate in the Commonwealth. Also, our communications team works year around to keep you updated and informed on news important to the Kentucky and national business community.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAMS



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## **A STRONG LEADER FOR SMALL BUSINESS**

The Kentucky Chamber is a strong advocate for small business, bringing together leaders from across the Commonwealth to advocate for a variety of causes.



# MEMBERSHIP IS CRITICAL

## STRENGTH IN NUMBERS MATTERS WHEN ADVOCATING IN FRANKFORT.

The Kentucky Chamber **represents the interests of businesses throughout Kentucky** — from family-owned shops to Fortune 500 companies — that employ half of the Commonwealth's workforce.

### BREAKDOWN OF MEMBERS BY EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

**31%** 100+ Employees

**69%** 0-99 Employees

24% 0-9 Employees

18% 10-24 Employees

16% 25-49 Employees

11% 50-99 Employees

### SAVINGS PROGRAMS

Protect your bottom line.

### SIGNATURE EVENTS

Expand your network and strengthen your visibility.

### WORKFORCE CENTER

Addressing your most challenging workforce needs.

### LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY & RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The state's largest broad-based business advocacy organization provides your company with successful legislation action. As a direct result of the Kentucky Chamber's 2021 legislative action, Kentucky businesses **saved \$1.4 Billion.**



## Membership Investment



**85%** Tax Deductible

*85 percent of your dues may be deductible as an ordinary business expense and are not allocable to lobbying activity.*



## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD: TALK TO US ABOUT MEMBERSHIP TODAY.

**JESSICA MOORE**, Director, Membership & Development

502-848-8733 | [jmoore@kychamber.com](mailto:jmoore@kychamber.com)

Become a member with a click of a button on our website, [kychamber.com/joinnow](https://www.kychamber.com/joinnow).

# THE BOTTOM LINE

YOUR SOURCE FOR NEWS.

The majority of the laws and regulations affecting Kentucky businesses are passed in Frankfort, not Washington.

You can't be at the Capitol on a daily basis, but we can. With the goal of closely monitoring the progress and impact of business-related legislation in Kentucky and delivering behind the scenes knowledge of state government, The Bottom Line breaks down complex policy issues for the business community.

Stay up to date at [kychamberbottomline.com](http://kychamberbottomline.com).

## DOWNLOAD THE APP: Bottom Line KY

POLITICAL AND BUSINESS NEWS  
FROM THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER









# LAWS MATTER

“

THE CHAMBER IS THE VOICE OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, AND ITS ROLE HAS NEVER BEEN MORE CRITICAL TO ENSURE A ROBUST AND HEALTHY POST-PANDEMIC ECONOMY. KENTUCKY IS PRIMED FOR GROWTH, BUT WE MUST GET PEOPLE BACK TO WORK AND SUPPORT BUSINESSES THAT CREATE JOBS. THIS INCLUDES IMPROVING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF OUR TAX CODE TO ENSURE A MORE PROSPEROUS COMMONWEALTH. THE CHAMBER WILL SUPPORT THESE GOALS AND IS PREPARED TO LEAD DURING THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

”

— LAJUANA WILCHER, ELPO LAW

**Vice Chair**, Public Affairs  
Kentucky Chamber Board of Directors



# KENTUCKY CHAMBER KEY INVESTORS

## Champion



## Advisor



## Trustee

Addiction Recovery Care	Commonwealth Credit Union	Johnson & Johnson Services, Inc.	Raytheon
Amtech of Kentucky	Community Trust Bancorp. Inc.	Kentucky Community and Technical College System	Republic Bank
AppHarvest	Computer Services, Inc. Dba CSI	Kentucky Hardwood Lumber Co.	Restoration Systems
Association of Equipment Manufacturers	Corning Incorporated	Kentucky League of Cities, Inc.	Robert W. Baird Co. Incorporated
AssuredPartners	Country Oven Bakery	Laurel Grocery Company	Scotty's Contracting & Stone LLC
Atlas Air	Crouse Corporation	Lockmasters	Speranza Therapeutics
Avantor	Dean Dorton	Louisville Water Company	Stantec
Bexion Pharmaceuticals	Deloitte Consulting	Manchester Memorial	Step toe & Johnson PLLC
Big Ass Fans	Diageo North America	McBrayer PLLC	Stock Yards Bank and Trust
Brenntag	Dismas Charities	Merck & Co.	Sullivan University System
Bristol-Myers Squibb	Dorman	Meritor-Florence	Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems
Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital	EDF Renewables	Mississippi Lime	Tennessee Valley Authority
CareSource	Family Wealth Group	Mubea North America	Transit Authority of River City
Carespring Healthcare Management, LLC	First Breckinridge Bancshares Inc.	National Grid Renewables	US WorldMeds
Carvana	First National Bank of Manchester	Nationwide Insurance	Verizon
Century Aluminum of Kentucky, LLC	First State Bank	Norfolk Southern Corporation	Washington Penn Plastic Co., Inc.
CertainTeed	Godolphin	Pinnacle Treatment Centers	Whitaker Bank
Chase	Gray Construction	Piramal Pharma Solutions	
Citizens National Bank	Hyster-Yale Group Inc.	Planters Bank, Inc.	
Coca-Cola Bottling Company	Jackson Kelly PLLC		

# KENTUCKY CHAMBER KEY INVESTORS

## Commonwealth Partner

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## Chairman's Circle

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Kentucky Chamber