



**Kentucky Chamber**



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**2023**

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# **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

FOR GROWTH

# KENTUCKY HAS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE INCREDIBLE STRIDES...



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

Businesses have continued to adapt to challenges from the pandemic, and Kentucky now has a unique opportunity to make incredible strides towards strengthening its workforce and preparing for a prosperous economic future. With major investments in our state announced, specifically in the manufacturing sector, lawmakers must continue working to ensure we can meet the ever-evolving demand for skilled workers and continue to make the Commonwealth an even more attractive place to do business. The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce's 2023 legislative priorities will help provide a guide for lawmakers to implement the policies Kentucky needs to achieve these goals.

The Kentucky Chamber's legislative priorities were determined by business leaders across the state through countless meetings, surveys, and research, and were ultimately vetted by our seven policy councils and Board of Directors. The following priorities serve as the agenda for our public affairs team to advocate on behalf of our membership in the 2023 session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

Sincerely,

*Ashli Watts*

# TOWARDS STRENGTHENING ITS WORKFORCE AND PREPARING FOR A **PROSPEROUS ECONOMIC FUTURE**



# 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.



## FURTHER INVESTMENT IN KENTUCKY'S INFRASTRUCTURE

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](https://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! The Kentucky Chamber has several policy councils that are responsible for developing legislative positions and priorities for their respective policy areas.

### EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

**CHAIR:** **John Megibben**, *Messer Construction Company*



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 Materials*  
**Stephanie Bell**, *Kinetic by Windstream*



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

### SMALL BUSINESS

**CHAIR:** **Sarah Whitaker**,  
*Branded, A Division of Williams Advertising*



As small businesses are often disproportionately affected by challenges facing the economy, this council works to ensure the Chamber represents issues of particular importance to small businesses.

### ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

**CHAIR:** **Mike Buckentin**, *Logan Aluminum, Inc.*



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:** **Les Fugate**, *Brown-Forman Corporation*



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.

### HEALTH CARE

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



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:** **Anthony Koch**, *Hallway Feeds*  
**Gemma Freeman**, *Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings*



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

### CENTER FOR POLICY & RESEARCH

**CHAIR:** **Jennifer Barber**, *Frost Brown Todd*



This Center builds on the organization's long history of producing nonpartisan research on critical topics and leading policy development on important issues that will help create a stronger business climate and economy.

# 2023 KENTUCKY CHAMBER LEADERSHIP





# 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

## WE NEED YOU

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.

“

If you want to go far, go together. The Chamber is the best group of business leaders in the Commonwealth bar none, people who are genuinely passionate about Kentucky.

— 2022 Kentucky Chamber Chair Diane Medley,  
MCM CPAs and Advisors

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### 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 legislative action. As a direct result of the Kentucky Chamber's 2022 lobbying efforts, Kentucky businesses **saved \$1.281 billion** (\$19,000 per Kentucky employer).



80% Tax Deductible

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



**Membership Investment**

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

Contact [membership@kychamber.com](mailto:membership@kychamber.com) or visit our website at [kychamber.com/joinnow](https://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).



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**Bottom Line KY**

POLITICAL AND BUSINESS NEWS  
FROM THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER







# LAWS MATTER

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KENTUCKY'S ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY HAS NEVER BEEN BRIGHTER. IN ORDER FOR KENTUCKY TO MEET ITS POTENTIAL, IT'S CRITICAL THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONTINUES TO BUILD A COMPETITIVE TAX SYSTEM, INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE, REMOVE BARRIERS TO GROW SIGNATURE INDUSTRIES, AND ENSURE KENTUCKY CAN MEET THE EVOLVING DEMANDS FOR A SKILLED WORKFORCE. THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER IS THE LEADING VOICE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE COMMONWEALTH, AND WE STAND READY TO SUPPORT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S WORK TOWARD ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.

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— KEVIN SMITH, BEAM SUNTORY  
2023 Kentucky Chamber Chair





# KENTUCKY CHAMBER KEY INVESTORS

## Champion



## Advisor



## Trustee

Addiction Recovery Care  
Amteck of Kentucky  
AppHarvest  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Assured Partners Inc.  
Atlas Air  
Avantor  
Big Ass Fans  
Brenntag  
Bristol-Myers Squibb  
Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital  
CareSource  
Carespring Healthcare Management, LLC  
Carvana  
Century Aluminum of Kentucky, LLC  
CertainTeed  
Citizens National Bank  
Clark's Pump N Shop  
Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated  
Commonwealth Credit Union  
Community Trust Bancorp. Inc.

Computer Services, Inc. Dba CSI  
Consolplex  
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, PLLC  
Family Wealth Group  
Farmers National Bank of Danville  
First Breckinridge Bancshares Inc.  
First National Bank of Manchester  
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 College System  
Kentucky League of Cities, Inc.  
Laurel Grocery Company  
Louisville Water Company  
Manchester Memorial Hospital  
Marwood Land Company  
McBrayer PLLC  
Merck & Co.  
Meritor-Florence  
Merrick Hardwoods, Inc.  
Mississippi Lime  
Mubea North America  
National Grid Renewables  
Park Community Credit Union  
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 of Madison, Rockcastle, Garrard & Lincoln Counties  
Stantec  
Stock Yards Bank and Trust  
The 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

# KENTUCKY CHAMBER KEY INVESTORS

## Commonwealth Partner

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**aetna** **amazon** **Anthem**  **Beam** **SUNTORY**

 **BROWN-FORMAN**  **CLEARPATH** mutual **Humana** **LGE** **KU**

**TOYOTA** **TRUIST**  

## Chairman's Circle

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 **KENTUCKY POWER**  
An AEP Company  
BOUNDLESS ENERGY

  **BAPTIST HEALTH** **Charter**  
COMMUNICATIONS

 **CHI St. Joseph Health** 

 **DELTA DENTAL**  **Fidelity**  
INVESTMENTS

 **Forch Group**  
OF KENTUCKY **HOUCHENS INDUSTRIES, INC.** **KENTUCKY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES**

 **Lexmark**  **NORTON HEALTHCARE** **NUCOR** **PIKEVILLE MEDICAL CENTER**  **PNC**

 **RUBICON**  **HealthCare** **usbank** **WesBanco**



**Kentucky Chamber**

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