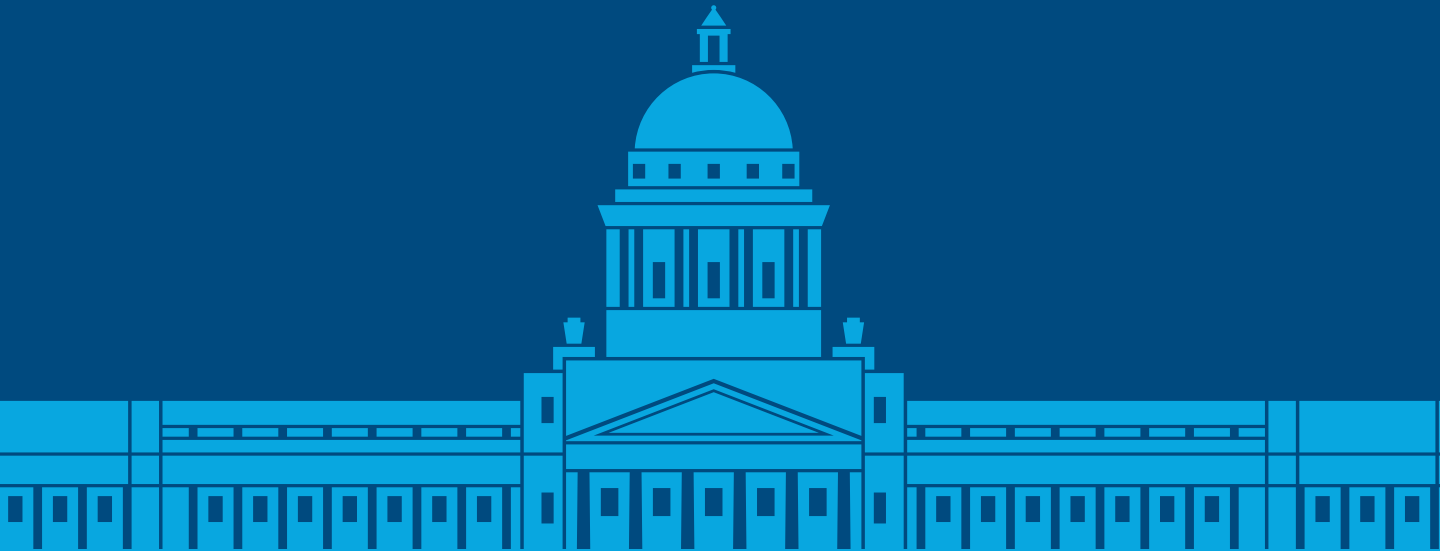




Kentucky Chamber

Uniting Business. Advancing Kentucky.



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES TO



KENTUCKY'S WINNING STRATEGY

WHILE “KENTUCKY’S WINNING STRATEGY” ARTICULATES A VISION FOR THE COMMONWEALTH’S ECONOMIC FUTURE,



ASHLI WATTS
PRESIDENT AND CEO
KENTUCKY CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

Challenges and opportunities have been the defining features of Kentucky's post-pandemic economy. Fortunately, state policymakers have been proactive in helping employers overcome these challenges and capitalize on opportunities by passing legislation in support of tax reform, workforce development, regulatory relief, and economic growth. Kentucky's business community urges lawmakers to build on this momentum by embracing “Kentucky’s Winning Strategy,” a new report from the Kentucky Chamber outlining a vision for the state’s economic future and highlighting key policy areas including tax reform, population and workforce growth, education, economic development, and more.

While “Kentucky’s Winning Strategy” articulates a vision for the Commonwealth’s economic future, the Chamber’s 2024 legislative priorities offer a policy roadmap for how we get there. The Chamber’s priorities were determined by business leaders across the state through meetings, surveys, and research, and were approved by our policy councils and board of directors. As the voice of Kentucky’s business community in Frankfort, the Chamber looks forward to another successful session in support of employers and job creators.

Ashli Watts

THE CHAMBER'S 2024 LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES OFFER A POLICY
ROADMAP FOR **HOW WE GET THERE.**



2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

GROW JOBS, KENTUCKY'S POPULATION AND WORKFORCE THROUGH TAX REFORM

A competitive tax code is a key ingredient to supporting job creation and attracting workers and families to Kentucky. To ensure Kentucky is on track to meet the necessary fiscal conditions to continue reducing individual income tax rates, lawmakers must exercise fiscal discipline in making strategic investments in key state services. At the same time, lawmakers should continue implementing pro-growth changes to state and local business taxes and ensure Kentucky's sales tax base excludes business inputs to the greatest extent possible.



FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE

Policymakers should strategically focus on fostering economic development across the Commonwealth, including in rural communities, with strong support for growing Kentucky's signature industries and targeted investments in local communities to improve quality of life, foster job creation, and support small business formation. In addition, lawmakers should cultivate a pro-business regulatory environment by streamlining state labor and employment laws, giving employers the tools they need to grow their workforces and ensure workplace safety, and rejecting costly mandates.



LOWER THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS IN KENTUCKY THROUGH SENSIBLE REGULATIONS AND LEGAL LIABILITY REFORM

To protect Kentucky's low cost of business and build on this attractive feature of our economic climate, lawmakers should ensure the state has sensible environmental regulations and affordable and reliable energy. As Kentucky's liability climate for businesses is ranked in the top 10 worst in the nation, lawmakers should pass meaningful reforms to Kentucky's legal liability system, protect responsible fair chance employers from unwarranted litigation, and reject legislative proposals that would worsen the state's legal liability climate by driving up costs for employers.



HELP EMPLOYERS GROW THEIR BUSINESSES THROUGH WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS



“Kentucky’s Winning Strategy” sets a goal of making Kentucky one of the top 10 states in the nation for workforce participation and putting the state on a path to rapid workforce growth. To reach that goal, the Chamber recommends focusing on the following priorities:

CHILD CARE: Address the drop in federal pandemic funding for child care through targeted and strategic investments, continue and pursue policies to empower employer engagement, and work to expand child care capacity and availability throughout the state.

HOUSING: Develop statewide and regional strategies to ensure working Kentuckians have access to housing options that fit their needs and support their ability to participate in the workforce.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION: Invest in high-quality and high-impact infrastructure and transportation projects that efficiently connect Kentuckians with employment opportunities.

BENEFITS CLIFF: Continue working to identify solutions to benefits cliff challenges by providing smooth off-ramps for public assistance recipients seeking career advancement, new jobs, and pay increases.

FAIR CHANCE EMPLOYMENT AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER: Reduce liability concerns for employers, streamline and automate expungement for those eligible with nonviolent offenses, create more opportunities for workforce training, and increase access to high-quality wrap-around services.

EDUCATION: Continue making strategic investments in K-12 and post-secondary education, increase the number of high-school graduates who complete FAFSA, ensure state financial aid programs and investments align with employer workforce needs, and take steps to address teacher shortages.

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

WORKFORCE TRAINING: Focus on continual improvements to workforce training in Kentucky, including assessment of systems alignment, spending and return on investment, and program effectiveness.

WANT TO READ MORE?

You can read more about these and other priorities in the full 2024 Legislative Agenda at 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**.

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 & TECHNOLOGY

CO-CHAIRS: **Ed Quinn**, *RJ Corman Railroad Group*
Carlos Sanchez, *AT&T Kentucky*



The council is responsible for the formation of the Chamber's legislative and federal agenda as it relates to infrastructure and will focus on all types of infrastructure including transportation, utility,

and broadband. The council also handles policy related to data privacy, cybersecurity, and other technology issues.

SMALL BUSINESS

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



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: **Mark Marsh**, *Owensboro Health*



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.

2024 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.

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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.

Joining the Kentucky Chamber has provided our company new and diverse networking opportunities and connections. The Chamber provides pro-business advocacy and keeps its members well-informed of state legislative issues.

— Jennifer Willis, CEO, Pathways Inc.

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 result of the Kentucky Chamber's 2023 legislative efforts, Kentucky businesses **saved an estimated \$1.553 billion** (\$921 for each employee in the Commonwealth).



Membership Investment



80% Tax Deductible

80 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.**

Contact membership@kychamber.com or visit our website at kychamber.com/joinnow.



SCAN ME

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.



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Bottom Line KY

POLITICAL AND BUSINESS NEWS
FROM THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER









POLICY MATTERS

“

KENTUCKY IS PRIMED FOR SUCCESS, AND OUR ‘KENTUCKY’S WINNING STRATEGY’ PLAN CAN GUIDE US TO BRING OUR BEST FUTURE TO FRUITION TOGETHER. WHEN WE UNITE BEHIND A SHARED VISION FOR A STRONGER WORKFORCE, BETTER EDUCATION, AND A BUSINESS-FRIENDLY ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT, THE POTENTIAL FOR OUR COMMONWEALTH IS LIMITLESS. NOW IS THE TIME TO BE BOLD, INNOVATIVE, AND DECISIVE TO POSITION KENTUCKY AS A NATIONAL LEADER IN OPPORTUNITY.

”

— CANDACE MCGRAW, CEO, CVG AIRPORT

2024 Kentucky Chamber Chair



KENTUCKY CHAMBER KEY INVESTORS

Champion



Advisor



Trustee

Addiction Recovery Care
 Amcor
 Amteck of Kentucky
 Apex Clean Energy
 AppHarvest
 Atlas Air
 Avantor Performance Materials
 Bechtel Parsons Bluegrass
 Bellarmine University
 Big Ass Fans
 Blackhawk Mining
 Branscum Construction Company
 Brenntag
 Brightview Health
 Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital
 CareSource
 Carespring Healthcare Management, LLC
 Century Aluminum of Kentucky, LLC
 CertainTeed
 Citizens National Bank
 Clark's Pump N Shop
 Coca-Cola Consolidated

Commonwealth Credit Union
 Community Trust Bancorp, Inc.
 Computer Services, Inc. Dba CSI
 Consolplex
 Corning Incorporated
 CRG Automation
 CSX Transportation
 Dean Dorton
 Deloitte Consulting
 Dismas Charities
 Domtar Paper Company
 Dorman
 Double Kwik
 EDF Renewables
 English Lucas Priest & Owsley, LLP
 Family Wealth Group
 Farmers National Bank of Danville
 Field & Main Bank
 Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership
 Galt House Hotel & Suites
 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
 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
 Robert W. Baird Co. Incorporated
 Sandy's Racing & Gaming
 Scotty's Contracting & Stone LLC
 ServPro of Madison, Rockcastle, Garrard
 & Lincoln Counties
 Somerset Hardwood Flooring
 Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
 Steel Technologies
 Stock Yards Bank and Trust
 Sullivan University System
 Tennessee Valley Authority
 Thoroughbred Engineering
 Tiffany & Co.
 T.J. Regional Health
 Verizon
 Washington Penn Plastic Co., Inc.
 Whitaker Bank

KENTUCKY CHAMBER KEY INVESTORS

Commonwealth Partner



Chairman's Circle



Kentucky Chamber