

Opportunity Starts Here



2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



ASHLI WATTS
PRESIDENT AND CEO
KENTUCKY CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

Kentucky's recent progress proves what's possible when strong leadership, sound policy, and a united business community come together. Working with the Kentucky Chamber, the Kentucky General Assembly has advanced pro-growth policies that have strengthened our economy, improved competitiveness, and supported Kentuckians and businesses.

Now we must build on that momentum by addressing barriers that reach every community: access to housing and child care. Employers are seeing firsthand how these challenges impact their ability to hire, retain, and support workers. They also see the potential for growth and opportunity when those barriers are removed.

Our 2026 legislative priorities focus on turning today's challenges into tomorrow's opportunities—supporting our workforce and strengthening our communities, continuing tax reform, investing in education, prioritizing infrastructure, maintaining a competitive business climate through legal liability reform, and advancing sustainable health care solutions.

Shaped by the voices of business leaders across the state and approved by our policy councils and Board of Directors, these are the priorities of employers who power Kentucky's economy and push for progress in every community.

Ashli Watts

We look forward to working with our members and the General Assembly to advance meaningful solutions that ensure Opportunity Starts Here—because Kentucky's future depends on it.

NOW WE MUST BUILD ON THAT MOMENTUM BY ADDRESSING BARRIERS THAT REACH EVERY COMMUNITY: ACCESS TO HOUSING AND CHILD CARE. EMPLOYERS ARE SEEING FIRSTHAND HOW THESE CHALLENGES IMPACT THEIR ABILITY TO HIRE, RETAIN, AND SUPPORT WORKERS.



2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

CONTINUE PRO-GROWTH TAX REFORM

Kentucky made significant progress in 2025 by reducing the individual income tax rate from 4.0% to 3.5%. Moving forward, the Chamber supports continued phased reductions to the individual income tax and simplification of the tax code to ease compliance burdens and strengthen competitiveness. To achieve this, policymakers should avoid sales taxes on business inputs, improve cost-recovery policies to encourage capital investment, eliminate the Limited Liability Entity Tax, and streamline Kentucky's tax dispute resolution process.



ADDRESS WORKFORCE CHALLENGES THROUGH CHILD CARE SOLUTIONS

Expanding access and affordability in child care is a proven way to strengthen Kentucky's workforce. Analysis by the Kentucky Chamber Center for Policy and Research shows that improved access could help 16,000 to 28,000 Kentuckians seek out and find employment—significantly increasing the state's working-age participation rate and generating new wages and tax revenue. The Kentucky Collaborative on Child Care has highlighted these findings and developed 37 consensus-driven recommendations to strengthen Kentucky's private child care system. In 2026, the Chamber supports improving data collection to better target resources, supporting affordability for low- and moderate-income families, strengthening the business model through regulatory relief and workforce strategies, and engaging local communities and employers in designing solutions that meet regional needs.



SUSTAIN ECONOMIC PROGRESS WITH STRONG HOUSING POLICY

Policymakers must address rising housing demand by removing barriers to growth and keeping homeownership within reach for Kentuckians. State and local leaders should make it simpler to build homes by streamlining zoning, permitting, and regulatory processes. Encouraging local land-use reforms would unlock new housing opportunities in high-demand areas. Investing in residential infrastructure through revolving loan funds and public-private partnerships would help share costs among the state, local governments, and builders. Strengthening affordable and workforce housing programs through targeted tax incentives and partnerships would ensure Kentuckians can live near their jobs, and implementing a moratorium on costly new code changes would help reduce construction delays and expenses.



ENSURE STRONG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Kentucky's recent economic success reflects the impact of pro-growth policy and economic development incentives. Policymakers should strengthen these programs to drive job creation, attract private-sector investment, and support entrepreneurship. To build on Kentucky's strengths in agriculture, energy, commodity exports, logistics, and aviation, the Chamber supports establishing market-based incentives to meet the growing demand for alternative aviation fuel.



INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Policymakers have prioritized investments in Kentucky's infrastructure, including roads, bridges, airports, and utilities, helping position the state for long-term growth. Continued investment, supported by public-private partnerships and federal funding, would strengthen logistics, reduce congestion, and ensure all regions can grow.



PRIORITIZE EDUCATION FUNDING

Kentucky's economy depends on a well-trained, adaptable workforce. Policymakers should strengthen and align workforce development programs, K-12 education, and postsecondary pathways to ensure students and job seekers have the skills employers need.



IMPROVE STATE COMPETITIVENESS WITH LEGAL LIABILITY AND REGULATORY REFORM

A stable and competitive business climate depends on sensible environmental regulations, affordable energy, and a fair legal framework that reduces liability exposure, protects employers, and aligns labor and employment laws with peer states. To strengthen Kentucky's reputation as a top location for investment and business growth, policymakers should enact meaningful liability reforms, expand alternative dispute resolution, and reject measures that increase costs or uncertainty.



ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE HEALTH CARE SOLUTIONS

Kentucky's health care landscape must be closely monitored following the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act to assess its impact on costs, access, and quality of care. The Chamber supports ongoing evaluation to ensure policies support a sustainable, high-performing health care system that meets the needs of patients, providers, and employers.



WANT TO READ MORE?

You can read more about these and other priorities in the full 2026 Legislative Agenda at kychamber.com.



JOIN A POLICY COUNCIL TODAY

If you are interested in joining a policy council, contact **Skylar Staley** at **502-848-8757** or **sstaley@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: Dan Cahill, HSD Metrics



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: Steve Branscum, *Branscum Construction* **Nate Haney**, *BRW Trucking*, *Logistics and Warehousing*





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

SMALL BUSINESS

CHAIR: Ameet Patel, Thoroughbred Hospitality Group



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: LaJuana Wilcher, English, Lucas, Priest & Owsley



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.

COMPETITIVENESS

CHAIR: Melissa Norman Bork, Dentons



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: Gerard Colman, Baptist 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

CHAIR: Jim Coleman, Coleman Crest Farm



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

POLICY & RESEARCH

CHAIR: Jordan Harris, *Deloitte*



The Chamber's Center for Policy and Research 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.

2026 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 round 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 BUSINESS

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



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.

As a small business leader, I rely on the Kentucky Chamber to stay informed and engaged on the issues that impact our industry and our state's economy. Through the Chamber's advocacy, research, and policy work, we gain valuable insight into legislative and business trends at both the state and national level. Their efforts help ensure that small businesses like ours have a voice in shaping policies that strengthen Kentucky's economy. From workforce and tax policy to education and economic development, the Chamber's work helps protect our bottom line and create a stronger future for small businesses across the Commonwealth. SAVINGS PROGRAMS - Ameet Patel, President and CEO, Thoroughbred Hospitality Group SIGNATURE EVENTS **WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY & RETURN ON INVESTMENT** The state's largest broad-based business advocacy organization provides your company with successful advocacy. As a result of the Kentucky Chamber's 2025 legislative efforts, Kentucky businesses saved an estimated \$1.084 billion. (\$629 per private-sector employee in the Commonwealth). 80 percent of your dues may be deductible **Membership Investment** 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.





STAY UP TO DATE



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

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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POLICYMATTERS

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OPPORTUNITY IS THE FOUNDATION OF A STRONG ECONOMY AND A THRIVING KENTUCKY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE LEGISLATURE TO BUILD ON THAT FOUNDATION, PASSING POLICIES THAT SUPPORT OUR WORKFORCE, STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES, AND KEEP KENTUCKY COMPETITIVE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

— CONDRAD DANIELS,
PRESIDENT, HJI SUPPLY CHAIN SOLUTIONS

2026 Kentucky Chamber Board Chair





KENTUCKY CHAMBER KEY INVESTORS

Champion















































Advisor





























































































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KENTUCKY CHAMBER KEY INVESTORS

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