

the State of Business



Kentucky Chamber
Uniting Business. Advancing Kentucky.

The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce is the only business association in the state advocating for companies of all sizes and industries across the Commonwealth.

kychamber.com/2015agenda

JANUARY 2015

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PREVIEW

Keeping an eye on the Capitol

With a watchful eye on P3s & pensions, Chamber sets goals for 2015

The Kentucky Chamber's 2015 Legislative Agenda was released Nov. 19, outlining the business community's goals for the 2015 General Assembly. The agenda places special emphasis on the need for public-private partnership (P3) legislation and financial transparency in Kentucky's pension systems.

Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson has been touring cities around the state to spell out these goals.

"As we head into the 2015 General Assembly, there are a number of issues that could have a significant impact on the health of the business community," said Adkisson. "Our goal with this tour is to ensure our members and local chamber members are not only educated on those issues, but stay looped in as

those issues continue to evolve during the session."

Adkisson says several legislative issues which the Chamber advocated heavily for in the 2014 session are still on the table as we move into the 2015 session.

"We were disappointed by the amendment that led to the Governor's veto of P3 legislation at the end of the 2014 session," said Adkisson. "This year, we will continue to push for passage of a comprehensive plan that will encourage the creation of partnerships between private companies and government to create jobs, while saving tax dollars and providing needed projects and services."

As for the state's pension system, Adkisson says the "day of reckoning has come."

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We make it our business to protect yours.

Supporting the Kentucky Chamber is an investment in your business and the future of the Commonwealth. Our success on your behalf is based entirely on the strong support we receive from you and other businesses across the state. Join today and help us explore solutions and inspire change. The Kentucky Chamber provides members:

INFLUENCE

through member businesses & our leadership to advance pro-business legislation and shape the dialogue at the Capitol.

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from legislation that stifles growth and hurts your bottom line.

ACCESS

to meetings with state and federal lawmakers.

Call the Kentucky Chamber today at 502-695-4700 to find out how your business can become a member or visit kychamber.com/join-now.



Kentucky Chamber

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2015 Legislative Agenda

Building a stronger workforce through high quality education

Creating a competitive business climate in the Commonwealth

Encouraging responsible government spending

Expanding Kentucky's role as an energy leader

Improving the health and wellness of Kentucky citizens

Download the legislative agenda at kychamber.com/2015agenda.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“Our bond rating has already been downgraded three times. Kentucky’s one of the worst states, frankly, among all 50 in terms of our total liabilities. So we have to continue to address our pension issue.” He added, “Some major reforms were made in 2008 and 2013, but we’ve got to keep our eye on the ball because it’s going to require a sustained commitment to solve the problem,” he said.

The Chamber’s legislative agenda is a comprehensive approach to creating a competitive business climate and investing in the future of the Commonwealth.

Education

- Kentucky’s adoption of tougher academic standards was an important step toward ensuring that students are prepared to succeed in college and career. The Chamber will continue our strong support for **protecting the state’s new, more rigorous academic standards**.
- The Chamber will **support the enactment of a charter school law** to give all children access to a high-quality education.
- The agenda also includes **support for early childhood education and for protecting school funding**.

Kentucky Competitiveness

- **The Chamber supports pro-growth comprehensive tax reform** which would include, among other items, a simplified

tax code, a focus on prioritized government spending, and support of growth-oriented policies that would improve the competitiveness of Kentucky’s business climate.

- **Reforming Kentucky’s telecommunications laws** to spur investment in high-speed telecommunications infrastructure that supports business and commerce is an important priority this year.
- The Chamber supports an amendment to the Kentucky Constitution that would allow cities and counties the choice, with voter approval, to **enact a local sales tax with a sunset provision, dedicated for the funding of transformational local projects**.
- **Right-to-Work legislation is needed** to put Kentucky on a level playing field with surrounding states when it comes to business recruitment.

Health & Wellness

- The Chamber will continue to support the creation of incentives for workplace-based wellness programs and **enactment of a statewide smoke-free law**.
- **Improving the medical liability climate** through medical review panels also is a priority item.

Energy

- **Supporting and protecting Kentucky’s low cost energy advantage** is a key priority for the Kentucky Chamber. Supporting the infrastructure of Kentucky’s signature coal industry is key focus of this goal.
- The Chamber will **advocate for policies that strive for energy independence** and encourages a sensible regulatory approach.

Addison noted, “Clearly, our agenda is a full one, and we know that additional issues will emerge as the session progresses. As always, we look forward to the opportunity to represent the interests of Kentucky’s employers as we work together to build a stronger future for our Commonwealth.”

Kentucky Chamber Public Affairs Team



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Kentucky Chamber to enhance news coverage of business related legislation

Former CN|2 Pure Politics reporter joins Chamber staff

The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce will enhance its outreach and coverage of state policy issues this legislative session by delivering timely updates from Frankfort to the business community on the Chamber's blog, kychamberblog.com.

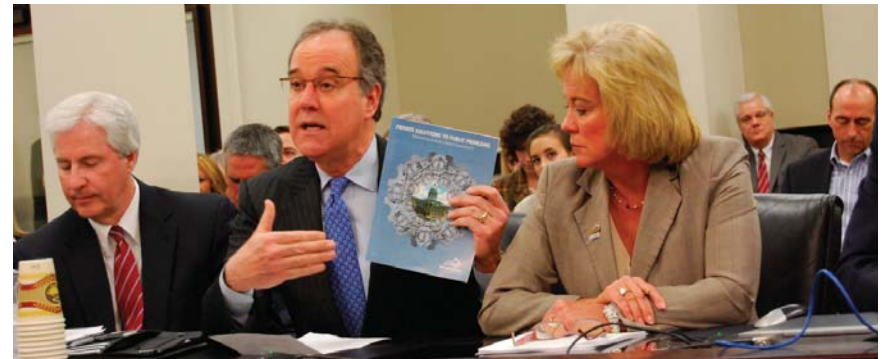
With the goal of closely monitoring the progress and facts of business-related legislation and delivering the behind-the-scene knowledge of state government, this platform will serve as a source of the news beginning with the 2015 session of the Kentucky General Assembly.



The Chamber has hired Jacqueline Pitts, a reporter who has covered the Kentucky legislature and politics as producer at *cn|2 Pure Politics*, to serve as Communications Manager. Pitts will be responsible for delivering up-to-date information about legislative and other state policy decisions being made in Frankfort that affect the business community.

Through a combination of explanatory interviews, videos, and various written media, we will boil down the facts about key issues and put them at the fingertips of Kentuckians.

To stay in the loop, visit kychamberblog.com to sign up to receive email alerts when news is posted. You can also follow the Chamber on Twitter at [@kychamber](https://twitter.com/kychamber).



Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson and other public affairs staff members provide testimony on various pieces of key business legislation during each session of the Kentucky General Assembly.



Kentucky Chamber policy councils, comprised of business leaders from all regions of the state, meet at the Chamber's Frankfort headquarters throughout the summer to form the Legislative Agenda, which is later approved by the Chamber's Board of Directors.

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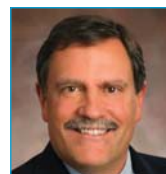
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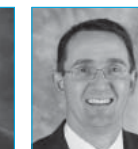
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Headquartered in Frankfort, the Kentucky Chamber is the largest business organization in the state. Representing the interests of more than 90,000 businesses, the Chamber focuses on state and federal issues that impact the business climate in the Commonwealth.

Key Investors

The Kentucky Chamber's Key Investors are an exclusive group of top Kentucky executives whose companies provide significant financial support and leadership for Chamber involvement in critical issues affecting Kentucky businesses.

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Chamber Investors and Board Members regularly receive access to meetings with state and federal lawmakers. U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers was welcomed by Chamber leaders during a luncheon in 2014.



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