



**ENSURE CHRISTIAN COUNTY IS BUSINESS-FRIENDLY:**

- a. **Be competitive on any business-related tax.** We encourage elected officials to analyze potential revenue measures, including the local option sales tax, to determine its potential impact on necessary public investments while avoiding policies that could serve as disincentives to private-sector employment and investment. It is imperative that we create and maintain a tax climate that is strongly competitive to other local, regional, and state markets.
- b. **Control regulatory and permitting requirements.** We encourage city and county officials to ensure that all regulatory and permitting requirements are well publicized, available electronically, easy to understand, and simple to navigate. We also encourage the city and county officials to examine the internal processes such as obtaining permit in an effort to streamline the process and make it more effective (e.g. online permits)
- c. **Continue use of incentives for housing, retail, and industrial development.** Support the use of incentives by the Christian County Fiscal Court and the municipal governments in attracting new retailers to the area. Continue and expand the use of local incentives to assist with the recruitment of industry to our area. Revise residential recruitment incentives to be more attractive for new homeowners to locate in downtown Hopkinsville.
- d. **Support policies and infrastructure that will promote growth.** It is critical that we continue to push for population growth as population increases drive economic development and business growth. According to recent reports, consumer spending is responsible for 70% of the nation's economy. More consumers will equal more business opportunities.

**SUPPORT QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVES:**

We encourage the city and county to find ways to increase recreation opportunities and improve the community's health. To support efforts of recruiting and retaining residents in our area, it is important that our community offers quality housing, schools, healthcare, amenities and recreation opportunities as these factors play an increasingly important role in the decision-making process, especially for those dependent on the talents of highly educated workers.

**INVEST IN AND IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE:**

The Chamber supports a comprehensive plan to ensure we have adequate infrastructure in our community and ensuring Hopkinsville has strong broadband capabilities to make us more competitive in recruiting new business and boosting tourism as well as meeting the needs of our citizens.

- Support efforts in increasing and expanding broadband
- Develop more sidewalk and bicycle lanes throughout the community
- Increase the quantity and quality of homes for purchase or rent within price ranges that are in demand
- Continue the work being done to revitalize the downtown area with an emphasis on creating neighborhoods that appeal to residential and business activities.



## EDUCATION

The Chamber continues to believe local education improvement efforts should include:

- Top down, across-the-board accountability
- Invest in early childhood education in order to reap the benefits leading to higher-paying jobs; reduced costs for health care, criminal justice, social services and welfare. We must invest in early childhood education and make greater investments in enhanced child-care programs for Kentucky's developing youth. Efforts to fully fund all-day kindergarten equitably are encouraged.
- Funding and personnel support for the Gateway Academy Innovation to Technology where students jump start their future careers by participating in programs that provide them with intensive, career specific training for both college and career oriented students.
- Develop a more relevant and efficient system of career and technical education in Kentucky to prepare students for the workplace.
- The exploration of increased career awareness opportunities and the initiation of in-school entrepreneurial efforts
- Development and implementation of soft skills education training.

## TOURISM

Supports adoption of policies and programs that allow the tourism industry, which has a major impact on Kentucky's economy, to flourish; encourages investment in critical tourism marketing and infrastructure; and development of initiatives that encourage growth in a community's existing tourism assets and the attraction and creation of new opportunities. Local communities throughout the state could benefit from initiatives to grow targeted tourism sectors, such as the state's signature distilling industry, and to attract new distilleries.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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