



2021 State Legislative Agenda

Economic Development & Taxation

- The Chamber supports retaining and strengthening the state's premier economic/community development programs which are critical in attracting new businesses to the state, assisting existing companies expand and encouraging investment in communities across the state. Programs such as, Small Employer Quality Jobs Act, Quality Jobs Act and the Aerospace Engineer Tax Credit.
- Encourage tax policies that stimulate and boost small business growth
- Support innovation that leads to entrepreneurship and primary job creation
- Protect community's ability to use Tax Increment Financing

Education & Workforce Development

- Develop a long-range funding solution that allows for better planning and operation by Norman Public Schools, Moore Norman Technology Center, and the University of Oklahoma
- Maintain teacher pay at the regional average and lower average class size in Oklahoma to the national average
- Support local control of school funding by raising the cap on local millage by a vote of the people
- Restore and protect funding for the University of Oklahoma
- Align Oklahoma's education system to the needs of the state's current and future workforce through supporting the full implementation of Oklahoma's new, rigorous standards that encourage critical thinking and innovation and ensure that every child is college and career ready upon graduation
- Work with Oklahoma institutions of higher education, career technology centers, and other educational entities to strengthen the state's workforce pipeline, specifically targeting industry-identified demand such as aerospace and technology
- Support Oklahoma's research institutions and their programs that attract and leverage new federal and private funding opportunities, commercialize new technologies and create the high tech and STEM jobs needed to be globally competitive in an innovation economy, such as state investment in the National Weather Center, Stephenson Cancer Center and University of Oklahoma engineering programs

Criminal Justice Reform

- The Chamber supports legislation and funding for sentencing reforms and rehabilitation programs to ease the financial drain on Oklahoma's criminal justice system, lessen the burden on jails and prisons throughout the state and allow non-violent offenders to enter the workforce more quickly.
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Health Care

- Ensure adequate funding is delivered to municipalities and counties in support of COVID-19 testing and vaccinations
- Improve the Insure Oklahoma premium assistance program designed to make health insurance more affordable for small businesses while assuring the program's long-term stability and the funding source remains dedicated to Insure Oklahoma!
- While maintaining opposition to state and federal mandated health insurance benefits, support the use of an independent cost/benefit analysis to accompany any proposed health insurance benefit mandate
- Support legislation expanding reduced-mandate healthcare plan options
- Support and promote resources for employers, such as Employee Assistance Programs, for workplace training and screening programs in behavioral health in an effort to reduce Oklahoma's ranking among all states as third highest in mental health disorders and second highest in substance abuse problems
- Support funding and construction for a new state mental health hospital in Norman
- As the state works to implement the vote of the people in regard to the state's Medicaid system, the Chamber supports protecting current revenue streams and dialogue/efforts to most effectively address the state's total health care needs on a system-wide basis.

Infrastructure & Transportation

- Preserve Oklahoma's state highway funding and protect the Eight-Year Construction Work Plan as a primary input into the safety and well-being of our citizens and the growth and sustainability of the state's economy
- The Chamber supports implementation of transit programs that will best serve central Oklahoma including the Central Oklahoma Transit and Parking Authority (COTPA) 2005 Fixed Guideway Transit Study and the Commuter Corridors Study update being conducted on behalf of the RTA. The Chamber further supports efforts by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), consisting of six core central Oklahoma cities, to launch future regional transit services. The Chamber will work with the RTA, COTPA, municipal governments, ODOT and Class 1 railroads to conduct early-stage planning for introducing commuter rail service from Norman and Edmond into downtown Oklahoma City with alternative transportation options to Del City and Midwest City. Further planning consideration should be given to potential future expansion of rail service to the Shawnee and Yukon areas.
- Support initiatives that direct transportation user fees to be used for transportation purposes
- Preserve Oklahoma's airport funding and protect the Three-Year Airport Capital Improvement Program

Natural Resources

- Support funding for water resource infrastructure development
- Support incentives for voluntary initiatives to increase water conservation, reuse, or other similar efforts statewide to develop water availability
- Support the investment made by Norman citizens in Lake Thunderbird as their primary drinking water source and one of the state's largest tourism destinations

Worker's Comp Reform

- The Chamber supports defending and improving the comprehensive workers' compensation reform legislation enacted during the 2013 session.
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