

# Coalition of Local Chambers

## The Voice for over 13,000 Kansas Businesses

The coalition of local chambers of commerce listed below, representing more than 13,000 Kansas businesses, small and large, are aware of the difficult choices state government has been faced with in recent years with a challenging economy and dwindling revenues.

Our Kansas local chambers, governed by local businesses, believe it is critical to emphasize how statewide decisions impact efforts to attract and retain jobs in cities across our state. State Government is responsible to educate our children, provide certain levels of infrastructure for travel of our citizens as well as the movement of goods and services, and additionally to care for a percent of our population which do not have the ability to care for themselves.

We have joined together to present these position statements to advocate for policies which we believe create a strong economy, a qualified and nimble workforce, a sustainable infrastructure and ultimately a quality of life which retains our best and brightest and attracts businesses and talent to Kansas. Our members stand ready to work with you to bring our collective vision to reality.

### TAXATION

The Coalition believes that the current tax structure has not produced the promised positive boost to the Kansas economy and appears unlikely to be able to provide the level of revenue necessary for the state to provide those services and amenities important to business growth and retention.

Thus, the Coalition supports, and pledges to work with the legislature to pursue, tax reform that produces a balanced and stable tax structure that is fiscally responsible and which creates a competitive and pro-growth business environment. Tax reform should ensure that all income earners pay a reasonable tax on income earned, including a redesign or repeal of the exemption of income earned by pass-through business entities, in order to fairly allocate to all Kansans the burden of paying for an efficient, responsible and effective government.

*See back for endorsements*

**These local chambers have endorsed this 2017 Legislative Position as of February 17, 2017:**

Derby Chamber of Commerce – Mark Staats, President & CEO  
DeSoto Chamber of Commerce – Sara Ritter, IOM, Executive Director  
Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce – Jeanine McKenna, IOM, President & CEO  
Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce – Steve Dyer, IOM, President  
Gardner Edgerton Chamber of Commerce – Jason Camis, IOM, President  
Grant County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism – Marieta Hauser, Director  
Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce – Matt Pivarnik, IOM, CCE, President & CEO  
Hutchison/Reno County Chamber of Commerce – Kirk Johnson, Interim President  
Junction City Area Chamber of Commerce – Dennis Beeson, President & CEO  
Kansas City Chamber of Commerce – Joe Reardon, President & CEO  
Liberal Area Chamber of Commerce – Rozelle Webb, CEO  
Manhattan Chamber of Commerce – Lyle Butler, IOM, President & CEO  
Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce – Deb Settle, President & CEO  
Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce – John Coen, President & CEO  
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce – Tracey Osborne, IOM, CCE, President  
Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce – Blake Benson, IOM, CCE, President  
Salina Area Chamber of Commerce – Don Weiser, IOM – President & CEO  
Shawnee Chamber of Commerce – Linda Leeper, IOM, President & CEO