

CHRISTIAN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2025

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA PRIORITIES



This *Legislative Agenda* is developed by the Christian County Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee using member input from the legislative survey and priorities within the community vision plan. The agenda is used to communicate the Chamber's positions on issues at the local, state, and federal levels of government in order to promote public policy decisions that reflect the priorities of the chamber's members.

EDUCATION, WORKFORCE & CHILDCARE



SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING AND PROGRAMS THAT ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF THE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT TO...

- Better address students' individual barriers to achieving Postsecondary Readiness.
- Attract quality educators with competitive compensation that rewards High-Quality Teaching.
- Meet the flexible workforce needs.
- **Increase investing in early childhood education** and pursue policies to increase access to quality childcare allowing more Kentucky parents and guardians to participate in the workforce is a key component of Kentucky's workforce development strategy.
- **Support efforts to ensure Hopkinsville Community College** remains a viable higher education opportunity and technical training asset to regional employers.
- **Support Talent Attraction Coalition's efforts** to create a Kentucky Workforce Attraction Marketing campaign and grant program funding in local and regional markets.

REDUCE BARRIERS FOR EMPLOYERS TO...

- employee individuals recovering from substance abuse disorders to help get them back to being productive citizens.
- to increase engagement with students to provide workplace learning opportunities.



TAX REFORM

- **0% Income tax** - Ensure legislators continue phase out the state individual income tax.
- **Reform local tax structures** by giving local governments the flexibility needed to generate necessary revenues and decrease their reliance on occupational licensing and net profit taxes.
- **Remove city classification barriers** to allow all cities to have equal revenue opportunities.
- **Modernize state transportation infrastructure funding** measures.

FORT CAMPBELL & ATTRACTING MILITARY TO THE STATE



- **Exempt Tax on 100% of Military Pension Pay**
- **Exempt Transfer Tax on Motor Vehicle** for active duty and veterans moving into the state.
- **Adopt DOD-priority occupational licensing compacts** including Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Dental and Dental Hygienist, Dietitian Licensure, Emergency Medical Services Licensure, Interstate Massage Therapy, Physician Associates, and School Psychologists.
- **Remove of Unearned Income** to Include Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for Kentucky Child Care Qualification.
- **Support Kentucky Heroes to Healers Enabling Legislation** to allow veterans who served as medics, corpsmen, or medical technicians to enter the workforce under temporary licensure as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).
- **Ensure the retention and expansion of Fort Campbell's military missions**, capabilities and infrastructure
- Pursue opportunities for defense-related economic development.



HOUSING

- **Ensure regulations and policies are conducive to increasing the county's *Market-Rate Housing* stock** of all types that is based on existing market values and demand.
- **Create policies to encourage faster rehabilitation of abandoned / vacant property** to reduce litigation, abatement, policing, and code enforcement expenses while enhancing the opportunity to make property more productive. The Chamber supports nonjudicial foreclosure methods such as the "Deed of Trust" method.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Create a School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State University** utilizing MSU's Breathitt Veterinary Diagnostic Lab facility in Hopkinsville.
- **Reform legal liability retort** reducing the legal liability climate and foster more out of state investment.
- **Ensure riverports throughout west Kentucky remain vital transportation assets** for the growing need of the agri-business and industry sectors. (Part of the Regional Chamber Alliance priority beneficial to local agri-businesses.)

VIABLE COMMUNITY AND DOWNTOWN

Enhance the community's viability by including meaningful traffic patterns, being appealing to pedestrian and bicycle traffic, aesthetically attractive, easy to understand directives and advancing business growth.

ROAD & INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

- **KY 115 CORRIDOR** – Ensure contracts are let and continue to advocate for the necessary funding at the state and federal levels to enhance the safety and accommodate the increased traffic flow patterns along the Kentucky 115 corridor from US 41 to the Kentucky-Tennessee state line including a CSX overpass - connector from US 41 to Hwy 115 and upgrades to the I-24 exit 89.
- **BREATHITT PARKWAY (I-169) & KY 1682 INTERCHANGE (exit 12)** - Ensure contracts are let and continue to advocate for the necessary funding to reconstruct interchange to meet interstate standards using Design Build to allow the installation of I-169 signs.
- **KY 1613 (LOVERS LANE) & HWY 107** - Ensure contracts are let and continue to advocate for the necessary funding to enhance the safety and accommodate the increased traffic flow along KY 1613 and at the intersection of HWY 107 with the new consolidated high school.
- **I-24** – Support traffic studies and necessary funding to expand capacity and increase safety along the I-24 corridor from the TN to IL state line. to improve safety and meet the increasing traffic patterns associated with the population growth in the region.
- **COMMERCE PARK II WATER & SEWER DESIGN WORK** - Secure funding for the design of expanding water and wastewater infrastructure servicing Commerce Park II.
- **Oak Grove** – Support funding for a new water tower and necessary sewer lines throughout the Oak Grove area.
- **I-169 Southbound escape lane between Exit 5 and 6** – advocate KDOT to add escape lane in six-year plan to improve safety measures when entering and exiting between these exits due to increase traffic with the new consolidated highschool

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



CHRISTIAN COUNTY Chamber of Commerce



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