

## **State Budget** – *The Wichita Regional Chamber believes the State should practice fiscal discipline.*

- Reduce or maintain state spending at FY19 (July 2018-June 2019) level
- Seek out efficiencies and implement priority- or performance-based budgeting throughout all levels of state government
- Encourage legislature to follow state law and fund 7.5% ending balance
- Establish Rainy Day Fund by placing State General Fund ending balance into fund
- Develop Commission of Legislators and Business to pursue closure, realignment or privatization of government functions and agencies
- Move the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System from a defined benefit system to a defined contribution system
- Support expansion of Medicaid (KanCare) that is revenue neutral and encourages personal responsibility
- Funding decisions should be at the sole discretion of the legislature and not the court system
- Encourage the legislature and administration to consider additional investments designed to address the treatment of mental health in south-central Kansas
- Support additional and innovative solutions to combat, treat and prevent opioid associated addiction

## **Taxation** – *The Wichita Regional Chamber believes in a fair and equitable system of taxation that promotes private sector growth and makes Kansas more competitive.*

- Support continued business tax reform including reduction of the Kansas corporate income and Kansas privilege tax
- Continued support of long-term state tax structure reform including reduction/elimination of personal income tax
- Oppose increases in business taxes and fees that would negatively impact Kansas' competitive environment
- Oppose repeal of any existing sales tax exemptions on business inputs and services

**Economic Development** – *The Wichita Regional Chamber believes the State should invest in economic development and develop programs that result in jobs and investment.*

- Support efforts by local and state leaders on initiatives to attract more skilled manufacturing workers to meet the growing demands of the aviation industry and advanced manufacturing
- Support continued funding for the National Institute for Aviation Research and National Center for Aviation Research
- Create competitive economic development incentives and making Kansas a leader in innovative research, manufacturing, and technology
- Retain and enhance tax incentives to include more flexible investment and job development tax credits with options for cash incentives
- Support advancement of entrepreneurial programs
- Support income tax credits for workers enrolling in qualified aviation training

**Environmental Resources** – *The Wichita Regional Chamber believes environmental management must take a balanced and reasonable approach that protects the environment without putting unnecessary burdens on business.*

- Support the “50 Year Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas” including the protection and future use of the Equus Beds and surface water

**Investment-friendly Business Environment** – *The Wichita Regional Chamber believes a low-cost business environment is critical in order to be a competitive and attractive business destination.*

- Support legislation to allow transparency through admission of evidence that shows plaintiff’s losses have been compensated from other sources such as insurance or workers compensation, known as “collateral source”
- Support legislation allowing parties to collect attorney fees as a prevailing party
- Encourage federal resolution to immigration reform and oppose state legislation increasing penalties or threatening the business licenses of employers
- Maintain fair labor practices by opposing unfair advantages for union organizations

**Regulatory Environment** – *The Wichita Regional Chamber believes there must be certainty in the regulatory environment in order for business to grow and relocate in Kansas.*

- Prohibit State and Federal Agencies from misusing rule and regulation authority in place/lieu of policy decisions made by the legislature
- Protect workers compensation and unemployment insurance reforms
- Support EPA administrator’s proposal to repeal Clean Power Plan

**Transportation** – *The Wichita Regional Chamber believes a strong transportation infrastructure is critical in developing and expanding commerce.*

- Ensure dedicated transportation funding streams only be used for the transportation program
- Support a comprehensive state transportation program that addresses critical needs in South Central Kansas, including the North Junction
- Ensure that South Central Kansas receives equitable distribution of transportation funding

**Education and Workforce Development** – *The Wichita Regional Chamber believes a strong and integrated education system, from grade school through higher education, is vital in workforce and talent development.*

- Develop a statewide program which allows technical and career colleges to sell bonds that finance training programs for new high paying jobs
- Continue to support the current funding formula for school districts with high-density poverty that supports the needs of ESOL, foster, poverty and special education/needs students
- Support equalization aid necessary to address the property tax challenges faced by rural, urban and suburban districts
- Oppose funding cuts to secondary and post-secondary public education

- Promote systems of diverse and inclusive educational options that can be tailored to meet the needs of individual students. Educators should be empowered to continuously improve and innovate
- Support a continual improvement model of educational innovation such as those in the “Kansans Can” vision, including a student-focused system that provides support and resources for individual success, including supporting higher standards in academic skills, employability and citizenship skills
- Encourage the Legislature to allow local school districts to have more flexibility in how education general fund dollars are spent within their school districts
- Support growing the Kansas and local economy through applied research and private-public partnerships, like university/business innovation programs and the aviation pathway for high school students
- Support expanded funding for career and technical education programs, specifically including the “Excel in CTE Initiative” (formerly Senate Bill 155), to ensure a skilled workforce and meet the needs of advanced manufacturing and other industry sectors critical to the South Central Kansas Economy
- Encourage full funding and oppose any budget provisos that interfere with the Postsecondary Tiered Technical and General Education State Aid Cost Model, including the distribution of new funding
- Support an increased focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning initiatives
- Support the continuation of the University Engineering Initiative Act to increase the number of engineering graduates in Kansas, with a particular target of increasing female and diverse graduates