

Legislative Agenda Win/Loss | 2015

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

- LOSS Reduce or maintain state spending at FY15 (July 2014-June 2015) level
- LOSS Seek out efficiencies and implement priority- or performance-based budgeting throughout all levels of state government
- LOSS Establish a “BRAC-like” process for closure or realignment of government functions and agencies
- LOSS Move the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System from a defined benefit system to a defined contribution system
- Partial** Funding decisions should be at the sole discretion of the legislature and not the court system
- Partial** Establish Rainy Day Fund by placing State General Fund ending balance into fund
- Partial** Support outsourcing state government functions to the private sector while maintaining needed services

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

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

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

- WIN Support continued funding for the National Institute for Aviation Research
- WIN Create competitive economic development incentives and making Kansas a leader in innovative research, manufacturing, and technology
- WIN Retain and enhance tax incentives to include more flexible investment and job development tax credits with options for cash incentives

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

- LOSS Support legislation to allow admission of evidence that shows plaintiff’s losses have been compensated from other sources such as insurance or workers compensation, known as “collateral source”
- LOSS Support legislation allowing parties to collect attorney fees as a prevailing party
- WIN Support policies which maintain the integrity of the Employment Security Trust Fund, and accurately reflect the employer experience rating when determining contribution rates
- Partial** Encourage federal resolution to immigration reform and oppose state legislation increasing penalties or threatening the business licenses of employers
- Partial** Maintain fair labor practices by opposing unfair advantages for union organizations

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

WIN Support legislation that creates a state OSHA plan

WIN Support legislation that eliminates/reduces the requirements of Kansas Renewable Energy Portfolio

WIN Support reforms in the unemployment insurance program that create a more predictable employer assessment

Partial Prohibit State and Federal Agencies from misusing rule and regulation authority in place/lieu of policy decisions made by the legislature

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

WIN Urge continued state financial participation in efforts to continue low-cost air service from Wichita's Mid-Continent Airport

LOSS Ensure dedicated transportation funding streams only be used for the transportation program

WIN Support the current comprehensive state transportation program

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

WIN Support on-going funding for existing Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project

Education and Workforce Development – *The Wichita Metro Chamber believes a strong education system is vital in workforce and talent development.*

WIN Support continued funding for the National Center for Aviation Training as part of on-going workforce development critical to the aviation manufacturing cluster

WIN Support a funding formula for K-12 schools that protects the high urban poverty weighting and the current at-risk formula

WIN Encourage the Legislature to allow local school districts to have more flexibility in how state dollars are spent within their school district

WIN Support growing the Kansas economy through applied research and private-public partnerships, like university/business innovation programs, at all higher education institutions

WIN Support career and technical education programs, including the Governor's Career and Technical Education Initiative, to ensure an abundant and skilled workforce

WIN Oppose any language or budget proviso that interferes with the Postsecondary Tiered Technical State Aid Cost Model

WIN Support an increased focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning initiatives