

# 2021 | Legislative Agenda



Our Legislative Agenda is developed by the Public Policy Committee and communicates the Chamber's positions on issues at the state, local and federal levels of government. Working together with various legislative organizations helps promote public policy decisions that reflect the priorities of the Independence business economy. Below is our stance on our economy's pressing issues, as of January 2021.

EDUCATION	PRIORITY	MONITOR & SUPPORT	ONGOING SUPPORT
Continue to support full funding of Pre-K education and the A+ program through the foundation model.	X		
Support legislation increasing the bond capacity of public-school districts from 15% to 20%.	X		
Support current law which limits charter schools to Kansas City and St. Louis school districts. All local tax funds should be under the control of a publicly elected local board.	X		
Support current legislation that grants the Local Education Agency (LEA) the ability to determine the best educational placement of a student including the impacts of virtual school participation.		X	

## ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Support an increase in MTC Funding.		X	
Re-establishment and designation of the Independence Tourism Department as a Destination Marketing Organization (DMO).		X	
Support reasonable tax credit programs for historic preservation, affordable housing, job creation, workforce development, youth services and education as necessary incentives for the community.			X
Support balanced economic development in partnership with the City and local taxing entities to ensure Independence can remain competitive in attracting jobs and capital investment.			X

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Support funding for improvements to Missouri Highway 7 in Independence.	X		
Support the development of a plan for increased transportation infrastructure including funding for highways, bridges, roads, transit, commuter rail and pedestrian trail options in Eastern Jackson County, to include monitoring of entities and budget bills for funding.	X		

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Expand the MOABLE Program through supporting the ABLE Age Adjustment Act.	X		
Renew the Hospital Reimbursement Allowance.	X		
Support implementation of Medicaid Expansion as approved by Missouri's Voters in 2020.		X	

## GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS

Support the Wayfair tax law in Missouri to allow for collection of sales taxes for all taxable online purchases regardless of nexus.	X		
Support "Blair's Law" which adds the discharging of a firearm within or into the limits of a municipality with criminal negligence to the offense of unlawful use of a weapon.	X		
Support legislation that protects the cable franchise fee for municipalities.	X		
Support business liability protections at both the federal and state level for claims in relation to Covid-19.	X		
Support a long-term Congressional solution to the National Flood Insurance program that is equitable and sustainable.		X	
Support legislation that would reinstate municipal courts the ability to enforce and assess fines for violations of minor traffic offenses including the suspension of licenses for offenders who fail to pay court fines and/or appear in court and to place the limit of the fine amount to \$500.00.		X	

## UTILITIES

Support the Balance Energy Resolution, which recognizes the importance of renewable energy in helping the City of Independence achieve its environmental goals and objectives, keeping energy costs down, maintaining freedom of energy choice, and contributing to a strong economy.	X		
Continue positive dialogue between the municipal utility company and the community to achieve the best possible electric utility rates and services for commercial ratepayers.		X	
Support the current laws that allow Community Broadband.		X	