

2022 | 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 2022.

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		
Support full funding of public education transportation funding.	X		
Support reasonable licensing fees for literary products for public libraries .			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, work-force 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 through the Incentive Review Committee to ensure Independence can remain competitive in attracting jobs and capital investment			X

INFRASTRUCTURE

Support access to state and federal funding for improvements to Missouri Highway 7 in Independence.	X		
Support funding from any federal infrastructure program to provide funding for bridges, roads, transit, commuter rail and pedestrian trail options in Eastern Jackson County.	X		
Support full funding for Amtrak River Runner allowing for two trains per day connecting Kansas City and St. Louis.	X		
Support renaming of the Kansas City airport in honor of President Harry S Truman	X		

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS

Support establishment of a Charter Review Commission to review the City of Independence Charter	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	
Support legislation that protects the cable franchise fee for municipalities.	X		
Oppose election law changes which would alter election dates, filing deadlines, partisan municipal elections and early voting/absentee voting.	X		

UTILITIES

Support the Balance Energy Resolution.		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 including costs related to future electrical generation.	X		