

2025

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 2025.

EDUCATION	PRIORITY	MONITOR & SUPPORT	ONGOING SUPPORT
Continue to support full funding of Pre-K education and the A+ program through the foundation model.		★	
Support legislation increasing the bond capacity of public-school districts from 15% to 20%.			★
Support continued full funding of education transportation and foundation formula.		★	

ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Monitor discussion regarding improvements to the Truman Sports complex.		★	
Support an increase in funding for Missouri Technology Corporation.			★
Support reasonable tax credit programs for historic preservation, affordable housing, job creation, workforce development, youth services, and education as necessary incentives for the community.			★
Oppose any changes to economic development tools such as Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) that would hamper development and redevelopment.		★	
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.		★	
Support the release of ARPA funds as recommended to the Jackson County Legislature.	★		
Business owners recognize that accessible and affordable housing options are crucial to attracting and retaining a skilled workforce. We support growing access to affordable local housing options through increased state appropriations for key housing and community development programs as well as other state and federal incentive programs for the creation of affordable local housing.		★	

INFRASTRUCTURE

Support funding from any state and federal infrastructure program to provide funding for bridges, roads, transit, commuter rail, and pedestrian trail options in Eastern Jackson County including Missouri Hwy 7.			★
Support the City of Independence putting a general obligation bond issue on the April 2025 ballot.	★		
Explore new governance structure for Independence Power and Light and other City owned utilities.	★		

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Expand the MOABLE Program through supporting the ABLE Age Adjustment Act.	★		
Support for increased funding for mental health services in Independence and Eastern Jackson County.	★		
Childcare is a pivotal statewide workforce and economic development issue. Parents' entry or re-entry into the workforce is often hindered by childcare provider shortages. Missouri should increase the accessibility, availability, and affordability of high-quality childcare.		★	

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS

Support legislation that would reinstate municipal court's 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.	★		
Oppose election law changes that would alter election dates, filing deadlines, partisan municipal elections, and early voting/absentee voting.	★		
Support the streamlining process of health inspections between Jackson County, Kansas City, and the City of Independence.	★		
Support "Clean Slate Missouri" which would automatically seal or expunge the criminal records for certain non-violent offenses.		★	
Opposition to legislation that takes local control away from municipalities in regard to right-of-way management and pole attachments.		★	
Opposition to any reductions, caps, or altering of the local sales tax rate.		★	
A safer Missouri is a stronger Missouri. We support efforts to reduce crime and enhance public safety. The state should dedicate adequate funding for public safety to address our law enforcement staffing shortage and enact innovative tools to help combat crime.		★	