



# *THE CIVIC COUNCIL OF GREATER KANSAS CITY*

## **2014 KANSAS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

*The Civic Council of Greater Kansas City is a membership organization of chief executive officers of the largest corporations and professional partnerships in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Recognizing the economic realities facing the State of Kansas, the Civic Council's priorities are focused on growing the state's economy and are aligned and consistent with the advocacy agendas of our civic and business community partners, including the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.*

- I. HIGHLY EDUCATED CITIZENRY:** A high quality, adequately and equitably funded, accessible and accountable early childhood through post-graduate (P-20) public education system is essential to having a skilled workforce and provides the foundation for a competitive economy and an attractive quality of life.
- **Support** restoring 2014 and 2015 reductions in base funding and funding for imposed salary and wage reductions.
  - **Support** funding for a new health education building at the University of Kansas Medical Center.
  - **Support** full funding for the school funding formula.
  - **Support** rigorous standards for K-12 student achievement while maintaining local responsibility for development of curriculum.
  - If a new school finance formula is developed, assure it (1) is fair to all districts, (2) allows for greater local authority in financing school district operations, (3) is appropriately equalized, (4) authorizes a mix of revenue sources for the funding of schools, (5) provides local district flexibility for unique and extraordinary circumstances that currently exist or arise in the future, and (6) appropriately incents strategies, programs and initiatives to adequately prepare a 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce.
- II. ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS:** To grow Kansas' economy, we must invest more, not less, to ensure an excellent public P-20 education system, efficient transportation infrastructure, and adequate social services and public safety are available to all Kansans. Such investments are critical to retain our current businesses, create and attract new ones, and ensure the state's ability to compete in the future, not just with our neighboring states, but with competitors around the world.
- Create and maintain an environment that promotes and supports entrepreneurs and start-up companies and encourages the development of high-growth industry clusters including life sciences research, development and commercialization.
  - **Support** continuation of and full funding for the Kansas Bioscience Authority.
  - **Support** promotion, advancement and funding for the University of Kansas Medical Center's Research-To-Cure Initiative to achieve National Cancer Institute comprehensive cancer center designation, including continuation of the state's \$5 million appropriation to the KU Cancer Center.
  - **Support** continuation of the state's \$5 million appropriation to Kansas State University for animal health research.
  - Any legislation that addresses tax and/or economic development policy should
    - Ensure sufficient, strategic investments in education, infrastructure and other critical services and fulfill Kansas' commitments and inspire its competitiveness.
    - Have demonstrable evidence that such policy can achieve both the stated, and needed, result.
    - Avoid shifting the tax burden to low and middle income residents.
  - **Support** policies that discourage unhealthy and unproductive competition between Kansas and Missouri for existing businesses.
  - **Support** streamlining and consolidation measures in all levels of government that will help address structural issues, increase operational efficiencies and reduce costs.
  - **Support** preservation of funding for the 2010 T-Works legislation.
  - **Support** a regional approach to public transit and transportation planning.
  - **Support** adequate funding for health care providers serving the economically disadvantaged in Kansas.
  - **Oppose** any measure to institute the initiative / referendum process in the state of Kansas.
  - **Oppose** any effort that would politicize Kansas' judicial selection process.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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The Civic Council was founded in 1964 by a group of chief executive officers who believed that it was important that their resources and influence were cooperatively applied to solving complex and difficult community issues. *The mission of the Civic Council: To define the region's future as a leading global location for business and quality of life through our leadership, resources and influence.*

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