



MISSOURI STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2019

The Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, a membership organization composed of chief executive officers of the largest corporations and professional partnerships in the Kansas City metropolitan area, is focused on growing the regional economy through the strategies identified by [KC Rising](#). These include fostering a business environment that supports key traded sectors, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, and educating a high-quality workforce.

The growth of the Kansas City region is good for the economy of Missouri. The nine Missouri counties within the Kansas City region account for 24 percent of the state's GDP, but only 20 percent of Missouri's population. And yet, job growth in our nine Missouri counties between 2010 and 2017 was 14 percent, lagging the nation's job growth of 15.5 percent and the 16.7 percent job growth of the 5 Kansas counties in our region.

The Civic Council seeks the Missouri Legislature's support on the following priorities:

Strong Business Environment and Traded Sectors

- ***Incentives*** We support economic development incentives with a strong business case that grow the number of quality, good-paying jobs in the Kansas City region. The Civic Council opposes the use of economic development incentives to relocate existing jobs within the region. We support targeted incentives for high-growth, high-wage, innovation-rich industries, such as the life sciences, engineering and design, and national security industries, as well as continued support for the Animal Health Corridor.
- ***Transportation*** We support the development and funding of a smart, multi-modal, 21st Century transportation system that is aligned with the Kansas City region's transit and transportation needs. We support regional and multi-state planning that further positions the Kansas City region as a logistics and transportation hub.
 - **We support state funding for the replacement of the Buck O'Neil Bridge.**
- ***Role of government*** We support a balance of fair and equitable tax policy and the funding of critical basic services, infrastructure and amenities that attract talented individuals and the businesses that hire them. We believe state elected leaders should advocate for federal trade policies that encourage exports and trade alliances.
 - **We support changing the current five-year renewal of the local earnings tax to a ten-year renewal.**
- ***Non-discrimination*** We support the rights of individuals to live, work and engage in commerce in the state without regard to their nationality, race, gender or sexual orientation/identification.
- ***Good governance*** We believe ethical, transparent and accessible elected leadership, as well as a non-partisan, merit-selected state judiciary, promote a predictable business environment that encourages investment.



Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- ***Entrepreneurship*** We support the use of resources and tax credits to encourage investment in business incubators and accelerators.
 - **We support funding for the Missouri Technology Corporation to help entrepreneurs create technology-based businesses in Missouri.**
- ***Research*** We support the development and commercialization of university research.
- ***Knowledge*** We support public policy that values and protects scientific inquiry, diversity and creativity.

Human Capital

- ***K-12 education*** We support sufficient funding for K-12 education with a system of accountability to ensure students graduate ready for post-secondary education and careers. Our public schools must be successful in order for our businesses and communities to grow.
- ***College and career*** We support policies that allow high school students to gain marketable skills and experience, such as post-secondary credit and degrees, industry-recognized certifications, and work-based learning.
- ***PreK*** We support high-quality early education to ensure all children enter Kindergarten ready to succeed.
- ***Post-secondary education*** We support policies and funding for public technical schools, colleges and universities that encourage successful completion of certificates and degrees aligned with regional workforce needs. Strong higher education institutions that educate and train students, as well as research new ideas and discoveries, are critical to our region's economy.
 - **We support research funding for the University of Missouri system and the University of Missouri Kansas City campus.**
 - **We support funding for the A+ Scholarship Program focused on helping high school graduates pursue a technical certificate or two-year degree.**
- ***Safety net*** We support a strong social safety net for children and disadvantaged populations to ensure all residents have access to economic opportunity.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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The mission of the Civic Council: To accelerate growth in the region's prosperity and quality of life by strategically deploying the personal and corporate resources, influence and expertise of the region's business and civic leaders.

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