



# MISSOURI STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2020

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 with a focus on place, policy, and inclusive prosperity.

The growth of the Kansas City region is good for the economy of Missouri. The nine Missouri counties within the Kansas City region<sup>i</sup> account for 23 percent<sup>ii</sup> of the state's GDP, but only 21 percent<sup>iii</sup> of Missouri's population. And yet, job growth in our nine Missouri counties between 2010 and 2018 was 14.6 percent<sup>iv</sup>, lagging the nation's job growth of 17.3 percent<sup>v</sup>.

## **2020 Priorities**

1. Investing any new revenue from the collection of internet sales tax, and understanding the full impact of current tax policy before additional tax cuts are proposed.
2. Restoring Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) to address housing affordability.
3. Support the public safety measures proposed by the Missouri metro mayors in Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield, and Columbia.

The Civic Council also seeks the Missouri Legislature's support on the following policy opportunities:

## **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, 21<sup>st</sup> 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.
- ***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 support extending the renewal period for the Earnings Tax to at least 10 years. We believe state elected leaders should advocate for federal trade policies that encourage exports and trade alliances.
- ***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.

Approved:



- **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, such as funding for the Missouri Technology Corporation.
- **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 conduct research toward new ideas and discoveries, are critical to our region's economy.
- **Safety net** We support a strong social safety net for children and disadvantaged populations to ensure all residents have access to economic opportunity. We support expanding coverage to increase health care access for low and moderate income residents who are outside of coverage.

Approved:



**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.*

**THE CIVIC COUNCIL OF *GREATER* KANSAS CITY**  
**ONE KANSAS CITY PLACE**  
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<sup>i</sup> Bates, Caldwell, Cass, Clay, Clinton, Jackson, Lafayette, Platte, and Ray counties.  
<sup>ii</sup> State and County Employment and Wages 2011-18, October 29, 2019. <https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/en>  
<sup>iii</sup> United States Census, Oct. 29, 2019.  
<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>  
<sup>iv</sup> State and County Employment and Wages 2011-18, October 30, 2019.  
<https://data.bls.gov/pdq/SurveyOutputServlet>  
<sup>v</sup> State and County Employment and Wages 2011-18, October 29, 2019. <https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/en>