



# *THE CIVIC COUNCIL OF GREATER KANSAS CITY*

## **2018 KANSAS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

The Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, a membership organization 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 strengthening key traded sectors, supporting innovation and entrepreneurship, and developing a high quality workforce for high demand jobs.

From the end of the 2007 recession through 2016, Kansas experienced 7.8 percent growth in private sector jobs while the growth nationally occurred at 13.5 percent. *Had Kansas performed at the national average the state would have over 59 thousand more private jobs.*

The Greater Kansas City region's vital importance to the state is measured by the five counties' total job growth in the same time frame was 15.3 percent, which was greater than the national growth rate. These five counties which contain 35 percent of all Kansas private sector jobs captured over 65 percent of all private jobs created in the state.

To continue its significant and positive impact on the state's economy the KC region requires the implementation of strategies to boost the state's job growth, attract and retain talented workers, and encourage innovators and entrepreneurs to locate and grow their enterprises in Kansas. *The region's civic and business leaders strongly oppose the use of incentives and other economic development tools to relocate jobs within the region.*

The Civic Council values the state's role in achieving economic growth through 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. The civic and business community also expects the state's elected officials to provide transparent and ethical leadership.

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

### **Traded Sectors**

Incentives that grow net new jobs with livable wages in the Kansas City region.

Targeted incentives for high-growth, innovation-rich industries, including the life sciences and engineering and design; continued support for the Animal Health Corridor.

Development and funding of a multi-modal and smart 21<sup>st</sup> Century transportation system that is aligned with the Kansas City region's transit and transportation strategies/priorities, supports regional and multi-state planning and development, and, positions the Kansas City region as a logistics and transportation center of excellence.

## **Human Capital**

A high quality, well-funded early and primary through secondary public education system that prepares students with soft skills and professional and technical expertise for careers and college.

Stability in the core budgets of public two- and four-year institutions and research universities, with the flexibility to adapt curriculum, funding priorities and strategies to meet the workforce needs of Kansas employers and attract to their campuses the brightest and best students from Kansas and from around the world; support fair strategies to retain talented students in Kansas when they graduate.

K-12 funding that: (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 and funds strategies, programs and initiatives to prepare a globally competitive 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce.

A strong social safety net for children and disadvantaged populations; freedom for local jurisdictions to make decisions that meet the needs of their residents and employers; a non-partisan, non-elected state judiciary; accessibility to government at all levels; and, protections for 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.

## **Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

Angel investor tax credits and transferable tax credits, coupled with efforts to pursue Federal funds that support proof of concept, incubators and accelerators, and strong infrastructure to support university research, development and commercialization.

Public policy that values and protects scientific inquiry, diversity and creativity.

### **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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