

THE CHAMBER OPPOSES:

- The implementation of new sales tax on services not currently taxed.
- Restrictions on tax abatements.
- School vouchers.
- Tax and spending lids or TABOR.
- Tax policies that shift the tax burden to other areas of state government or to other levels of government, including municipal government.
- Legislation that would weaken the current Open Records/Open Meetings statutes or expand the scope of current legislation.
- Further modifications of the Constitutional power of eminent domain.
- Unfunded or under-funded mandates.
- Binding arbitration in employment disputes.
- Repeal of the sales tax on food.
- Restriction on cities' ability to utilize unilateral annexation.
- Increase in individual and corporate income tax rates without a corresponding decrease of another business tax so that the end-result revenue remains neutral.
- Efforts to lessen the impact of convention and tourism promotion through the use of transient guest tax.
- Initiative and referendum.



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OLATHE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2012 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Advocating for Business and the Olathe Community

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The Olathe Chamber of Commerce continues to be the voice of business that advances the economic well-being and quality of life in Olathe.

BUDGET: Our vision is to continue funding for our most important economic development assets.

- Support continued funding of the 2010 comprehensive transportation plan.
- Seek modernizing state and local economic development tools so that Kansas can be more competitive on a national level, create new jobs and bring additional revenue to the state of Kansas.

TAXES: We seek a balanced tax base.

- Support reduction of individual and corporate income taxes.
- Oppose the imposition of sales taxes on services.
- Monitor all legislation regarding economic development.
- Seek continued support of Sales Tax and Revenue Bonds (STAR) as a fundamental economic development tool in the recruitment of business to Olathe and Kansas.

EDUCATION: We believe education is an important investment.

- Maintain adequate funding for K-12 education that promotes education excellence and addresses costs associated with growth, a diverse student population, and inclusive of operational and capital costs.
- School finance formula should be used to maximize resources, expand local funding flexibility and control over how education funds are raised and spent.
- Sustain investment in higher education to preserve affordability and produce a well trained workforce.
- Support innovative programs to develop a workforce with strong math, science, engineering and technology skills.

HEALTH CARE: We advocate for a health care system that reduces the cost to employers.

- Monitor the state health insurance Exchange and support innovative incentives and enhanced delivery systems that allow more employers to offer affordable health benefits to their employees.
- Support health reforms for small businesses, making health care more affordable.
- Despite budget challenges of the state of Kansas, we support maintaining adequate reimbursement rates for Medicaid providers.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: We believe a strong workforce is extremely critical to the future success of Kansas businesses.

- Advocate for workforce development and higher education initiatives, especially in the fields of engineering, math, science and healthcare.
- Support initiatives that provide for certification and licensing in agricultural and food emergency response, federal law enforcement and intelligence—which we believe will grow the Research Triangle initiative and jobs in Kansas.
- Immigration: Our vision includes immigration measures that protect employers.
- Monitor immigration reform measures, their impact on businesses and the costs to cities and counties to enforce.
- Oppose measures that would impose revocation of business licenses.
- Unemployment Insurance: We support measures that allow employers to create jobs.
- Support measures that stabilize and replenish the Unemployment Compensation Tax Fund without unduly burdening the employer.
- Improve the administration of the Kansas Unemployment Compensation System, including eliminating overpayments, payment of unqualified benefits and creation of an adjudication manual.

STANDING POSITIONS OF THE OLATHE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Olathe Chamber has historically developed the following standing positions, which are reviewed annually for their continued merit and reflect the general will of the Chamber.

THE CHAMBER SUPPORTS:

- A balanced tax base.
- Retention of the constitutional power of eminent domain with local control.
- Current sales tax situs law on motor vehicles.
- Efforts to reform the tort system in Kansas that would result in decreased cost of doing business in the State.
- Formulation of a state-wide energy policy.
- Review the date selection process for primary elections and seek a process that affords the greatest voter turnout, which is a goal of the VoteOlathe initiative.
- Retain an independent judiciary consisting of trial and appellate judges appointed through non-partisan merit selection based on education, experience, intelligence, work ethic and temperament.
- Agra-tourism initiatives and concepts appropriate to travel and tourism-related entities.
- Efforts to coordinate a strategic, modernized approach to travel and tourism with professional leadership.
- Optimizing state funding for Medicaid home and community-based waivers for vulnerable populations (elderly, development, physical and mental disabilities) in order to receive Federal Medicaid match, which will create jobs and promote economic development.

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