

# OLATHE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE › FIVE STAR! › “NATION’S BEST”

## How has the Olathe Chamber of Commerce helped you and your community?

In large part through the efforts of the Olathe Chamber and its economic development efforts, Olathe is one of the fastest growing cities in the United States, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In the last decade (1998 - 2008), Olathe has benefited from the Olathe Chamber’s EDC activities as indicated by the following:

- ✓ Commercial space has increased by more than 40 percent: office space by 105 percent, retail by 55 percent, and industrial by 25 percent.
- ✓ There are 55 percent more jobs in Olathe.
- ✓ Assessed valuation has grown 205 percent (adjusted for inflation).

The Chamber recruits and/or hosts a number of regional and national athletic events each year—events that have a significant economic impact on Olathe.

Tourism is at an all-time high, contributing more than \$30 million to the economy each year.

Through the successes of its economic development activities, the Chamber helps broaden Olathe’s tax base. New business and industry pay taxes that take the burden off homeowners. Our job is to get other people to pay your taxes!

### What’s the bottom line for you?

- Lower taxes with a broad tax base, balanced by business and industry
- More jobs and a well-trained workforce
- More shopping, dining, and recreational choices
- Safe, friendly neighborhoods from modest to upscale
- A better quality of life for Olathe

## What is the Olathe Chamber of Commerce?

The Olathe Chamber is, by mission, “the voice that advances the economic well-being and quality of life in Olathe.” We help new and existing businesses—large and small—grow and succeed through the following Chamber departments:

- Economic Development Council (EDC)
- Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB)
- Membership
- Business-to-Government Advocacy
- Leadership Development

Established in 1921, the Olathe Chamber serves as a catalyst to improve business, enhance business opportunities, and build a better community. The Olathe Chamber is the largest chamber in Johnson County and the second largest in the Kansas City area. It represents a wide variety of businesses and organizations from throughout the metropolitan area.

### A sampling of Chamber services:

- Site selection and business relocation assistance (Ask for a list of available properties to fit your needs.)
- Business expansion and retention assistance
- Trade area profiles (specific to intersections) and citywide demographics
- Human Resources Roundtable (monthly discussion groups for HR professionals), job fairs, and other workforce development forums and training opportunities
- International trade information
- Assistance with the City of Olathe development approval process
- Local and state development assistance programs

#### City of Olathe

Tax abatements for new and existing industry

Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRBs)

#### State of Kansas

Investment tax credits

Job expansion tax credits

Business capital development programs

Job training incentives

- Valuable networking and marketing opportunities for businesses—weekly coffees, luncheons, forums, media relations, promotions and more
- Assistance planning conventions, conferences, and meetings, including securing lodging and meetings facilities, providing promotional materials and welcome packets
  - Help recruiting sporting events/organizations to Olathe
  - Advocacy for legislation on the local, state, and national level that benefits Olathe and its businesses
  - Leadership training and relationship building

**The Olathe Chamber is the only chamber in Kansas to receive a Five-Star rating from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. It was voted the “Nation’s Best Chamber” by the National Association of Membership Development (an affiliate of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives) in 1999/2000.**



**OLATHE**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
ONE VISION. ONE VOICE.

**Contact us for information about joining the Chamber!**

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