



Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce 2019 Legislative Agenda

Priority Items

Legislative objectives and specific legislation the Chamber will actively support or oppose during the 2019 session:

- Supports a countywide transportation study for improvements to all traffic flow and commercial access through Leavenworth County so that the County receives support in the 2020 comprehensive statewide transportation program.
- Supports the restoration of funding and access to a full range of mental health care and services statewide, at least to the same level of funding as FY 2007, and restoring the process of continued mental health reform.
- Supports programs that develop an educated and skilled workforce, to include programs that get people to their workplace.
- Supports practical and near-term solutions which would expand and maximize access to medical coverage options, such as Medicaid expansion and/or other options, and health care services for all Kansans, with the goal of reducing the financial burden on our local hospitals and other health care providers.

Important Items

The following is a list of important legislative objectives listed in nine categories that the Chamber endorses and monitor during the 2019 session:

1. Federal and State Facilities in Leavenworth and Lansing

The Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce:

- Supports federal funding for the construction of a new federal medium-security prison facility in Leavenworth.
- Supports continued funding for the completion of facility improvements and rehabilitation programs at the Lansing Correctional Facility.
- Supports competitive compensation for all corrections staff at local facilities to sustain a professional workforce.

2. Fort Leavenworth and Department of Defense

Leavenworth and Lansing are the proud home of Fort Leavenworth and the Combined Arms Center, which provide an \$2.3 billion impact for the Leavenworth-Lansing area and the Kansas City metro area. The Army National Guard's 35th Infantry Division headquarters, the Mission Training Complex, and the US Army Reserve Center proudly call the Leavenworth-Lansing area home. Additionally, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Veteran's Administration Medical Center is

in Lansing and supports veterans within the surrounding thirty-seven counties. All of these are essential to vibrant military readiness, and the nation must sustain them. Therefore, the Leavenworth-Lansing Chamber:

- Supports construction of a new headquarters for the 35th Infantry Division and the expansion of the capabilities of the Army National Guard Mission Training Complex at Fort Leavenworth.
- Supports and encourages local and state government support for transitioning veterans and for veteran entrepreneurship in our communities, especially the Army Transition Program, the Soldier for Life program, and the Hire Our Heroes Program.
- Supports efforts to ensure reciprocity of professional licenses between the states for military spouses, including expedited issuance of new licenses.
- Supports incentives that encourage the relocation of business ventures to the area, so businesses may capitalize on our highly-skilled workforce of educated, experienced veterans.
- Supports initiative to locate a State Veterans Home in the Leavenworth-Lansing area.

3. Education

The Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce understands the important role quality public education, pre-K to post-secondary, plays in the development of a high-quality workforce. Therefore, to remain competitive, the Leavenworth-Lansing Chamber of Commerce:

- Encourages the State government to maintain and improve useful education and economic development initiatives including the High-Performance Incentive Program (HPIP), Job Creation Fund (JCF), Promoting Employment Across Kansas (PEAK).
- Supports policies and funding for the development and implementation of quality pre-K through post-secondary education programs that prepare students for college or vocational education.
- Supports programs that cultivate a competitive, well-trained workforce.
- Supports incentives that encourage the relocation of business ventures to the area, so businesses may capitalize on our highly-skilled workforce of educated, experienced veterans.

4. Economic Development

Kansas needs a competitive business incentive package that is relevant, flexible and user-friendly. Our community needs a vibrant economic development ‘toolbox’ to assist in the expansion and recruitment of capital investment and quality jobs. Kansas must maintain and improve useful economic development incentives, including the High-Performance Incentive Program (HPIP) and Promoting Employment Across Kansas (PEAK) program, to remain competitive. Additionally, a well-funded, properly managed countywide Economic Development Council (EDC) is important in helping our community compete with communities throughout the metro area and across the country. Therefore, the Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce

- Encourages our county commissioners to develop a long-term economic development plan for Leavenworth County, which includes stable, long-term funding for the Leavenworth County Development Council (LCDC) and the Leavenworth County Port Authority (LCPA).

- Supports a ‘three-leg’ approach to taxation—income, property, and sales taxes—because each is important to a fluctuating and diverse economy.
- Encourages the state government to adequately fund the professional economic development staff for the Kansas Department of Commerce.
- Supports programs that develop an educated and skilled workforce.
- Supports continued funding for small business development and entrepreneurship efforts like those delivered through Network Kansas and the Small Business Development Center.
- Supports cooperative ventures between the state and local government in Kansas to commit more resources to promote tourism as an industry which is vital to growth and development across the state.

5. Health Care

Currently, the health care costs of low-income, uninsured individuals are being passed on to area businesses and others who support the health care system. Therefore, our Chamber of Commerce:

- Supports practical and near-term solutions which would expand and maximize access to medical coverage options, such as Medicaid expansion and/or other options, and health care services for all Kansans, with the goal of reducing the financial burden on our local hospitals and other health care providers.

6. Mental Health Care

The lack of adequate care, treatment, and services related to mental health in the State of Kansas has reached epidemic levels. Now more than ever, Kansans are in desperate need of access to all levels of mental health treatment options and facilities. Suicide rates, particularly in Leavenworth County, are at an all-time high. At one time, Kansas was seen as a leader across the United States in mental health care and treatment. As such, the Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes the need for funding and care options to be restored, augmented, and/or expanded. Therefore, our Chamber:

- Supports the restoration of funding and access to a full range of mental health care and services statewide, at least to the same level of funding as FY 2007, and restoring the process of continued mental health reform.
- Supports funding from the State General Fund to support the community crisis centers which were to be funded by 2017 HB 2194, relating to lottery vending machines.
- Supports the mission and the work of Community Mental Health Centers (i.e. the Guidance Center in Leavenworth).
- Supports, as previously stated, expanded access to medical coverage options, like Medicaid expansion and/or other options, as a further means of obtaining crucial mental health treatment for those who are otherwise unable to afford coverage and/or treatment.
- Supports Community Crisis Center Funding.
- Supports the recommendations of the Kansas Mental Health Task Force, as authorized by the Kansas Legislature.
- Opposes efforts that could further destabilize the public mental health care system.

7. Taxation

The Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes the need for adequate State funds to meet the needs of Kansas citizens and businesses. The Legislature cannot continue to resolve its budget issues by taking revenues from, or transferring expenses to, county and city governments. As the Kansas economy continues to grow, the focus should be on responsible fiscal policy that provides Kansans the basic services they need without placing an undue burden on Kansas taxpayers. Therefore, our Chamber:

- Supports continuing to find ways to reduce government spending through increased efficiency and exploring private-sector options for state government functions.
- Supports new legislation to enact economic nexus for businesses who have retail sales of \$100,000 or 200 transactions in the state of Kansas.
- Supports a reform of the tax appeal process to give Kansas businesses an affordable and impartial system to resolve tax disputes.
- Opposes the sunset or repeal of existing sales tax exemptions on business inputs and professional services.
- Opposes legislation that would expand property tax exemptions to include for-profit businesses.
- Supports tax initiatives to incentivize the creation and growth of small businesses.

8. Transportation

The Leavenworth-Lansing Chamber of Commerce is committed to advocating for and actively pursuing a safe, reliable and innovative public transportation system that grows to meet the changing transit needs of Leavenworth County. No single governmental or quasi-governmental agency can alone effect this change, as the cost and complexity are great. The Chamber is committed to working with partners at the city, county, state and in the public sector to connect people to opportunities and services. Therefore, our Chamber of Commerce:

- Supports a countywide memorandum of understanding (MOU) expressing support for a transit system.
- Supports partnering on state grants to leverage local investment.
- Supports the continuation and enhancement of state grant funding for a transit solution.
- Supports a multi-phase solution that eventually leads to connecting a countywide transit system to the Greater Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA) service area.
- Supports initiatives to increase both traffic safety and vehicle movement along the K-7 Corridor.
- Supports the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) and KCATA Leavenworth Area Transportation plan and will work to find the most effective way to start a transit program in Leavenworth County.
- Supports a countywide transportation study for improvements to all traffic flow and commercial access through Leavenworth County.

9. Regulation

The Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce:

- Supports clear, common-sense regulation that promotes a healthy business climate for our state and our country.
- Opposes burdensome, over-reaching regulation that stifles economic growth and job creation.