

# NKY CHAMBER

## WHERE WE STAND

### *Legislative Priorities*

#### **INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE**

Increase infrastructure funding to maintain our current system, build for our future and address our workforce issues. Modernize the road fund formula to provide more equitable distribution of revenue in the urban areas.

#### **FUND TOLL CREDITS**

Allocate General Fund revenue to fill the void left behind by the expiration of toll credits.

#### **FINISH KY-536**

Improve east-west connectivity in NKY through an existing corridor already under development.

#### **CONTINUE PRO-GROWTH TAX REFORM**

Continue to build on the 2018 efforts to modernize the tax code and address the long-term need for comprehensive tax reform. Strive to place KY on equal footing with competitor states, especially border states.

#### **EXPAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

The Historic Preservation Tax Credit is a critical tool for redevelopment in both urban centers and rural towns.

#### **INCENTIVIZE BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT**

Support legislation to pass a tax credit to incentivize brownfield redevelopment across the NKY region.

#### **ENCOURAGE PENSION REFORM**

Continue necessary pension reform focusing on ensuring the viability of the state's system.

#### **CURB TOBACCO USE**

Tax electronic cigarettes the same as cigarettes and raise the purchase age to 21.

#### **MODERNIZE THE CALL BEFORE YOU DIG LAW**

Update statutes related to underground facility damage prevention to reduce property destruction and personal injury.

#### **ENABLE SHARED SERVICES**

Improve efficiency of shared services that would create greater ease of doing business. Provide additional options and incentives for local governments to simplify cost sharing and revenue collection.

#### **ALIGN OFF-YEAR ELECTIONS**

Increase voter participation and reduce unnecessary election costs by moving the election of statewide offices to the same year as presidential elections.

#### **ENACT SPORTS WAGERING**

Authorize sports wagering and allow for expanded gaming in Kentucky.

#### **REMOVE SMOKERS AS A PROTECTED CLASS**

End special treatment of smokers under the KY Civil Right Act. Legally protecting smokers alongside immutable characteristics like race, sex, age, disability, and nationality is unreasonable.

#### **PROMOTE FAIR USE OF VW SETTLEMENT**

Use Volkswagen settlement funding to improve mass transit in NKY and spark investment in electric vehicle infrastructure.

#### **REDUCE HEALTH CARE COSTS TO CONSUMERS**

Address medical malpractice reforms to reduce health care costs to consumers and enhance the region's ability to attract and retain a sufficient number of licensed medical professionals.

#### **WANT TO READ MORE?**

You can read more about these and other priorities in the full 2020 Legislative Agenda at [NKYChamber.com](http://NKYChamber.com)

# GROW NKY FUNDING REQUESTS

## *Appropriate the Necessary Funding for Workforce and Education*

**Ensuring workforce development is funded at adequate levels is essential to the overall growth of the NKY region.**

### **WHAT IS GROW NKY?**

*Growing Regional Outcomes through Workforce (GROW) NKY is a collective impact strategy comprised of a coalition of leaders across key industries, educational institutions, and community organizations working collaboratively to leverage the region's assets to grow, attract and retain a globally competitive workforce. GROW NKY brings together workforce partners to address the regional skills and people gap and focuses on ensuring Northern Kentucky can support business growth through a strategic workforce effort.*

#### **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Improve Kentucky's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) by increasing reimbursement rates and incentives for high-quality child care centers. Expand eligibility to 200% of the federal poverty level.

Increase eligibility of Kentucky's public preschools to 200% of the federal poverty level, incentivize partnerships between public preschool and private child care, and establish a fixed dollar amount per-child rate.

#### **K-12 EDUCATION**

Provide funding for schools to implement the 2019 School Safety Bill and ensure funding for this program and any additional public education initiatives does not detract from funding of existing programs.

#### **POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS**

Increase performance-based funding appropriation by 10% (\$74.9M). The formula was proposed and enacted three years ago but has yet to be fully funded.

Increase funding from the state for dual credit tuition rate from 1/3 to 1/2.

Approve \$400 million bond issuance to be allocated to institutions for asset preservation and require 1/2 match by institutions.

#### **WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

Establish a permanent fund for grants to workforce boards and other providers to provide more industry-focused training and retraining initiatives targeted at high-demand jobs with good career pathway opportunities.