

BUSINESS ADVOCACY LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

NKY Chamber's 2026 Legislative Priorities

Investing in Kentucky's Workforce, Economy and Infrastructure

The Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce works to strengthen business and grow a vibrant regional economy—because when business thrives, our communities do too. The 2026 Legislative Agenda reflects that commitment, focusing on workforce growth, tax modernization, infrastructure investment, education, and health—key drivers of Kentucky's competitiveness and quality of life.

DRIVE WORKFORCE GROWTH

Northern Kentucky's economy remains strong, but workforce shortages and skills gaps threaten to slow growth. Labor projections from NKU show minimal gains through 2050—insufficient to meet employer demand. Flat population growth, retirements, and limited migration leave few untapped workers, while barriers such as childcare costs, transportation, housing and recovery needs keep others out of the labor force. To stay competitive, the region must retain more of the 160,000 college students within 50 miles, connect high school students to local high-demand careers, attract professionals from outside the area, integrate legal immigrants already here, and expand pathways for adults re-entering work. The NKY Chamber encourages policies that increase funding for adult education and ESL programs, raise CCAP eligibility, advance Benefit Cliff reforms, sustain dual-credit and all-day kindergarten, and strengthen statewide talent attraction and retention efforts and recovery-to-work initiatives.

ADVANCE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

A growing economy demands modern infrastructure—from roads, broadband, and Income-aligned housing to energy and water systems. The NKY Chamber supports full funding for KY 536 and

other key projects and applauds the investment in the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor of Commerce. Kentucky must also embrace innovation in electric vehicle infrastructure, cybersecurity, and emerging energy sources and to prepare for future needs.

STRENGTHEN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

A dependable childcare system supports families and fuels economic growth. Kentucky should continue investing in early childhood education to expand access, improve affordability, and support workforce participation—helping parents work and children thrive.

MAINTAIN A COMPETITIVE TAX CLIMATE

Continue modernizing Kentucky's tax code by shifting from income-based to consumption-based taxes while avoiding new taxes on business-to-business services. Streamlined, and simplified pro-growth tax policies will help Kentucky companies compete and attract new investment.

PROMOTE BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES

Kentucky's workforce health drives productivity and competitiveness. Policies that reduce smoking rates, expand mental health care, training, and address provider shortages will lower healthcare costs and strengthen the state's labor force.

