

2018 Legislative Priorities

The mission of the Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce is to promote, develop and facilitate a strong economic environment in which the business community can grow and prosper.

As advocates for business, we support initiatives that strengthen the climate for small business growth and development and oppose initiatives that unnecessarily burden small business.

We support the efforts of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry in **Missouri 2030: An Agenda to Lead**, which is a 15-year strategic plan for economic growth in Missouri.

Partnering with the Missouri Chamber Federation comprised of more than 107 chambers of commerce and representing more than 70,000 employers throughout the state, we support the Legislative Priorities established by the Missouri Chamber Federation and the Jackson County Public Policy Council. **Our goal is to unite the business community and bring Blue Springs Chamber member employers to the table during important policy discussions.**

We will support legislation that:

- Helps businesses connect through infrastructure,
- Prepares the workforce, and
- Helps Blue Springs employers compete.

In addition to the legislative priorities listed above, the Chamber supports the efforts of our four community partner organizations and pledges to support their respective legislative priorities that align with the mission of the Chamber.

City of Blue Springs

Blue Springs R-IV School District

Central Jackson County Fire Protection District

Metropolitan Community College – Blue River



Specifically, we will review and support legislation that:

Helps businesses connect through existing and new infrastructure by:

- ✓ Developing a comprehensive and sustainable transportation funding plan that increases revenues targeted for Missouri's transportation systems including roads, highways, waterways, air, rail and bridges; awaiting the report from the Governor's 21st Century Transportation Task Force **(supported by Federation*)**;
- ✓ Expanding access to broadband, including the final mile buildout, to help Missouri meet 21st Century business needs. **(supported by Federation*)**

Prepares the workforce by:

- ✓ Focusing on programs aimed at improving workforce development and efforts to streamline and update job training programs while promoting job training tax credits for business.
- ✓ Devising a plan to fully fund the Foundation Formula, avoiding any adjustments that would significantly alter the manner in which funds are distributed. **(supported by Federation*)**
- ✓ Opposing any legislation that would divert revenue from public schools such as open enrollment, scholarship tax credits and vouchers.
- ✓ Implement visiting scholars' certification for teachers.
- ✓ Advocating for the systematic education reforms driven by employers' workforce needs, including expanding apprenticeship and other work experience training opportunities. **(supported by Federation*)**
- ✓ Maintaining competitive investment in public higher education to preserve affordability and produce a well-trained workforce **(supported by Federation*)**

Helps Blue Springs employers compete by:

- ✓ Implementing Internet sales tax reform to level the playing field between online and main street retailers. **(supported by Federation*)**
- ✓ Providing incentives targeting STEM careers
- ✓ Enacting tort reform needed to balance our courts to serve all parties fairly, including employers.
- ✓ Supporting legislation that changes the standards of the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act (MMPA) requiring plaintiffs to rely on the representation as well as limit the recovery to actual damage suffered by the plaintiff thereby protecting businesses against frivolous lawsuits alleging fraudulent misrepresentation. (Currently, Missouri's standard does not require the plaintiff to show that they relied on the representation to bring a suit. Under the MMPA, they can just claim that it was misleading.)
- ✓ Enacting a statewide prescription drug monitoring program that lowers workforce drug abuse and insurance costs for Missouri employers. **(supported by Federation*)**
- ✓ Supporting Police Officers, in Blue Springs and other areas, ensuring their safety and authority, which in turn ensures the safety of Blue Springs businesses, employees and customers.
- ✓ Increase support for entrepreneurs and startup businesses, paying close attention to legislation filed supporting the newly released "Governor's Innovation Task Force" report outlining a number of action steps to be taken to help startups and entrepreneurs.

* The Federation refers to the Missouri Chamber of Commerce & Industry Federation, a PAC formed by the Missouri Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

JCPPC is the Jackson County Public Policy Council, comprised of chambers in Blue Springs, Grandview, Independence, Lee's Summit, Raytown and South Kansas City.