



**2020
Columbia
Chamber of
Commerce
Legislative Agenda**

100th General Assembly

We are the Voice of Business

Since 1905, the Columbia Chamber of Commerce has been a voluntary, member-supported organization of business, industrial and professional people who are dedicated to developing, promoting and maintaining a sound and healthy economic climate for Columbia.

The Chamber is a non-profit business organization with over 1,000 members working together to enhance the Columbia business community.

The mission of the Chamber of commerce is to lead our community, drive commerce in our region and advance community and regional collaborations, thereby enhancing the quality of where we *live, learn, work and play*.

One way to achieve this mission is by advocating on behalf of our members at the state capitol.

The following are the 2020 Legislative Priorities of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce.



2020 Legislative Priorities

Support the continued stabilization of funding for the University of Missouri to help ensure the University can carry out its Mission.

Support the construction and continued funding of the NextGen Precision Health Institute at the University of Missouri.

Support a sustainable funding plan for a comprehensive transportation system to better support Missouri's economic growth, with a focus on rebuilding Interstate 70.

Support regional and state efforts to fund and complete the Rocheport Bridge.

Support regional efforts to complete the Columbia Regional Airport Terminal Project.

Support legislation that enables online sales tax collection by implementing a Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement.

2020 Legislative Positions

Business & Economic Development

A strong pro-business environment is critical for Missouri remain competitive in a global economy. The Chamber supports initiatives that encourage a healthy business climate in our state by:

Increasing funding for the Missouri Technology Corporation.

Expanding apprenticeship and other work experience training opportunities.

Enacting tort reforms needed to balance our courts.

Taxes & Tax Credits

The Columbia Chamber of Commerce understands the need for tax codes that are fair and equitable to all Missouri citizens. The Chamber supports:

Increasing funding for the Missouri Technology Corporation.

Administration

The Columbia Chamber of Commerce continues to support statewide policies that would improve the lives of all Missourians such as legislation that would:

Enact a statewide prescription drug monitoring program that lowers workforce drug abuse and insurance costs for employers.



Transportation

Columbia's natural geographic advantages in Missouri and the nation make transportation a vital economic driver for our community.

Significant state and federal transportation funding, and a robust statewide funding formula is necessary to strengthen economic development and support the workforce. It is essential that we protect the investment Missourians have already placed into our transportation infrastructure by enacting a funding plan to meet future needs.

Support a sustainable, long-term funding plan for a comprehensive transportation system to better support Missouri's economic growth, with a focus on rebuilding Interstate 70.

Support regional and state efforts to fund and complete the Rocheport Bridge.

Continue to support regional efforts to complete the Columbia Regional Airport Terminal Project.



Education

The Columbia Chamber of Commerce supports appropriate legislative action to stabilize funding for all levels of education and encourages the legislature to go above and beyond restoring funding reductions.

Early Childhood Education

Investing in the educational needs of Columbia's youngest citizens helps to ensure the sustainability of our community and the future needs of our workforce.

Support expanded access to early childhood education by advocating for increased funding.

Elementary and Secondary Education

Education for young people during their more formative years is critical in the creation of safer communities and the competitive workforce needed for the future.

The Chamber supports legislation that would:

Increase funding for Pre-K through 12 public education to ensure Missouri's education system is competitive and capable of effectively preparing tomorrow's workforce.

Support the increased funding and incentive grants for public schools to develop Science, Technology, Engineering and Math programs to encourage students to gain relevant skills to meet industry demand for those disciplines.

Support increased funding for Moberly Area Community College to effectively meet the demand of its Early College collaboration with Columbia Public Schools.



Higher Education and the University of Missouri

Columbia is home to several important higher-learning institutions that help ensure Columbia is ready for jobs of the future. The Chamber supports:

Stabilization of funding for the University of Missouri to help ensure the University can carry out its Mission.

Construction and continued funding of the NextGen Precision Health Institute at the University of Missouri that will be the new home for research, clinical talent and industry partnerships necessary to bring cutting-edge care to Missourians.

Continued funding for the A+ program.

Continued funding for the Missouri Access Grant Program.

Education Administration

Support public school districts ability to enter into collaborative transportation agreements that create cost savings and encourage partnerships within their local communities.

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**COLUMBIA
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

*Engaging Business
for Community Excellence*



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