



## Missouri Chamber Federation Legislative Priorities 2025

- 1) A strong education system is key to Missouri's long-term economic strength and competitiveness. We support efforts to adequately fund all levels of education. This includes early childhood education, K-12, higher education, and short-term post-secondary training programs.
- 2) Child care is a pivotal statewide workforce and economic development issue. Parents' entry or re-entry into the workforce is often hindered by child care provider shortages. Missouri should increase the accessibility, availability, and affordability of high quality child care.
- 3) We support a broad-spectrum approach to upskilling and right-skilling our state's workforce to address labor shortages and help businesses' growth. This includes adequately funding our existing workforce development programs, like Fast Track, MoExcels Workforce Initiative, Missouri One Start Upskill Credential Training Program, and other job training programs. It is also important to advocate for new policies that are responsive and flexible to businesses' needs to recruit and retain skilled workers today while anticipating employment needs of the future.
- 4) Mental health and substance abuse issues negatively impact our state's workforce and overall public safety. We support a comprehensive approach to improving access to mental health resources. This includes recruiting and retaining more mental health workers, investing in mental health resources, and providing employers with tools to address mental health and substance abuse in their workplaces.
- 5) We strongly support a system of free enterprise and oppose efforts by the government to intervene in business decisions. The government should let business decide how to run its own workplace(s).
- 6) Economic development drives growth, creates new job opportunities, and facilitates an improved quality of life. Missouri should embrace an all-of-the-above approach in utilizing and offering innovative economic development tools and tax incentives to help its local communities and businesses thrive. We support continued statewide efforts to improve access to broadband, as it is vital for Missouri's economic growth.

- 7) State investment in tourism supports economic growth, job creation, and tax revenue. We support increasing funding of tourism promotion and other tourism-related programs, as it would positively impact many communities and have a positive ripple effect across the entire state. As Kansas City hosts the World Cup in 2026, public transit options – along with bicycle and pedestrian routes – are important to support the influx of visitors to the state and encourage future tourism in the area.
- 8) Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. Therefore, Missouri should increase access to funding and other resources for small businesses, start-ups, and entrepreneurs to help them confidently start, grow, or expand. Local communities should have a voice when new statewide regulations are being considered, as the interests of Missouri’s diverse small business community are a priority for localities.
- 9) A safer Missouri is a stronger Missouri. We support efforts to reduce crime and enhance public safety. The state should dedicate adequate funding for public safety to address our law enforcement staffing shortage and enact innovative tools to help combat crime.
- 10) We support comprehensive efforts to maximize Missouri’s position as an emerging technology hub. By enacting innovative policies, increasing investment, and training our workforce for high-tech jobs, our state can grow its global tech and innovation footprint. Supporting a friendly regulatory environment for e-commerce is another essential part of creating a thriving technology environment in Missouri as the world moves into the digital age. Supporting Missouri businesses’ ability to buy, sell, or trade goods and services efficiently, free of burdensome government regulations, not only supports growth of Missouri’s business community, but also demonstrates the state’s commitment to embracing the digital age and leading from the front as a technology hub.
- 11) Business owners recognize that accessible and affordable housing options are crucial to attracting and retaining a skilled workforce. We support growing access to affordable housing options through increased state appropriations for key housing and community development programs as well as other state and federal incentive programs for the creation of affordable housing.
- 12) We support state investments and red-tape reduction that will spur growth in our state’s energy supply, allowing businesses to grow and operate without concerns over the accessibility and affordability of energy.