



2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce is one of Kentucky's largest Chambers of Commerce and the Purchase Area's 2nd largest business advocacy organization representing approximately 500 members. The Chamber's Advocacy committee engages our members and community in legislative topics while finding key resources to advocate for in Murray and Calloway County.

TAX REFORM

Supports a statewide constitutional amendment vote as the first step toward equalizing and modernizing local government taxing revenue options. Local governments need tools to diversify local revenue, improve communities, and continue growth and development. Currently, Section 181 of the Kentucky Constitution limits the types of taxes local governments can levy and not all cities and counties have the same taxing authority. The current discrepancy across the state creates winners and losers within Kentucky and when Kentucky competes with other states.

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Supports legislation that provides new and sustainable funding to support the maintenance and improvements needed on our transportation network (Roads, Airports, Riverports, Railroads, Transit Systems, Local Economic Development Sites), and allows the building of an infrastructure system that supports the Commonwealth in the 21st Century.

Supports wireless and broadband expansions.

Supports funding as needed to complete I-69.

Supports legislation for solar panel cleanup efforts.

WORKFORCE & EDUCATION

Supports a broad-based and comprehensive approach to fill our current jobs, prepare for the future, ensure our workers are trained for the positions in our region, and to help grow our population. Strategies should include:

- Setting a goal for growing our workforce that also helps to grow our region and state's population.
- Increasing the number of Kentuckians with college degrees and post-secondary certificates.
- Expanding apprenticeships and adult education programs.
- Investing in key workforce training programs and utilizing partners such as local colleges and universities in the training of our workforce.
- Raising awareness and use of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit to address the benefits cliffs and leverage pro-work incentives.
- Improving access to childcare.
- Evaluate KEES money program and consider more flexible uses. (ex. To be uses for technical school)
- Consider modifying GPA requirements.

WORKFORCE & EDUCATION (continued)

Supports continuing funding for publicly funded pre-k programs.

Supports Murray State University's overall legislative goals and priorities as Murray State University is one of our community's largest economic drivers locally and regionally.

Supports efforts to engage local educators with local business and industry to gain a deeper understanding of what students need to succeed in career environments.

LOCAL & REGIONAL GROWTH

Supports regional partnerships between local governments, the philanthropic and business communities, and the public for the purpose of fostering economic growth.

Supports continued efforts to make Murray and Calloway County a more business friendly community by eliminating unnecessary, burdensome, or duplicative regulations by reviewing local regulations and evaluating their purpose, need and intent on a regular basis.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Wellness Programs

- *Supports* legislation that would encourage employers to implement wellness-based programs that would provide Kentucky with a healthier and more productive workforce and would enable their employees to live longer, healthier lives.

Substance Abuse & Rehabilitation

- *Encourages* the state to take active steps to combat Kentucky's drug abuse epidemic and supports a thoughtful approach that will not back away from efforts to punish the drug offenders but will prevent added corrections costs and ensure appropriate access to substance abuse treatment.

Accessible Mental Health Care

- *Supports* legislation that promotes wellness, expands access for all and decriminalizes mental health conditions.

*For additional information, contact Michelle Bundren, President/CEO
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2019
NATIONAL CHAMBER
of the YEAR


The Chamber
of Commerce ♦ Murray-Calloway County