

# 2010 State Legislative Issues

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

### Support initiatives that will enhance quality business development in the State of Missouri.

- A. Encourage the maintenance of TIF as a strong economic development tool.
- B. Support proposed Angel Investor Tax Credit legislation.
- C. Oppose tax credit legislation which reduces economic development related tax credits incentives or imposes administrative delays on their awards.
- D. Support legislation for incentives to help retain or expand investment in Lee's Summit.
- E. Support additional FY2010 funding and programs for the Arts within the KC Metropolitan area.
- F. Monitor and support any effort to eliminate the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the state's minimum wage legislation.
- G. Support the Grow State Initiative to enhance the state's ability to increase research capacities. Establish an Angel Investor tax Credit Program to elevate entrepreneurship and attract external risk capital.
- H. Support stem cell research in the State of Missouri, stressing the analogous ethical and oversight mechanisms and prohibition of human cloning, as provided for in Amendment 2, and oppose any and all efforts to overturn the provisions of Amendment 2. Support the appropriate funding mechanisms that will advance stem cell research.
- I. Support tax reform, whether in the realm of corporate, individual, or sales taxes.
- J. Advocate for and actively support the creation of legislation that would provide tax incentives for new data centers considering a location in the State of Missouri.

### ROAD & HIGHWAY ISSUES

#### Encourage orderly growth and development of Lee's Summit by improving our transportation infrastructure throughout the city.

- A. Encourage legislation that would allocate direct funding for roads and highways within Lee's Summit, and/or encourage the City of Lee's Summit and the Missouri Department of Transportation to find creative funding methods for the following:
  - M-291 at US 50 Hwy. (Interchange improvements)
  - I-470 from US 50 Hwy. to I-70 (capacity improvements)

- B. Support legislation that would provide for state funding assistance for local Tax Increment Financing projects that involve substantial infrastructure improvements to state-owned facilities.
- C. Encourage \$5 million appropriation for Amtrak Enhancement Funding for the development of the Strasburg double main line.
- D. Encourage the \$29.5 million federal appropriation for the purchase and preservation of the old Rock Island Railroad Corridor which will extend the Missouri KATY trail from Pleasant Hill to downtown Kansas City, MO.

### EDUCATION ISSUES

#### Support legislation that assists the Blue Springs R-4 and Lee's Summit R-7 School Districts' successful implementation of continuous improvement efforts to include, but not be limited to:

- A. Fully fund the state foundation formula and redefine the state adequacy target calculation to provide no less than a two percent increase each time it is recalculated.
- B. Support a balanced approach to granting economic development incentives with a stronger voice for taxing jurisdictions whose revenue would be impacted.
- C. Oppose the authorization of tuition tax credits scholarships, vouchers, or any effort to reduce or divert revenue from public schools.
- D. Support legislation stipulating the enactment of sound and timely property tax assessment practices and the clarification of assessment terms and timelines to promote uniformity and fairness.
- E. Fully fund the transportation categorical for FY10 at 75% of allowable costs.
- F. Oppose open enrollment or school choice that would allow parents to send their children to public schools outside their own district.
- G. Oppose expansion of public charter schools.
- H. Support legislation that defines the parameters of collective bargaining for public school employees while preserving the authority of the local Board of Education as the decision-making body on all issues.
- I. Support changes to the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) to provide for full funding and the creation of a positive federal education program through the elimination of negative sanctions.
- J. Support legislation necessary to implement stakeholder-defined alternatives to protect existing retirement benefits, ensure long-term solvency of the Public School and Public Education Employee Retirement Systems (PSRS/PEERS), and guarantee broad-base stakeholder input into decisions of the System's Board of Trustees.

- K. Support the continuation of local school districts' determination of the school year calendar.
- L. Support constitutional amendment that allows simple majority passage of public school general obligation bonds.

#### Support the higher education community's mission of providing access to high quality and affordable education and training for local citizens and the business community.

- A. Support the agreement advanced by the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education and the Governor's Office FY2010 funding plan.
- B. Support Missouri's public four and two-year universities' and colleges' proposal to increase funding to significantly boost allied health education and training to meet the growing demands in the nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, optometry, physicians, and therapists in health-related areas.
- C. Support the Metropolitan Community College's request for capital projects and funding proposals.
- D. Support the continuation and efforts to broaden participation and funding for the Missouri's A+ Schools Program.
- E. Support the initiation of the Missouri Occupational Development Fund at \$1 million.
- F. Support maintaining appropriation levels for Missouri community colleges who have been active partners in the delivery of training for the following three incentive training programs:
  - a. Missouri Customized Training
  - b. New Jobs Training Program
  - c. Retention and Training Program
- G. Support a \$4 million increase in appropriations for the Missouri Customized Training Program.
- H. Support state legislative efforts to provide additional funding or support for middle-skill occupations training programs.

### HEALTH CARE ISSUES

#### Advocate for an improved health care system for all Missouri residents through the implementation of a variety of proactive approaches that dramatically decrease the number of uninsured and improve access to health care.

- A. Support adequate funding for Medicaid that ensures the ongoing viability of all health care providers who provide care to the uninsured and the underinsured. Ensure that all Medicaid is

- structured and geared to maximize all available resources outside Missouri general revenue, including federal matching dollars and Missouri's FRA program.
- B. Provide funding for safety net services accessible to Lee's Summit area residents to include primary care for physical health.
- C. Oppose health care benefit requirement and provider mandates unless they meet rigorous, objective, social and financial impact standards.
- D. Support a health care initiative addressing worker shortages in the health care industry.
- E. Support incentives for Missouri companies who provide health insurance for their employees.
- F. Support a comprehensive approach to incentives for individuals and businesses to live healthier lifestyles to reduce chronic diseases and reduce health care costs. Examples include incentives for wellness, health coaching, medical homes, coordination of care for chronic diseases, etc.
- G. Maintain support for mental health programs, with emphasis on people who create significant burdens on jails, hospitals, schools or other government programs through repeated, inappropriate use.

### OTHER BUSINESS ISSUES

- A. Support a Missouri Job Reference Immunity Law to provide absolute immunity for employers who provide basic employment information and a more limited liability for employers who provide more detailed information regarding job performance.
- B. Support the elimination of the corporate franchise tax.
- C. Support the removal of the Federal tax deduction limit on state returns for businesses and individuals.
- D. Promote legislation to preserve essential funding for the Missouri Judiciary as the independent third branch of government. Additionally, monitor legislation that would affect the make-up of the selection commission.
- E. Support measures that increase the availability of affordable and reliable energy through: expanding overall energy production from increasingly cleaner sources, promoting broad based energy efficiency measures and encouraging investment in alternative energy technologies.
- F. Support the increase of surcharges authorized for municipal and associate circuit courts for cities and towns having shelters for victims of domestic violence from \$2.00 per case to \$4.00 per case

# 2010 City & County Legislative Issues

## INFRASTRUCTURE

**Encourage orderly growth and development of Lee's Summit by improving our infrastructure throughout the city.**

- A. Encourage and support City Council efforts to establish a utility fund as a dedicated funding source to address storm water problems in the community; expand and maintain the storm water system using both traditional and "green" solutions, and comply with the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase 2 permit requirements both now and in the future. Work to educate residents, local businesses and employers, and the development community as to the necessity of this utility fund.
- B. Strongly support and pursue full funding for the reconstruction of Lee's Summit Road from Colbern Street to Highway 40.
- C. Transportation: Encourage city elected officials and staff to seek and leverage funding for improvements to and reconstruction of roads and highways within Lee's Summit, including but not limited to:
  - 1. Strother Road from the Strother I-470/291 Interchange to Lee's Summit Road
  - 2. Todd George Interchange
  - 3. South M-291 Highway Interchange (South of Highway 50 to enhance the redevelopment of the M-291 South Corridor)
  - 4. South M-291 Highway/50 Highway Interchange
- D. Encourage active participation by Lee's Summit with other local governments in eastern Jackson County to create a comprehensive approach to developing a regional public transportation plan that supports current and future employment, quality of life and the environmental needs of Lee's Summit residents.
- E. Encourage and support City Council efforts to secure/earmark funding for purchase of rights-of-way along the inactive Rock Island Railroad corridor for the purpose of developing alternative recreational and transportation uses.
- F. Support public policy that enables and encourages free market competition and infrastructure investment in the areas of voice, video and data services. Support updating the current intrastate access fee structure to encour-

age greater competition and remove a potential barrier to greater access to communications technology and investment.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

**Support initiatives that will enhance investment and job creation in the City of Lee's Summit.**

- A. Support the expansion of the Lee's Summit Airport.
- B. Encourage the City to find increased revenue sources to fund tourism efforts in Lee's Summit.
- C. Support and promote the city's cultural plan as an enhancement to economic development vitality and growth.
- D. Support the redevelopment of Arnold Hall into a multi-use community center or the visual and performing arts with the Martin City Melodrama as an anchor tenant.
- E. Advocate for expanded efforts to address diversity issues within the community.
- F. Support aggressive office, industrial and commercial growth and redevelopment to help balance the tax base and create good paying jobs.
- G. Encourage the use of existing and innovative programs that promote city-wide development, redevelopment and revitalization that target the Downtown area and older commercial areas throughout the city.
- H. Encourage city, county, developers and property owners to cost share the financing of infrastructure which supports the city's growth and expansion.
- I. Actively support and engage in the 360° Lee's Summit Strategic Plan implementation process to ensure that issues that affect small businesses remain high priorities in the minds of the community and policy makers.
- J. Support city efforts to develop the View High/I-470 Corridor into a "Green Corridor" by engaging in the development of a comprehensive infrastructure planning process.
- K. Support and encourage recreational activities and special events that generate economic activity in our city.

## CULTURAL (QUALITY OF LIFE) ISSUES

**Promote and support cultural and recreational initiatives that provide for increased quality of life.**

- A. Encourage the preservation of open spaces for recreational amenities to insure continued balance within our commercial areas ensuring ideal environments for vibrant city commerce.

- B. Advocate for the creation of a strategic plan for strengthening the historic and cultural aspects of Lee's Summit, including the relocation and expansion of the Lee's Summit History Museum.
- C. Support the Mid-America Regional Council's efforts to foster the development of a metro-wide retail sales tax to fund priority public investments (regional transit system, trails and greenway, i.e., MetroGreen Plan) that will benefit the region.
- D. Support the Mid-America Regional Council's MetroGreen Plan's recommendation for the extension of the KATY Trail to the Kansas City Metropolitan area utilizing the most viable route along the abandoned Rock Island Railroad Corridor.
- E. Support policies that advance/increase environmental stewardship and sustainability by all sectors of the community.
- F. Support policies that advance/increase environmental stewardship by businesses and residents in the areas of:
  - Recycling
  - Alternative energy use
  - Alternative transportation opportunities
  - Conservation of Resources
- G. Encourage the advocacy of the cultural arts in Lee's Summit as defined by the 360° citizens policy process that supports: the development of Arnold Hall for use by the "Martin City" melodrama, development of a Cultural Arts Center, and increasing cultural arts venues and attractions.



# LEE'S SUMMIT CHAMBER 2010 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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