



LEE'S SUMMIT
CHAMBER

2023

Legislative Priorities

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The Lee's Summit Chamber serves its members by creating a dynamic business environment founded on leadership, advocacy, collaboration and success in the Lee's Summit community.

OUR CHAMBER

The Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce, the third largest chamber in the Kansas City metropolitan area, represents more than 1,000 business and professional organizations that employ a combined total of more than 30,000 people living in and around the city of Lee's Summit.

The Chamber focuses on the economic prosperity of the business community by fostering and promoting significant job growth, increased revenues, superior infrastructure and an exceptional quality of life.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY & PUBLIC POLICY

The Lee's Summit Chamber is actively engaged in and committed to representing the business community at all levels of government. Our legislative program is interconnected to all aspects of the Chamber's activities.

The Chamber offers its members convenient and timely access to the expertise of staff. Contact Chamber President, Matt Baird, with questions or to discuss an issue affecting your business.

The participation of the Governmental Relations Committee and the Legislative Committee is critical to ensuring economic success, prosperity and quality of life for businesses and residents alike. The mission of our volunteer leaders is to review, debate and make recommendations to the Chamber's Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

The Chamber continually monitors legislation and political affairs on the local, state and federal levels of government. We strive to effectively communicate relevant information to assist our members in making the appropriate day-to-day and long-term decisions impacting their businesses.



2023 PRIORITIES

We've categorized our legislative priorities into four areas:

- Health Care
- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- Education & Workforce

The following represent the Chamber's priorities on both a local and state level. For additional resources, visit the Chamber's advocacy page at [LSchamber.com](https://www.lschamber.com).



TRANSPORTATION/INFRASTRUCTURE

Support improvements to Missouri's transportation and infrastructure needs that enhance the growth, development and public safety of Lee's Summit.

Action Needed:

- Support additional funding for comprehensive and sustainable transportation infrastructure needs including funding for major interstate reconstruction and projects that have been identified that improve safety and decrease congestion.
- Encourage capital expenditures for infrastructure such as Lee's Summit Airport expansion, major arterials and projects that promote economic and community development.
- Support legislation that would allocate direct funding for roads and highways within Lee's Summit, and encourage the City of Lee's Summit and the Missouri Department of Transportation to find mutually beneficial funding sources for the following:
 - 3rd St and 50 Hwy- interchange improvements that will also include pedestrian accommodations
- Promote environmentally affordable and sustainable storm water management practices by identifying and securing ongoing funding.
- When it comes to legislation impacting municipalities advocate and support local control for decisions being made and not at the state level.
- Support funding from the state budget to enable two daily round-trip AMTRAK trains on the Missouri River Runner.

HEALTH CARE

Advocate for an improved health care system for all Missouri residents. The Chamber supports proactive approaches that dramatically decrease the number of uninsured and improve access to health care.

Action Needed:

- Support the efforts of municipalities located in eastern Jackson County by conducting a study for the possible creation of a health department representing those specific communities to gain more autonomy as it relates to health issues.

- Expand evidence-based services (such as medication assistance therapy, behavioral health support), to address the opioid abuse crisis in Missouri.
- Pursue sufficient levels of funding to ensure the ongoing viability of all health care providers who furnish care to the uninsured and the underinsured. This should also include behavioral health and primary care practices that foster physical and mental health.
- Support flexibility in the regulatory system to address nurse and physician labor shortage to ensure access to health care to all populations as well as support efforts to meet the behavioral health crisis needs of our community.
- Support legislative action that prevents violence against healthcare workers.
- Support the creation of a multi-stakeholder task force to review and make recommendations to address the declining overall health status of Missouri.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Support initiatives that will enhance quality business development both regionally and statewide by attracting new and retaining existing employers.

Action Needed:

- Encourage investments in next generation businesses that focus on innovation in well-defined industries (i.e., healthcare, life sciences, advanced technologies, energy production, etc.)
- Restructure the state's workforce training incentives to meet the variety of training needs of growing businesses.
- Reform Missouri's tax credit programs, including measures that would institute caps and narrow the number of programs offered.
- Improve access to capital for businesses through resources such as Missouri Technology Corporation, Missouri Partnership, and Skilled Workforce Missouri.
- Streamline and/or eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy and business regulation (federal and state). These efforts will assist in lowering the overall cost to do business as well as the administrative overhead expense the State incurs.
- Promote entrepreneurial growth, positive business activity and job creation.
- Support legislation that promotes local control and funding; local control should be retained in situations of local right of way and land use, effects on municipal revenue streams and the elimination of proven economic development tools that attract and retain quality businesses and jobs.
- Continue investment in the arts, tourism and recreation strategies to enhance development in Lee's Summit.
- When it comes to legislation impacting economic development at the local level advocate and support local control for decisions being made and not at the state level.

EDUCATION/WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Support funding for Missouri's educational system (PreK-12 and higher education) that will prepare students to be workforce ready.

Action Needed:

- Fully fund the Foundation Formula and maintain its integrity.
- Engage with the local school districts regarding investments in high quality early childhood education programs.
- Support school districts having the local control/authority to decide district matters (such as employee compensation, class sizes, professional development, school calendars, etc.)
- Enact legislation that requires all charter schools to be held to the same standards as all public schools.
- Maintain and invest in high quality early childhood education programs.
- Support and invest in accelerated college and career programs such as the Missouri Innovation Campus.
- Recognize and support the diverse education opportunities, including the private school and home school options.
- Continue support of the Educational Ecosystem, a collaboration between the community of Lee's Summit and its diverse educational partners like UCM Lee's Summit and MCC-Longview, working together to meet life-long learning needs of our community.
- Reinstate funding levels to support all public colleges and universities and developing a plan to make substantial, ongoing investment in post-secondary education.
- Increase funding for technical training programs and enhance workforce readiness by providing internship and apprenticeship opportunities in conjunction with education partners.
- Continue supporting the A+ promise.
- Continue funding for MO Excels which provides funding to public universities and community colleges on a competitive basis for starting new programs.
- Continue funding Missouri Fast Track program to make skill training funding available for modest income individuals.
- Continue to increase funding for Missouri Access Program.
- Provide tax incentives for businesses to participate in apprenticeships.



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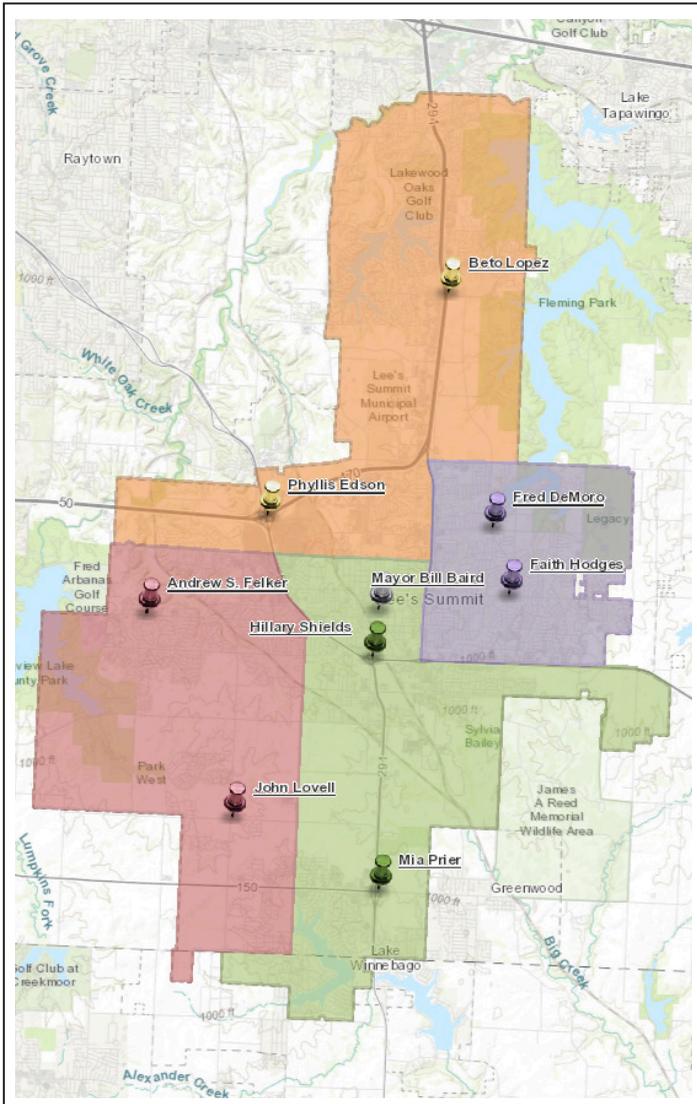
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For more information about the R-7 Board of Education, visit lsr7.net or call 816.986.1000.





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This piece is paid for by the Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce, Matt Baird - President