

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



ECONOMIC GROWTH

Support innovative workforce and economic development policy to keep Edmond and Oklahoma competitive.



TRANSPORTATION

Continue to support expedited funding in Eight-Year plan for transition of access roads on Interstate 35 to a one-way frontage road to ease congestion and improve safety.



FEDERAL ISSUES

Support legislation to access federal funds to expand broadband infrastructure to enhance access to highspeed internet. Oppose efforts to regulate broadband internet as a public utility.



EDUCATION

Advance and support strategies for additional funding for the hiring and retention of qualified teachers for PK-16 and for the development, training and mentoring of non-traditional teachers and staff. Hold schools harmless and return Edmond Public Schools, Francis Tuttle Technology Center, and the University of Central Oklahoma's per pupil funding to FY 08 levels to provide dollars necessary to support current operational needs.

The Edmond Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes the significant progress during the 2021 Legislative Session. **Thank you, Oklahoma legislators, for this contribution to our community.**

We encourage continued groundbreaking reform during the 2022 Session.

We want Edmond and Oklahoma, to be competitive in the regional, national and global marketplace.

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The Edmond Area Chamber of Commerce is the voice for business. We enhance economic opportunity and quality of life in Edmond.

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2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



PRESENTED BY:



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS PARTNERS:





ECONOMIC GROWTH

Edmond and Oklahoma must foster opportunities for attracting, retaining, and expanding business.

Priority Item: Support innovative workforce and economic development policy to keep Edmond and Oklahoma competitive.

- Pursue state and county American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding by working with the City of Edmond and other stakeholders for economic development, infrastructure and other projects in Edmond.
- Support efforts to reform medical marijuana business licensing. Support additional medical marijuana legislation to protect an employers' right to maintain a drug-free workplace, enforce policies to prohibit employee impairment during work hours and other business-friendly reforms.
- Support legislation to help recruit and retain teachers by utilizing incentives and creating tax credits. Support legislation to expand the teacher pipeline by amending the process to become alternatively certified and by increasing the hours allowed for professionals to teach at the high school level.
- Support performance-based incentives including those that show positive returns such as the Oklahoma large and small Quality Jobs Program and the Quality Events Act.
- Support, enhance, defend, and fully fund the 5-year Manufacturers Exemption, Aerospace Engineer, Cyber Security and Software Tax Credits.
- Support legislation to amend the Open Meetings Act to allow for increased use of virtual meetings.



EDUCATION

The University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma Christian University, Edmond Public Schools and Francis Tuttle Technology Center are vital to the continued strength of the Edmond area economy.

Priority Item: Advance and support strategies for additional funding for the hiring and retention of qualified teachers for PK-16 and for the development, training and mentoring of non-traditional teachers and staff. Hold schools harmless and return Edmond Public Schools, Francis Tuttle Technology Center, and the University of Central Oklahoma's per pupil funding to FY 08 levels to provide dollars necessary to support current operational needs.

- Support higher education reform to better meet employer needs including funding directed to critical occupations, increased accountability, innovative approaches to curriculum and degree offerings, and new partnerships between four-year institutions and career techs that enable schools to share resources.
- Oppose any legislation to allow the carrying of weapons on college or Career Tech campuses or businesses.
- Support funding and access to higher education and Career Tech programs through Oklahoma's Promise.
- Support the continuation and adequate funding of the Oklahoma Tuition Equalization Grant for Oklahoma residents.



FEDERAL ISSUES

Issues on the Federal level have a direct impact on the Edmond business community.

Priority Item: Support legislation to access federal funds to expand broadband infrastructure to enhance access to highspeed internet. Oppose efforts to regulate broadband internet as a public utility.

- Support efforts to maintain quality healthcare at a reasonable cost by giving more local control. Also, support effective incentives and initiatives designed to enhance medical research, improve service delivery-including telehealth, and increase access to mental and physical healthcare.
- Support legislation for safe banking to allow legal marijuana businesses access to full banking services.



TRANSPORTATION

A quality transportation infrastructure is critical to sustained economic growth.

Priority Item: Continue to support expedited funding in Eight-Year plan for transition of access roads on Interstate 35 to a one-way frontage road to ease congestion and improve safety.

- Preserve Oklahoma's state highway funding and protect the Eight-Year Construction work plan as a primary input into the safety and well-being of our citizens and the growth and sustainability of Oklahoma's economy.
- Support all modes of transportation including commercial transit and passenger rail service to meet the needs of the traveling public and the demands of our growing economy.