



2018

LEGISLATIVE

AGENDA

 STATE CHAMBER
OF OKLAHOMA

DETAILED AGENDA



Legislative Agenda 2018

Board Approved

Aerospace, Technology, Defense and Telecommunications

STATE AGENDA

- Support and defend continuance of the Engineer Tax Credits for the Aerospace Industry
- Support development of Oklahoma's strengths and resources as a prime location for development, testing and flight of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and monitor efforts to regulate UAS and oppose regulations which place unnecessary burdens on the growth of the industry
- Monitor efforts to regulate Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) at the state level and oppose regulations which place unnecessary burdens on the growth of the industry
- Protect designated aviation user fees from being used for non-aviation needs and purposes
- Ensure government does not use public funds to offer commercial services directly competing against private industry
- Support initiatives to expand developing technology businesses including software, hardware, data centers and services
- Support educational and training pipeline initiatives, including Career Pathways, education industry partnerships, apprenticeships and the development of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Communities, to encourage Oklahomans to pursue STEM careers including careers in aerospace and technology
- Support efforts to address increasing workforce and training needs in the growing aerospace and defense maintenance, repair and overhaul and developing technological industries
- Oppose consolidation of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission with any other state agency
- Oppose consolidation of Oklahoma Space Industry Development Authority (OSIDA) with any other state agency

- Support the development of a federal and/or commercial space center in Oklahoma
- Protect a pro-investment environment to support the development of telecommunication infrastructure, including cell sites
- Support funding for the Oklahoma Strategic Military Planning Commission and other efforts to protect, expand, and enhance military related economic activity and investment at Oklahoma's military installations including active duty, Oklahoma National Guard, and Reserve components
- Encourage policies that will ensure the responsible and compatible development around military training routes and ranges so as to ensure airspace mission capability while protecting the rights of private landowners
- Support F-35 Task Force efforts to bring that mission to Oklahoma

FEDERAL AGENDA

- Monitor efforts to regulate Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) at the federal level and oppose regulations which place unnecessary burdens on the growth of the industry
- Oppose efforts to regulate Broadband Internet as a public utility
- Support significant, long-term reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Support the continuation of the U.S. Contract Tower Program
- Support trade policy that enables U.S. aerospace manufacturers to compete in the global market
- Support long-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank
- Support the basing of the F-35 Lightning II Fighter Aircraft at the 138th Fighter Wing at the Tulsa Air National Guard base
- Support the establishment of a Federal and/or Commercial Space Surveillance Center in Oklahoma
- Support the modernization, safety and efficiency of our nation's Air Traffic Control system and ensure the viability of the FAA Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.
- Encourage a swift resolution by Congress of the Department of Defense Budget Control Act to minimize military drawdowns and ensure military readiness for national security

- Support funding and other efforts to protect, expand, and enhance military related economic activity and investment at Oklahoma’s military installations including active duty, Oklahoma National Guard, and Reserve components and provide for continued growth of the military presence in the state, including without limitation future basing of F-35 in Tulsa

Economic Development, Taxation & Retail

- Protect valuable economic development incentives to keep Oklahoma competitive
- Continue to support the pension reforms that lower Oklahoma’s unfunded pension liability
- Support efforts to ensure a level playing field between community retailers and remote/internet sellers in the collection of sales taxes
- As part of an all-inclusive energy approach, support a stable and reliable tax structure for all energy development that protects existing investment and promotes new capital investment in Oklahoma
- Support reforms to improve the efficiency, equality, and effectiveness of both the Small Employer Quality Jobs Act and the Quality Jobs Act
- Support tax policy that encourages small business growth
- Support expansion and funding of state economic development efforts including adequate funding of OCAST and its programs and the Quick Action Closing Fund to benefit business and industry throughout the entire state
- Support and protect efforts to meet housing demand to keep pace with economic development and workforce needs
- Support the expansion of public/private partnerships using best practices
- Support legislation to prohibit government entities at any level from hiring outside auditors for increased revenue collection on a contingency or performance fee basis
- Reduce business uncertainty by supporting a state budgeting process that produces multi-year strategic spending plans, utilizing best practices for agency operations, forecasting revenues, spending commitments, and pension obligations
- Support efforts to comprehensively modernize Oklahoma’s adult beverage laws to encourage economic development and job growth, better meet consumer needs, and create a competitive marketplace for Oklahoma’s businesses
- Support the continuation of Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) in the federal tax code

- Support legislation to address the problem of the number of uninsured motorists, which adversely affect insurance costs of law-abiding citizens and the costs of trauma care centers that must provide medical treatment to uninsured motorists who are injured in accidents
- Oppose redirection of funds derived from industry licensing and service fees for general revenue
- Oppose the imposition of the state's sales tax on services and labor

Energy and Natural Resources

STATE AGENDA

- Support the Oklahoma Water Resources Board's (OWRB) water planning authority to ensure certainty for Oklahoma business when working with the OWRB to obtain water permits, and continue opposition of legislatively-created regional water planning groups
- Oppose any policy that results in less water being available for use by cities and towns, business and industry, agriculture, oil and natural gas, mining, tourism and other beneficial uses as defined by current law
- Support the retention and protection of the private property aspects of Oklahoma's surface and groundwater laws
- Support completion of statutorily required groundwater basin studies and equal proportionate share determinations to ensure certainty for Oklahoma business
- Support funding for water resource infrastructure development
- Support efforts to expand development of affordable and functional natural gas vehicles, electric vehicles, and all other alternative fuel vehicles and strategically expand natural gas fueling and electric charging infrastructure
- Support the rights of industry, public and private land and mineral owners to be free from burdensome regulations due to candidate, threatened, and endangered species
- Support efforts to ensure state primacy over pipeline safety as directed by the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)
- Support state primacy over environmental regulations and energy and natural resource industry operations
- Support incentives for or voluntary initiatives to increase water conservation, reuse or other similar efforts statewide to develop water availability

- Oppose any unnecessary regulatory intrusion into energy industry operations
- Support and protect the state's current eminent domain laws for energy infrastructure development

FEDERAL AGENDA

- Support efforts to expand electric transmission capacity
- Support any federal agency rules under the Clean Water Act expanding state jurisdiction over water
- Oppose the effort to tighten federal ozone standards until there is compliance in all regions
- Support regional solutions rather than federal mandates on energy and natural resource issues
- Support funding for water resource infrastructure development
- Support the rights of industry, public and private land and mineral owners to be free from burdensome regulations due to candidate, threatened, and endangered species
- Support efforts to end the sue and settle practices of federal agencies and the U.S. Department of Justice

Health Care

- Support a tax increase on cigarettes for the purpose of improving the health of Oklahomans and raising revenue to fund health care priorities such as: (1) assuring that all Medicaid providers are fully compensated for their services, (2) adequate funding for mental health and (3) providing coverage to uninsured Oklahomans
- Improve the Insure Oklahoma! premium assistance program designed to make health insurance more affordable for small businesses while assuring the program's long-term stability and the funding source remains dedicated to Insure Oklahoma!
- Support effective incentives and initiatives designed to enhance medical research, improve service delivery and increase access to health care
- While maintaining opposition to state and federal mandated health insurance benefits, support the use of an independent cost/benefit analysis to accompany any proposed health insurance benefit mandate
- Support the development of a healthy and productive workforce by eliminating barriers to the efforts of employers and communities in their promotion of positive health habits

- Support efforts to develop a state-based plan maximizing state and federal funds to broaden health insurance coverage to Oklahoma's uninsured residents and reduce the costs of uncompensated care that are currently shifted to employers and health care providers
- Support evidence-based solutions that simultaneously achieve better health, better health care, and cost containment
- Continue to support a long-term solution to address full reimbursement funding for Medicaid services since erosion of funding shifts cost increases to businesses and other taxpayers
- Support the protection of Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust funds as originally approved by the voters
- Protect funding sources and develop and support incentives and initiatives to enhance and increase the number of physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals
- Support initiatives that provide resources for employers for workplace training and screening programs in behavioral health in an effort to reduce Oklahoma's ranking among all states as third highest in mental health disorders and second highest in substance abuse disorders
- Support full funding of mental health and substance abuse services to encourage and strengthen the stability of our workforce
- Support legislation that increases the number of immunized Oklahomans
- Support efforts and funding to create, increase and protect access to health care services to rural and underserved areas

Human Resources and Labor Law

- Support stronger laws that require unemployed individuals to actively be looking for work in order to collect unemployment compensation benefits
- Support statutory penalties for unemployment compensation fraud that are similar to those for workers' compensation fraud
- Oppose all statutory mandates, either state or federal, as they relate to employer/employee relationships
- Oppose all efforts to force businesses to provide paid leave other than those required by federal law
- Oppose any legislation proposed in Oklahoma that would require paid leave

- Oppose congressional efforts to lower the small business exemption from 50 to 25 or fewer employees and continue to oppose any efforts to make such medical leave a “paid” leave program or to increase the number of days allowed to be taken
- Oppose efforts to divert unemployment compensation trust money to pay for family medical leave
- Support the “mirroring” of federal law on wage and hour laws
- The State Chamber is opposed to any unreasonable increase in the state or federal minimum wage rate and will work to defeat such legislation
- Oppose efforts to require businesses to provide certain levels of vacation time off or sick leave for employees or face statutory penalties
- Oppose any federal or state legislative or regulatory measures that will interfere with an employer’s and employee’s freedom to contract, including efforts to pass the so-called Arbitration Fairness Act of 2009
- Support the Society for Human Resource Management’s recommended reforms of the Fair Labor Standards Act
- Support amending the FLSA to reflect current employment realities that would allow an employer to pay overtime only when an 80-hour bi-weekly work schedule is exceeded
- Oppose any attempt to limit the definitions of “exempt employee” or otherwise expand employee eligibility for overtime
- Support the granting of compensatory time in lieu of payment for overtime

Legal Reform

- Support Rational Use of a Product Act
- Support Transparency in Private Attorney Contracts (TiPAC—Attorney General contracts on a contingency fee basis with outside counsel)
- Support Consumer Protection Act
- Protect property owners from attorney fee liability when the state demands a jury trial in eminent domain appeals
- Support Statute of Repose not to exceed ten years

- Support appellate judicial retirement age and/or term limits
- Update the Oklahoma Rules of Procedure relating to discovery to mirror or improve upon the 2015 amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
- Support efforts to further criminal justice reform to improve workforce, protect public safety, while decreasing costs within the state's budget.

Transportation

- Preserve Oklahoma's state highway funding and protect the Eight-Year Construction Work Plan by restoring funding base to 2014 levels as a primary input into the safety and well-being of our citizens and the growth and sustainability of the state's economy
- Support all modes of transportation including transit and passenger rail service to meet the needs of the traveling public and the demand of our growing economy
- Support efforts to expedite the construction and operation of appropriate ports of entry and weigh stations to ensure the public's safety and protect our state's investment in infrastructure
- Support efforts to minimize the impact of regulatory requirements that increase transportation project costs, stifle productivity, and delay delivery of critical infrastructure improvements
- Support implementation of the state's Bridge Improvement Plan to repair or replace all of Oklahoma's structurally deficient bridges on the state's highway system by 2020 and the continued improvement of functionally obsolete bridges into the future
- Support initiatives that direct all transportation user fees to be used exclusively for transportation purposes, like fully funding the gas tax estimate certified by the Board of Equalization and support the Driving Forward Program to modernize Oklahoma's turnpike system
- Preserve Oklahoma's Five-Year CIRB plan that is essential for counties to continue to address bridge and highway infrastructure needs
- Preserve and protect Oklahoma's airport funding and protect the Three-Year Airport Capital Improvement Program.
- Oppose consolidation of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission with any other state agency
- Support ongoing efforts to bring Oklahoma into compliance with the federal REAL ID Act

- Preserve and protect current eminent domain laws as described in the Landowner’s Bill of Rights
- Support the implementation and full funding of Federal Surface Transportation Programs, including measures to permanently and adequately fund the Highway Trust Fund, Mass Transit Account and a continued effort to enhance the legislation to streamline and improve project and program delivery
- Support the elimination of the backlog of infrastructure maintenance on the McClellan-Kerr system and the completion of the channel to a depth of twelve feet
- Support the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program and protect the FAA Federal Contract Tower Program
- Support efforts to protect and increase federal tribal transportation funding

Workforce Development

- Protect A-F accountability system to ensure school sites have strong metrics in which to measure growth and improvement
- Require more transparency on per pupil spending by district through easy access on a district’s website
- Expand access to Advanced Placement programs and concurrent enrollment for high school students statewide
- Support the passage of policies that promote school choice in order to give students free market choice when selecting the school that best meets their individual needs
 - Protect the statewide State Board of Education appeal for charter applications
 - Give public charter schools equal access to district resources
 - Give parents and students education savings accounts to allow for personalization of education options
- Support regionally-competitive teacher pay, a restructuring of the salary schedule to incentivize Oklahoma’s teachers to remain in the profession, performance pay that rewards our best teachers and a differentiated pay plan that helps fill high-need areas like D/F schools, STEM positions, etc.
 - Modify/eliminate the minimum salary schedule to allow districts flexibility in how teachers are paid
- Develop a teacher licensure ladder with ample opportunities for advancement within the teaching profession
- Increase awareness and create incentives for more STEM related educators in post-secondary education to meet workforce needs

- Prioritize education funding and recruitment efforts for programs and reforms designed to address current and future Oklahoma workforce needs in STEM and other critical occupations
- Support initiatives that encourage businesses to participate in career pathways or career exploration programs that are specific to the current and future needs of Oklahoma's economy as it relates to the Governor's Oklahoma Works Program
- Support degree and industry endorsed skills certificate programs that will address current and future Oklahoma workforce needs
- Increase access to industry endorsed skills certificates and degree programs tied to critical occupations and support incentives for employers providing access to skills certificates and degrees for employees
- Support and expand access to higher education and Career Tech programs through Oklahoma's Promise and maintain its continued funding
- Work with other educational entities to strengthen the state's workforce pipeline to meet the needs of current and future jobs in critical occupations by aligning their courses and curricula with industry-identified needs and skills

Workers' Compensation

- Work to enhance and protect the 2013 reforms to the Workers' Compensation system enacted by Senate Bill 1062
- Support reforms to reduce the liability and improve the efficiency of the Multiple Injury Trust Fund
- Secure appropriate funding to implement the reforms of Senate Bill 1062
- Ensure workers' compensation generated funds are used solely within the Workers' Compensation system
- Support revisions to workers' compensation medical fee schedule which will control medical costs while ensuring access to quality medical care for injured workers
- Support mandatory use of Official Disability Guidelines for treatment of injured workers
- Continue to defend legal attacks against 85A