



2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

prepared by the:

**BROKEN
ARROW**

CHAMBER of
COMMERCE

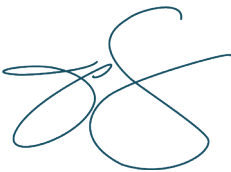
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Members:

Led by conversations with our membership throughout the year, the leadership and guidance of our Business Advocacy Council and our Chamber Board of Directors, we present this year's Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce Legislative Agenda. Additionally, we support and participate in the Tulsa Regional OneVoice Legislative Agenda process. We operate strongly as a region but recognize there are specific items the Broken Arrow Chamber must address. This agenda has been reviewed and adopted by the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors as a representation of our members.

We recognize the importance of living in a pro-business state with leadership at all levels that shares our pro-business values. This agenda reflects items that will keep Oklahoma on the path of economic growth and prosperity. The Chamber recognizes that to have a strong pro-business environment we must address critical infrastructure in the areas of healthcare, education, transportation, energy and economic incentives. Your ongoing feedback as an investor in this organization is encouraged as we work tirelessly to represent you at the local, state and federal levels throughout the year.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Conway
President & CEO



Aaron Morris
2022 Chairman of the Board



Michael Gordon
2023 Chairman of the Board



GET INVOLVED!

For more information on the Legislative Agenda or if you would like to participate in advocacy events or committees, please contact Josh Driskell at josh.driskell@bachamber.com.

2023 LEGISLATIVE DEADLINES

59th Legislature, 1st Regular Session

12/9 Bill Request Deadlines

1/19 Bill Introduction Deadline

2/6 Second Regular Session of the 58th
Oklahoma Legislature convenes

3/23 Third Reading in House of Origin Deadline

4/27 Third Reading in Opposite House Deadline

5/26 Sine Die Adjournment (No later than 5:00 p.m.)

BROKEN ARROW
OKLAHOMA

FOURTH
largest city in Oklahoma

300+
MANUFACTURING
companies in Broken Arrow

116,330
population

WORKFORCE

Workforce Development: The biggest challenge facing the business community is the lack of skilled workers at all levels. The lack of workers is holding back businesses from achieving the growth needed to meet market demand. The business community must partner with education and the public sector to create a pipeline to build the workforce needed today and for the future.

Encourage Medical Marijuana Safety (State): The Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce supports the rights of employers to provide a safe, secure workplace, particularly in safety-related industries and those doing business with the federal government. We support and encourage efforts to monitor the effects of medical marijuana on the state's workforce and support needed regulation and enforcement of laws related to employee drug testing, employer workplace enforcement and individual worker responsibilities. We also encourage thoughtful legislation protecting businesses from lawsuits related to employee marijuana usage.

Expand STEM and Healthcare Workforce Initiatives (State): Tax credits for aerospace and automotive engineers and employers have helped attract and retain a qualified workforce and contributed to the growth of these industries in Oklahoma. The Broken Arrow Chamber supports and encourages the expansion of these incentives to other STEM fields including advanced manufacturing, information technology, software development and critical health care workforce needs.

Fund Centers for Workforce Excellence (State): Oklahoma's 12 regional Centers for Workforce Excellence support economic development in various industries, providing the know-how to attract, develop and retain new and existing businesses. However, the centers lack the resources to do so on a scale that would have a significant impact on the state's economy. The Broken Arrow Chamber supports and encourages increased funding of these CWEs to carry out and expand their mission of statewide economic development.

Continue Funding of Workforce Impact Grants (State): The Oklahoma Works program offers competitive grants to incentivize collaborative arrangements between the private sector, academia and local/regional economic development organizations. These grassroots collaborations can better focus on building workforce pathways in K-12, vocational training and higher education to better support local and regional needs. The Broken Arrow Chamber urges the legislature to continue funding of these vital grants.

Fund Innovation Centers (State): The Broken Arrow Chamber encourages the Legislature to designate new grant funds to aid counties and municipalities in establishing innovation districts, hubs and centers for business incubation. These centers provide needed collaborative space and resources to unite academia, business and the public sector to create new business and high paying jobs.



EDUCATION

Education: A strong education system is essential in equipping Oklahoma's workforce for tomorrow and for attracting and retaining Broken Arrow residents. An investment in education is an investment in our workforce and our businesses.

Continue Investment in Oklahoma's Education (State): An exceptional education system provides leverage for Oklahoma by creating a competitively equipped and educated workforce, aiding in attracting new businesses and ensuring current businesses have the talent to thrive. The Broken Arrow Chamber supports continued robust and equitable state funding for common education, career tech and higher education, including additional funding for school safety and mental health. The Chamber also encourages legislation to assist in attracting and retaining quality educators for Oklahoma classrooms.

Allow for Concurrent Education and Associate's Degree Attainment in High School (State): Successful pilot programs in Broken Arrow and Union Public Schools allow talented and motivated students to take college classes and complete their associate's degrees while enrolled in high school. This program rewards superior students with a jump start on their four-year education while avoiding substantial costs of the first two years of college. The Broken Arrow Chamber supports expansion of these programs and continued state funding of all concurrent education.

Expand College Choice in the Tulsa Region (State): The Broken Arrow Chamber supports the rights of students and parents to select a four-year institution of their choice in the Tulsa region. Legislation should be changed to remove the prohibition for area public universities such as Northeastern State University, University of Oklahoma-Tulsa, and Oklahoma State University-Tulsa, to teach first- and second-year university courses.

Provide Incentives for Businesses Hiring Interns and Apprentices (State): Internships and apprenticeships for students in high school, career tech or higher education can be vital pathways to meet industry workforce needs. The Broken Arrow Chamber supports incentives for employers to hire interns and apprentices to help offset the cost of on-the-job training and mentoring for students enrolled in these programs.

Expand Financial Aid for Urgent Skills Training (Federal): The Broken Arrow Chamber supports legislation enabling short-term, industry-focused training programs to qualify for federal financial aid, including Pell Grants and federal student loans. Eligibility should be extended to individuals recently released from incarceration to help reestablish themselves in the workforce and to reduce recidivism.



TRANSPORTATION

Transportation: Transportation is an important economic driver in Oklahoma. Continued improvements and investment ensures our state remains competitive in attracting new business.

Fully Fund County Roads Plan (State): To ensure continued improvement to our roads and bridges and to return our streets and highways to a state of good repair, the Broken Arrow Chamber supports and encourages fully funding and raising the funding cap on County Improvement for Roads and Bridges Five Year Plan.

Support Critically Needed Transportation Funding (State): The Broken Arrow Chamber supports and encourages investment in the construction of new and expanded infrastructure for roads, bridges, railroad networks and navigable waterways. The Chamber advocates for continued funding of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Eight Year Plan. Additionally, the Chamber supports funding for the studies, plan development, and highway improvements to upgrade the US-412 corridor between Tulsa and northwest Arkansas to Federal Interstate standards. The Chamber also encourages increased appropriations to ODOT for construction and improvement of all transportation facilities. We support investment in more efficient freight handling and shipping container movement on truck, rail, and barge.
(Issue shared with Tulsa Regional One Voice Legislative Agenda)

Improve Heavy Load Routes (State): In order to meet the needs of manufacturers in Broken Arrow, the Chamber will continue to engage with the Department of Transportation to ensure viable and safe heavy load routes are evaluated throughout northeastern Oklahoma.

Fully Fund Enhanced Turnpike Access (Federal and State): The Broken Arrow Chamber supports the collaborative effort underway among Broken Arrow, Coweta, Wagoner County, Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, and Oklahoma Department of Transportation to develop and implement a funding strategy to add turnpike access and adjacent roadway improvements.

Plan and Fund Elm Street and Lynn Lane Corridors Off Highway 51 (Federal and Local): The Broken Arrow Chamber supports the planning and funding of solutions to address the flow of traffic in two major exits at Elm St. and Lynn Lane off the Highway 51 interchange. We support the provision of funding for the design, engineering and execution of this project as this expansion is crucial to Broken Arrow's continued growth.

HEALTHCARE

Health Care: A strong health care system is vital to Oklahoma's economic growth, providing jobs and attracting and retaining new residents and businesses.

Provide Adequate Financing for Hospitals and Providers (Federal and State): With drastic increases in costs related to delivering health care services, the Broken Arrow Chamber encourages legislators to ensure adequate financing for hospitals and health care providers. Cuts in Medicare funding lead to rising costs for insured Oklahomans.

Oppose Single-Payer Health Care (Federal): The Broken Arrow Chamber opposes a single-payer, government-run health care system and additional government mandates.

Support Market-Driven Health Care Reforms (Federal): Because private sector solutions have proven to be the best approach, the Broken Arrow Chamber supports market-driven health care reforms in order to reduce costs while promoting market stability, efficiency, wellness and quality of care. The Chamber also supports extending virtual care flexibilities and acute care in the home in order to increase patient health care access.

Prevent Increased Costs to Oklahoma Employers and Individuals

(Federal): The Broken Arrow Chamber encourages Congress to refrain from making any changes to the structure and financing of Medicaid that would lead to an increase in Oklahoma's uninsured rate and transfer federal risk and costs to Oklahoma taxpayers. Congress should remain open to innovations that decrease employer-sponsored and individual health insurance costs.

Protect Health Care Workers from Violence (Federal): The Broken Arrow Chamber supports passage of the Safety from Violence for Health Care Employees Act, which subjects people who assault healthcare workers to the same penalties as those who assault flight attendants. The legislation also provides grant funding to help health care facilities coordinate with local police, train employees on violence prevention, and to purchase security equipment.



ECONOMY & TAXES

Oklahoma has an economy primed for growth. The state must continue to have responsive government, low taxes and affordable cost of living. Protecting this competitive environment is key to allowing our businesses to thrive.

Preserve Successful Economic Incentives (State): The Broken Arrow Chamber supports continuing tax credits, exemptions and incentives that provide an economic return to the state and maintain our competitiveness in business attraction and retention, and will increase capital investment. Current incentives include: all Quality Jobs programs, 5-Year Manufacturing Ad Valorem Exemption, Aerospace Engineering Tax Credit, Manufacturers Sales Tax Permit Exemption, Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, Quality Events Program, Automotive Engineering Tax Credit, and Small Business Incubator Tenant Credit. *(Issue shared with Tulsa Regional One Voice Legislative Agenda)*

Ensure Municipal Sales Tax on Groceries is Protected (State): The Broken Arrow Chamber encourages legislators to ensure any repeal of the state sales tax on groceries does not affect the ability of counties and municipalities to collect their portion of the sales tax.

Expand Our Economic Toolbox (State): The Broken Arrow Chamber encourages and supports legislation to allow for creation of Public Infrastructure Districts by municipalities. To remain competitive, Oklahoma must continue to identify tools that support development of infrastructure and amenities for our communities. The creation of a Public Infrastructure District will provide funding opportunities for municipalities and private sector developers to build necessary infrastructure at no added cost to the municipality. The Chamber also opposes any legislation that restricts the ability of our local governments to utilize existing incentives including tax increment financing.

Develop a Manufacturing Innovation Hub (State): The Broken Arrow Chamber supports and encourages changes to enable the Oklahoma Economic Development Pooled Finance program to fund the construction of a public-private manufacturing innovation facility in northeast Oklahoma. By providing shared resources to improve private manufacturing technologies and build out supply chains, this facility would serve as a workforce center of excellence.

Oppose Burdensome Data Privacy Legislation (Federal and State): The Broken Arrow Chamber supports nonburdensome federal data privacy legislation. While recognizing the importance of protection consumer data, the Chamber views a patchwork of state laws as a misguided solution that makes it more difficult for businesses to operate and grow in our state. Proposed state legislation creates a new layer of regulation for small businesses, requiring them to implement new, expensive policies or face financial or legal penalties. *(Issue shared with Tulsa Regional One Voice Legislative Agenda)*

Support Funding for Critical Economic Development Programs (Federal): The Broken Arrow Chamber supports continued investment in targeted federal economic development funding for programs proven to be effective and beneficial to Broken Arrow and the Tulsa Region.

Extend American Indian Lands Tax Credit (Federal): The Broken Arrow Chamber supports long-term extension of the Federal American Indian Lands Tax Credit, a key economic development tool for Oklahoma, allowing both the accelerated depreciation of investments made on former reservation land and providing employment tax credits when employing tribal members or their spouses. should incentivize investment in Oklahoma angel networks. In addition to improving access to capital, efforts should also be made to improve the incentives available to startup, early-stage and small companies by creating targeted new credits & deductions or amending existing programs. This is vital as BA develops the Innovation District.

ENERGY

Oklahoma is a major crude oil and natural gas producing state, providing almost 2.5 times as much energy consumed in the state, exporting the rest, primarily natural gas, petroleum and electricity. All sources of energy are economic drivers for Broken Arrow and the state. Protecting the rights of all energy sources and providing opportunity for continued expansion is crucial for the health of Oklahoma's economy.

Promote Robust Energy (State): The Broken Arrow Chamber supports protecting the vital economic impact of the energy industry and preserving Oklahoma's position as a leading energy producing state by supporting energy policy that provides a clear and reasonable regulatory environment while opposing unnecessary and burdensome regulations and taxes.

Pursue a Hydrogen Economy in Oklahoma (State): The Broken Arrow Chamber strongly supports Oklahoma's emerging hydrogen economy and the state's new Low Carbon Energy Initiative. Overseen by the Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment, this group serves as a strategic program designed to create, advance, and promote new and existing energy research and development, use, supply chain activity, and infrastructure related to Oklahoma's core energy. State leaders should pursue all federal funding sources to create and support research and development facilitated through the Low Carbon Initiative, the state's institutions of higher education, and organizations like the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology and the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance. Incentivize and develop early phase hydrogen operations by exploring tax incentives and loan programs aimed at meeting production standards. Positioning the state as an early leader in hydrogen infrastructure will be a major boon for the state through the creation of new jobs in the latest industries and helping to attract additional outside investments. *(Issue shared with Tulsa Regional One Voice Legislative Agenda)*



Eliminate Barriers to Greater Use of Natural Gas (Federal): The Broken Arrow Chamber supports measures to reduce or eliminate barriers to greater use of American-produced natural gas including CNG, LNG, GTL and NGLs. Department of Energy action on this initiative has the potential to significantly increase our region's job creation in the production and manufacturing sectors.

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