

2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



PREPARED BY THE:



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Members:

Each year, the Broken Arrow Chamber's Business Advocacy Council and Board of Directors work to create an agenda that reflects the needs and positions of Broken Arrow and the Broken Arrow business community. This document is the result of that effort: the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce's 2024 Legislative Agenda.

We partner with other organizations to advocate on behalf of businesses across Oklahoma, but recognize that the Broken Arrow business community has specific concerns we want our elected officials to address.

The Broken Arrow Chamber recognizes that in order to have a prosperous state and community, and for our businesses to succeed, we need critical areas such as infrastructure, healthcare, education and energy to be addressed with a pro-business perspective.

As always, your feedback throughout the year is vital. If we can assist you on any issue, please let any member of our team know.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Conway
President & CEO



Ben Buie
2024 Chairman of the Board



Terry Cupp
2024 Business Advocacy Committee Chair



2024 LEGISLATIVE DEADLINES

59th Legislature, 2nd Regular Session

12/8 Bill Request Deadlines

1/18 Bill Introduction Deadline

2/5 Second Regular Session of the 59th
Oklahoma Legislature convenes

3/21 Third Reading in House of Origin Deadline

4/25 Third Reading in Opposite House Deadline

5/31 Sine Die Adjournment *(No later than 5:00 p.m.)*



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.

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.

BUSINESS ADVOCACY CHAMPIONS



BUSINESS ADVOCACY PARTNERS

BUSINESS ADVOCACY SUPPORTERS



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. Provide additional funding for high-need positions such as special education instruction.

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.

Implement Practical Flexibility in Recruiting & Retaining Educators (State): In light of the statewide teacher shortage and the obstacles non-traditional educators face when transitioning from private sector jobs to teaching, the Broken Arrow Chamber supports efforts to provide flexibility in allowing subject matter experts to become teachers in specialized content areas. The current process for industry professionals and subject matter experts to transition to a teaching career is cumbersome, costly and time-consuming. We support practical flexibility in allowing industry experts to share their expertise in our public school classrooms without an overly taxing certification process. Additionally, we support efforts that more easily allow or incentivize out-of-state educators to become teachers in Oklahoma.



TRANSPORTATION

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

Adequately 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. NOTE: Increased from \$540 million in 2021 to \$804 million in 2023)

Support Critically Needed Transportation Funding (State): Return our streets and highways to a state of good repair by fully funding the projects included in the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Eight Year Plan. Support funding for the studies, plan development, and highway improvements to upgrade the US-412 corridor between Tulsa and Northwest Arkansas to Federal Interstate standards. Increase state appropriations to ODOT for construction and improvement of all transportation facilities of which it has a responsibility to manage effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of citizens, business, and industry. Discontinue the transferring of funding from the state transportation fund to special cash. Support investment in more efficient freight handling and shipping container movement on truck, rail, and barge. Support the proper distribution of state resources and funding to ODOT Divisions responsible for ensuring that all state transportation and infrastructure remains in a state of good repair. Support increased funding for off system bridges to address the most critically needed structurally deficient bridges. *(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 provided 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.

Improve Mobility and Access to BA's Businesses and Resources (State and Federal): The Broken Arrow Chamber supports and encourages additional funding for the City of Broken Arrow from state and federal partners to grow and expand its micro-transit program that provides transportation to the city's underserved communities, such as the elderly and disabled, so they can arrive at vital appointments and have access to services accessible to the rest of BA's population.

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..

Protect Health Care Workers from Violence (Federal):

The Broken Arrow Chamber supports passage of the legislation that subjects people who assault healthcare workers to the same penalties as those who assault flight attendants. The legislation should also provide 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.

Ensure Broken Arrow and Similar Communities Have Equal Access to State Funds (State): The Broken Arrow Chamber strongly encourages the Oklahoma Legislature to ensure that Broken Arrow and other similar non-rural and non-urban core communities have equal access to funds, grants and other state awards. Too often, Broken Arrow and similar communities are overlooked for state funding opportunities as they are neither the urban core nor a rural community. Funding includes, but is not limited to, transportation, economic incentives, grants and education funding.

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)*

Expand Availability of Successful Incentives to More Employers (State): Broken Arrow is home to many employers creating high-wage, in-demand jobs with cutting edge technology and approaches to manufacturing. The current criteria to qualify for some incentives is overly restrictive and punishes innovation. The Broken Arrow Chamber supports a reasonable, responsible flexibility to allow more companies to qualify for incentives

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.

Preserve Consumer Choice for Fuel Source (Federal): Recognizing that the energy industry will undergo changes over the coming decades, consumers deserve the right to choose their fuel source based on free market principles. Whether that refers to the vehicles we drive, or the energy used at homes and businesses, the government should not favor one choice over another. Consumers must have access to affordable, reliable, and efficient fuel. We support reasonable policy based on economic reality and oppose impractical government mandates that place burdensome costs on businesses and citizens, where the impact is especially great on those in lower income communities.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORY

CITY

Mayor Debra Wimpee

Ward 1
dwimpee@brokenarrowok.gov
(918) 251-5311

Vice-Mayor Christi Gillespie

Ward 3
cgillespie@brokenarrowok.gov
(918) 251-5311

Councilmember Lisa Ford

Ward 2
lford@brokenarrowok.gov
(918) 251-5311

Councilor Justin Green

Ward 4
jgreen@brokenarrowok.gov
(918) 251-5311

Councilor Johnnie Parks

At-Large
jparks@brokenarrowok.gov
(918) 251-5311

Michael Spurgeon

City Manager
mspurgeon@brokenarrowok.gov
(918) 251-5311

SCHOOL BOARD

BROKEN ARROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Steve Allen

Board of Education President
Zone 1
sjallen@baschools.org
(918) 259-5731

Jerry Denton

Board of Education Vice President
Zone 5
jwdenton@baschools.org
(918) 259-5731

Brandy Roulet

Board of Education Clerk
Zone 4
broulet@baschools.org
(918) 259-5731

John Cockrell

Board of Education Deputy Clerk
Zone 3
jcockrell@baschools.org
(918) 259-5731

Debbie Taylor

Board of Education Member
Zone 2
dtaylor@baschools.org
(918) 259-5731

UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Heather McAdams

Board of Education President
Zone 3
heathermcadams@cox.net
(918) 691-8275

Stacy Roemerman

Board of Education Vice President
Zone 4
stacey.roemerman@gmail.com
(918) 704-2825

Joey Reyes

Board of Education Clerk
Zone 1
reyes.joey@unionps.org
(918) 734-0626

Dr. Chris McNeil

Board of Education Deputy Clerk
Zone 2
chrismcneilusb@gmail.com
(580) 512-6993

Ken Kinnear

Board of Education Member
Zone 5
kinnear.ken@unionps.org.
(918) 250-8068

COUNTY

Tulsa County Commissioner

Stan Sallee
District 1
ssallee@tulsacounty.org
(918) 596-5020

Tulsa County Commissioner

Karen Keith
District 2
kkeith@tulsacounty.org
(918) 596-5016

Tulsa County Commissioner

Kelly Dunkerley
District 3
kdunkerley@tulsacounty.org
(918) 596-5010

Wagoner County Commissioner

James Hanning
District 1
wagcny3@windstream.net
(918) 357-1927

Wagoner County Commissioner

Chris Edwards
District 2
wagcodist2@windstream.net
(918) 485-4549

Wagoner County Commissioner

Tim Kelley
District 3
wagco3@windstream.net
(918) 486-2132

STATE

Governor Kevin Stitt

governor.ok.gov
(405) 521-2342

Lt. Governor Matt Pinnell

ok.gov/litgovpinnell
(405) 521-2161

Senator Blake Stephens

District 3
blake.stephens@oksenate.gov
(405) 521-5574

Senator Joe Newhouse

District 25
joe.newhouse@oksenate.gov
(405) 521-5675

Senator Nathan Dahm

District 33
nathan.dahm@oksenate.gov
(405) 521-5551

Senator John Haste

District 36
john.haste@oksenate.gov
(405) 521-5602

Representative Kevin McDugle

District 12
kevin.mcdugle@okhouse.gov
(405) 557-7388

Representative Jeff Boatman

District 67
jeff.boatman@okhouse.gov
(405) 557-7341

Representative TJ Marti

District 75
tj.marti@okhouse.gov
(405) 557-7356

Representative Stan May

District 80
stan.may@okhouse.gov
(405) 557-7338

Representative Dean Davis

District 98
dean.davis@okhouse.gov
(405) 557-7362

Representative Ross Ford

District 76
ross.ford@okhouse.gov
(405) 557-7347

FEDERAL

Senator Markwayne Mullin

(202) 224-3121

Senator James Lankford

(202) 224-5754

Congressman Kevin Hern

(918) 935-3222