



# 2025 LEGISLATIVE OUTCOMES







**SARAH DAVASHER-WISDOM**  
President & CEO

# Letter from the CEO

The 2025 Kentucky General Assembly has come to a close. After a busy session, the GLI team and the Greater Louisville business community have big wins to celebrate, including legislation that will make it easier, more affordable, and more efficient to do business in Kentucky.

Over the last five months, GLI has focused on continuing to build relationships with key stakeholders at the state level. These partnerships have and will continue to provide invaluable support in advancing our region's pro-business policies. In addition to these important relationships, GLI successfully advocated for priority legislation to help Greater Louisville thrive, and blocked harmful, anti-growth bills that would hinder economic development and population growth. The following report offers a comprehensive overview of where our top priorities stand at the end of the 2025 legislative session.

Reducing the personal income tax in Kentucky has been a long-term priority for GLI. We proudly advocated for House Bill 1, which brings Kentucky's personal income tax rate down to 3.5 percent. This has been part of a years-long effort to move the state towards a consumption-based taxation system and will help our region better compete with peer communities. House Bill 775 creates new tax options to spur investment in downtown and entertainment venues. We were proud to join the Louisville caucus, Mayor Greenberg, and other local partners in advocating for this legislation, which specifically expands development benefits from the KFC Yum! Center's tax increment financing (TIF) district. This move provides Louisville with another economic development tool for business attraction to the downtown business district. Additionally, this legislation creates a sales tax rebate for entertainment events such as Bourbon & Beyond and Louder Than Life. This will help us retain these events and attract more to Kentucky.

GLI is committed to collaborating with all branches of state government. Our team was proud to work with JCPS and Governor Beshear to translate the Commercial Driver License (CDL) tests into Spanish. This simple policy change will have a big impact in solving JCPS' bus driver shortage by opening up this career to non-English speaking citizens. GLI was also pleased to see a long-term priority come to fruition as the Governor petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to remove the reformulated gas requirement from parts of the Louisville area. This change will lower the cost consumers see at the pump and make travel within the region more accessible. As we continue to see changes like these it's clear that our work is at its best when the business community uses its voice as one.

As the regional economic development organization, we are thrilled with the progress made this year and remain committed to advocating for the business community. We could not have accomplished all of this without your support. On behalf of GLI, we deeply appreciate your continued investment and look forward to building on this success together.

# GLI Advocacy

GLI relies on hundreds of volunteers from the Greater Louisville business community to develop legislative priorities and set positions on key public policy issues that affect economic growth and workforce development. With the support of GLI's Board of Directors, GLI's Public Policy Council advises on all advocacy positions with the assistance of five Issue Advisory Committees. The dedicated volunteers that lead the Public Policy Council and GLI's Issue Advisory Committees and the hundreds of members who give their time are the key to GLI's success in advocating for the business community's priorities:

## **PUBLIC POLICY COUNCIL**

Chair – Les Fugate, Brown-Forman

## **REGIONAL BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS**

Chair – Jim Dahlem, Dahlem Company

## **EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Chair – DeVone Holt, Muhammad Ali Center

## **ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

Chair – Jennifer Cave, Stites & Harbison

## **HEALTH CARE**

Chair – Lourdes Baez, Baptist Health

## **TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Chair – David Beck, Kentucky Venues

## **GLI GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**



**SARAH DAVASHER-WISDOM**  
President & CEO



**SHELBY SOMERVELL**  
Senior Vice President,  
Government Affairs &  
External Relations



**OLIVIA OLSON**  
Senior Director,  
Communications & PR



**HELEN HACKER**  
Director, Government  
Affairs & Policy

# Legislative Wins

## INCOME TAX REDUCTION

GLI commends the Kentucky General Assembly for passing House Bill 1 (J. Petrie) to again lower the state's personal income tax. Reducing and eventually eliminating the personal income tax has been a long-term priority for the Greater Louisville business community and will be pivotal for attracting and retaining businesses, talent, and investment. HB 1 moves Kentucky's income tax from 4 percent to 3.5 percent, and builds on reforms made in previous years to strengthen our economy and create a more competitive tax model. This reduction will take effect January 1, 2026.

## KENTUCKY FILM OFFICE

Senate Bill 1 (P. Wheeler) establishes the Kentucky Film Office. This office would dedicate specific resources and staff to attract film producers to the state in conjunction with the Kentucky Film Tax Incentive Program established in 2023. This legislation demonstrates the state's commitment to economic growth in lucrative fields, with the film industry generating \$200 million in 2022 in Kentucky. We look forward to the growth of the film industry in Kentucky through initiatives such as increased marketing and a website with streamlined information for film producers.

"Louisville's downtown is one of the Commonwealth's greatest assets. We must continue to support efforts to keep downtown vibrant and welcoming for citizens and tourists alike. Legislation like House Bill 775 supports businesses looking to plant roots in our urban core and gives new tools to economic development organizations working to bring them in."

– **House Majority Whip  
Jason Nemes**

## INTERNAL REVENUE BOND EXPANSION

Senate Bill 25 (R. Mills) changes the definition of 'building' to include multi-family housing over 48 units for the purposes of industrial revenue bonds. This legislation adds another tool for developers working with local governments to address housing shortages and eliminates financial and bureaucratic barriers for getting projects off the ground. GLI is pleased to see the General Assembly implementing the recommendations of the 2024 Interim Housing Task Force in addressing housing shortages across the Commonwealth and looks forward to continuing this momentum in the 2026 Session.

"Theft and vandalism of critical communications infrastructure are serious matters and the ripple effects can be devastating, hindering everything from daily business transactions to emergency response efforts. Furthermore, dollars spent for rebuilding and repairs required due to this critical infrastructure sabotage are dollars which cannot be used for network upgrades or expansions. We are grateful to the members of the Kentucky General Assembly for providing an additional avenue to combat this problem and its impact on our communities."

– **Carlos Sanchez  
President AT&T Kentucky**

## COPPER THEFT

Senate Bill 64 (B. Storm) adds telecommunications infrastructure to the list of key infrastructure assets included in the definition and punishment of criminal mischief. This legislation addresses the ongoing rise in copper theft throughout the Commonwealth, which can interfere with telecommunication service and place a costly burden on telecommunications companies. GLI applauds the work of the General Assembly in their collaboration with businesses to address this issue.

## YUM CENTER TIF

House Bill 775 (J. Nemes) allows changes to be made within the Tax Incentive Financing (TIF) district that was established with the construction of the KFC Yum! Center in 2010. HB 775 creates a "TIF within a TIF," expanding development benefits to areas of downtown that were previously precluded from benefit by the initial TIF's parameters. This legislation expands the tools available to the city for bringing business to downtown. As Louisville's urban core continues to transition into a new phase of business and tourism, this expansion of incentives is critical for continuing the momentum we've seen and allows local officials to bolster business attraction to our central business district.

## DATA PRIVACY

House Bill 473 (J. Branscum) builds on the success of House Bill 15 in the 2024 session, establishing business-friendly data privacy protections for consumers. Businesses often bear the brunt of the cost for compliance where data privacy is concerned. HB 473 shows that the General Assembly understands that burden and seeks to balance consumer protection and business cost in this emerging policy area.



Sen. Julie Raque Adams, R-Louisville, testifying on Senate Bill 129 in committee. Photo Credit: LRC Public Information

### ENTERTAINMENT TAX REBATE

House Bill 775 (J. Nemes) creates a process for entertainment venues to access a sales tax rebate for qualifying events. This creates a tax rebate for events within the state like music festivals or large-scale attractions that drive tourism. With the success of events like Bourbon and Beyond, Louder Than Life and the Kentucky Derby, these rebates will allow Louisville to continue building on its reputation as an entertainment city and attract new tourism opportunities to the state.

### MANUFACTURED HOMES

House Bill 160 (S. Witten) bars local governments from treating manufactured housing differently than other housing for zoning purposes. This legislation guarantees that a local government and its residents will have access to all options for housing as they work to address shortages across the Commonwealth. GLI continues to work alongside elected officials to address housing shortages and see that no option is off the table as we work to make a dent in access to affordable housing.

“As chair of the Interim Housing Task Force, I heard firsthand how dire housing shortages are throughout the Commonwealth. House Bill 160 is just the beginning. This legislation builds upon the task force’s momentum and levels the playing field to ensure that all housing options are considered by local governments equally.”

– Rep. Susan Witten

### OSHA ALIGNMENT

House Bill 398 (W. Thomas) aligns Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) regulations with federal regulations. GLI supports this bill as we work with our coalition partners to ensure that Kentucky is not putting undue burden on businesses looking to comply with health and safety standards. Aligning with federal rules would make compliance across state lines easier and would remove burdensome compliance costs for businesses operating in multiple jurisdictions.

## Impactful to Louisville

### PLANNING AND ZONING

Senate Bill 129 (J. Raque Adams) alters zoning laws in counties with consolidated local governments to prohibit rental of accessory dwelling units or multi-family housing units in areas zoned for single family unless the property owner resides on the lot. It also prohibits a planning commission from waiving or amending binding elements without the approval of the local legislative body.

### REFORMULATED GAS

Senate Joint Resolution 28 (J. Raque Adams) requested that the Governor petition the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to remove the reformulated gas requirement in Jefferson County and parts of Oldham and Bullitt Counties. Governor Beshear submitted this petition on February 11, 2025 before the end of session. This requirement came in 1995 as a mandate from the EPA to help address air pollution in the region. In practice this requirement means drivers pay more at the pump than other neighboring counties. In addition to these requests that should be made at the federal level, the resolution also directs the Energy and Environment Cabinet to adopt revisions to the state air quality implementation plan to remove the reformulated gas requirement.

### POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

House Bill 4 (J. Decker) prohibits universities from participating in or funding any initiatives related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This includes maintaining dedicated offices, funding scholarships, and teaching courses on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Economic inclusion and talent attraction are two core pieces of GLI’s mission, and this session we opposed this legislation that will create an unwelcoming environment in our region.



# Missed Opportunities

## PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT

House Bill 797 (J. Bauman) outlined a plan for reworking the property tax abatement structure in place at the state level. The state currently only allows local governments to abate property taxes for five years and only on new development. This constitutional amendment proposal would have removed the five-year limit and expanded the abatement option to renovations. This policy would not only make Kentucky more competitive with neighboring states like Ohio, who can abate property taxes for over 20 years, but also gives local municipalities another tool to bring economic development projects to their area.

## CENTRALIZED TAX

House Bill 253 (J. Bauman) would have centralized local tax filings at the state level. This would allow companies who do business in multiple jurisdictions to save on compliance costs for filing in individual jurisdictions.

## HOUSING DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

Senate Bill 50 (R. Mills) would have allowed local governments and developers to invest in public infrastructure while keeping state and municipal revenues neutral. This legislation provides guidance on how municipalities can establish Infrastructure Development Districts (IDD). These development districts would allow for financing of projects within their borders to be financed through bonds between the city and the developer. In practice this legislation would allow developers to build quickly and access incentives for development in a more direct way.



House Appropriations and Revenue Chair  
Jason Petrie at GLI's Capitol Connection.

## HOUSING DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

House Bill 7 (J. Bray) would have allowed local governments to establish development districts where they are able to leverage local taxes to encourage housing development. In practice, this legislation would allow local governments to establish incremental repayments of property taxes within the boundaries of the development districts. This bill would add another tool for local governments to leverage when attracting development.

## SECOND CHANCE LICENSURE

House Bill 87 (E. Callaway) encourages public employers and licensing boards to establish a correspondence protocol for applicants who inquire if previous criminal offenses would preclude them from a position or license. As it stands, there is no state guidance on how employers should respond to inquiries regarding criminal history and eligibility, which leads to applicants or those supporting reskilling initiatives incurring costs for a position or career path that was never achievable. This legislation provides that guidance and is a critical first step toward making Kentucky a leader on second chance employment. GLI has supported this bill since its inception and its efforts to bring more underutilized populations into the workforce.



GLI's Most Valuable Policymakers of the 2024 session after their recognition.

# Protecting Your Interests

Every session bills are filed that would be harmful to the business community in the Greater Louisville area and beyond. GLI is proud to have played a key role in blocking several pieces of legislation that would have hindered growth for our region including:

- Anti-inclusion legislation that would have limited programming in K-12 schools.
- Legislation that would have created a right of action against businesses that had DEI programming in place.
- Legislation that would infringe on an employer's ability to issue health and safety standards in their businesses.



Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman at a GLI event.

"GLI's presence in Frankfort continues to move the needle on major issues facing the business community. Pro-business policies are critical to long-term economic growth and GLI is a champion for growing our region in Frankfort."

## – Les Fugate

**Vice President Director, Public Affairs, U.S. State and Local, Canada, & Latin America, Brown-Forman  
GLI Public Policy Council Chair**



Senate Majority Whip Mike Wilson, House Majority Whip Jason Nemes, Sen. Mike Nemes, Rep. Ken Fleming at GLI's Legislative Reception.



# 2025 Most Valuable Policymakers

GLI recognizes lawmakers from our region and in legislative leadership who support key legislative priorities of the Greater Louisville business community. The lawmakers below voted in line with GLI priorities 100% of the time. Lawmakers like these are vital to improving our region's business competitiveness. See the next two pages to read more about the voting records of lawmakers from Greater Louisville.

## HOUSE MVPS

Speaker David Osborne  
Speaker Pro Tempore  
David Meade  
Majority Floor Leader  
Steven Rudy  
Majority Caucus Chair  
Suzanne Miles

Majority Whip  
Jason Nemes  
Rep. Jared Bauman  
Rep. Steve Bratcher  
Rep. Emily Callaway  
Rep. Josh Calloway

Rep. Jennifer Decker  
Rep. Ken Fleming  
Rep. Peyton Griffie  
Rep. Samara Heavrin  
Rep. John Hodgson

Rep. Thomas Huff  
Rep. Chris Lewis  
Rep. James Tipton  
Rep. Susan Witten

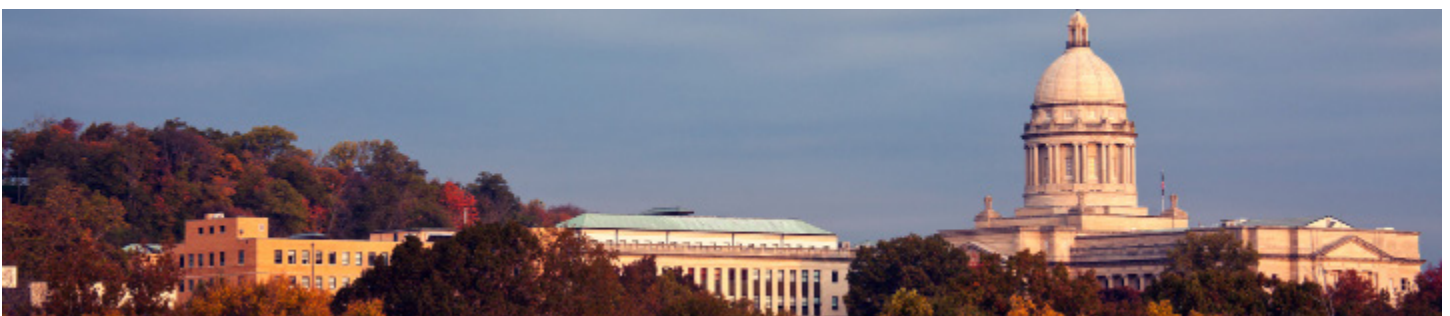
## SENATE MVPS

President Robert Stivers  
President Pro Tempore  
David Givens  
Majority Floor Leader  
Max Wise

Majority Caucus Chair  
Robby Mills  
Majority Whip  
Mike Wilson

Sen. Julie Raque Adams  
Sen. Matthew Deneen  
Sen. Jimmy Higdon

Sen. Stephen Meredith  
Sen. Aaron Reed  
Sen. Lindsey Tichenor





# Scorecard

## House Voting Record

Legislator	% Support	HB1	HB160	HB473	SB64	HB398	SB25	SB1	HB775
Bauman, Jared	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊖	⊖	⊖
Bojanowski, Tina	62.50%	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Bratcher, Steve	100.00%	⊖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Burke, Lindsey	50.00%	✓	⊖	⊖	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Callaway, Emily	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Calloway, Josh	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊖	⊖	✓
Chester-Burton, Beverly	42.90%	✗	✓	✓	⊖	✗	✗	✓	✗
Decker, Jennifer	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊖
Fleming, Ken	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gentry, Alan	71.40%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	⊖	✓	✗
Griffee, Peyton	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grossberg, Daniel	75.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Heavrin, Samara	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hodgson, John	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Huff, Thomas	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kulkarni, Nima	50.00%	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Lewis, Chris	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marzian, Mary Lou	60.00%	✗	✓	✓	✓	⊖	✗	⊖	⊖
Massaroni, Candy	75.00%	✓	✗	✓	✓	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
Meade, David	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Miles, Suzanne	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊖
Nemes, Jason	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Osborne, David W.	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rabourn, Felicia	62.50%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Roarx, Rachel	62.50%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Rudy, Steven	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stalker, Sarah	50.00%	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Stevenson, Pamela	62.50%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Tate, Nancy	87.50%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Tipton, James	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Watkins, Joshua	71.40%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	⊖	✓	✗
Willner, Lisa	50.00%	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Witten, Susan	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Scorecard

## Senate Voting Record

Legislator	% Support	HB1	SB1	HB473	HB398	HB160	SB64	SB25	HB775
Adams, Julie Raque	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Armstrong, Cassie Chambers	50.00%	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Berg, Karen	42.90%	✗	✓	✓	✗	⊖	✓	✗	✗
Deneen, Matthew	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Givens, David P.	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Herron, Keturah	62.50%	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Higdon, Jimmy	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meredith, Stephen	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mills, Robby	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Neal, Gerald A.	50.00%	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓
Nemes, Michael J.	87.50%	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reed, Aaron	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stivers, Robert	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thomas, Reginald	75.00%	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Tichenor, Lindsey	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wilson, Mike	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wise, Max	100.00%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yates, David	75.00%	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓







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