



# 2026

## STATE AGENDA



## **SHELBY SOMERVELL**

Senior Vice President,  
Government Affairs &  
External Relations

# A NOTE FROM OUR ADVOCACY TEAM

---

Dear Investor,

As the regional chamber of commerce, GLI proudly represents our region's business community across all levels of government. Each year, we engage directly with businesses on their biggest challenges and identify policies to solve them. The 2026 State Agenda comprehensively outlines GLI's long-term priorities and top initiatives we will advocate for during the upcoming legislative session. As we enter the budget session, GLI will work to support and elevate the budget requests of our community organizations and partners who are working to improve our region every day. In addition, GLI will advocate for policies that will help grow and expand the Greater Louisville Region.

Over the last several years, the Kentucky General Assembly has made tremendous strides in making the state's tax climate more competitive. However, a number of barriers still exist to compete with our neighboring states. This session, GLI will continue to advocate for changes to the Kentucky Business Investment (KBI) program. The KBI program is critical for attracting and expanding companies, but its current structure excludes many of Kentucky's fastest-growing sectors, like business services and technology. By expanding certain eligible cost criteria of the program to include things like lab equipment, software, and leasehold improvements, Kentucky can better attract high-wage employers and diversify its economy for long-term growth.

Another top priority for GLI is attracting and retaining talent. Through work with our coalition partners, GLI helped secure \$250,000 in the 2024 budget session for the state to hire a consultant to help outline a statewide talent attraction strategy. GLI was proud to work in the interim with the consultants, coalition partners, and legislators to build out an initial strategy. Many states and communities across the country are investing in talent attraction marketing tactics to address workforce shortages, and Kentucky must work to remain competitive with our peers. In the coming session, GLI will advocate for additional investment and implementation of the state's talent attraction strategy.

A critical part of getting talent to move here is making sure Kentucky has enough quality, affordable housing options. GLI appreciates the General Assembly's establishment of the Interim Housing Taskforce and their work on a comprehensive analysis of the housing shortage across the Commonwealth. While every community's needs are different, Greater Louisville would see the most benefit from addressing stifling land use policies that make building the homes we need cost prohibitive for developers. Additionally, as the development community works to fill the gaps, incentives that help reduce financing burdens will allow for these projects to be completed expeditiously across the region.

These are just a few of the policies GLI will advocate for as we enter into a new legislative session. We look forward to working with elected officials and community partners to make a positive impact for the Greater Louisville region. Our 2026 State Agenda was built through months of collaboration with GLI's five issue advisory committees, Public Policy Council, and Board of Directors. Your investment and feedback are essential to our ability to advocate on your behalf in Frankfort. With your continued support, we look forward to a successful 2026 Legislative Session that drives meaningful progress for our region.

Sincerely,

# STATE AGENDA AT A GLANCE

---

## BI-STATE

- Establish economic development incentive reciprocity with Indiana
- Support infrastructure and land development in Southern Indiana
- Ease licensing rules across state lines
- Fund regional public transportation
- Explore ways to decrease or eliminate tolls for Louisville-area bridges
- Expand access to regional broadband
- Support continued funding for READI 2.0
- Support tuition reciprocity in Kentucky and Indiana

## BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

- Invest in cybersecurity infrastructure and build a pipeline for workforce
- Ensure protections for drug-free employers
- Strengthen economic development programs to increase Kentucky's competitiveness and make programs available to more industries and businesses
- Ensure parity of Kentucky's signature Bourbon industry by streamlining alcohol taxes on canned cocktails
- Streamline Kentucky labor laws to lower tax burden while supporting communities
- Support pro-growth land development policies
- Reduce public pension costs
- Continue work to improve public safety and increase accountability
- Expand programs that support small businesses and entrepreneurs
- Build on Kentucky's state tax reform progress and pass local tax reform legislation
- Support tourism, hospitality, and the arts

## EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

- Attract and retain skilled workforce through relocation and student loan incentives
- Funding for statewide talent attraction campaign with dedicated funding for regional initiatives
- Examine benefits cliff to ensure smooth transition and continued unemployment for those easing off benefits

- Enact meaningful criminal justice reform to support re-entry and continued employment
- Increase funding for K-12 and higher education
- Fund substance abuse disorder treatment and recovery programs
- Maintain a diverse and inclusive workforce by opposing harmful legislation that could be perceived as discriminatory or unwelcoming
- Encourage second chance hiring
- Stabilize the child care sector and engage the business community in solutions and partnerships
- Remove barriers to workforce participation and educational and training opportunities
- Address young adults and youth that are disconnected from community through programs that connect them with educational and employment opportunities

## ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

- Ensure energy affordability
- Retain regulatory professionals
- Fund brownfield remediation programs
- Implement reliable and efficient charging network to support growth of electric vehicles

## HEALTH CARE

- Improve health of Kentucky's workforce
- Maintain certificate of need
- Fund the Kentucky Healthcare Workforce Investment fund
- Enact reforms to Medicaid system

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

- Increase investment in mobility
- Invest in water and sewer infrastructure
- Increase infrastructure funding and modernize Kentucky's road aid formula
- Develop multi-modal fund for investment in public transportation, aviation, ports, and freight
- Facilitate growth of communications infrastructure through incentives and by streamlining regulatory processes

# REGIONAL BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

---

## BI-STATE TAX INCENTIVES

Kentucky and Indiana should finalize a framework allowing companies whose workforces reside in both states to take full advantage of existing economic development incentives. A business based in Kentucky should receive credit for creating a job even if the employee lives in Southern Indiana, and vice versa. Incentive reciprocity would support regional economic development efforts and more effectively promote regionalism in Greater Louisville. In addition, for large-scale, high-impact economic development opportunities, GLI encourages Indiana and Kentucky to coordinate on incentive packages to help optimize the region's ability to attract new businesses and support major business expansions.

## PLANNING FOR FUTURE GROWTH & INVESTMENT

With new businesses starting, expanding, and relocating to Southern Indiana alongside a rapidly increasing population, Southern Indiana has seen significant growth in recent years. GLI encourages the Indiana General Assembly to strategically plan for the region's future by encouraging land development and redevelopment and adequately funding infrastructure

projects. To further prepare for future growth and economic development, Indiana must continue its support and increase its investment in public transportation in Southern Indiana to preserve and expand routes and ensure the efficient movement of workers, tourists, students, and customers. An increased investment in state funds for public transportation will ensure that our region can support capital and infrastructure investments by leveraging federal funds available through the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act.

## PROFESSIONAL LICENSING AND CREDENTIALING

Indiana and Kentucky should work proactively to remove barriers to work and regionalism by allowing licensed or credentialed professionals to work on either side of the Ohio River without the burden of seeking additional licenses or certifications or requiring them or their employers to pay additional fees. Both states should ensure that their licensing and credentialing processes do not prevent regional employers from finding the talent they need to grow their businesses.

**Greater Louisville** has a labor force participation rate of **65.6%.**

(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics)



## QUALITY OF PLACE & CONNECTIVITY

The parks and pedestrian and cycling pathways along the waterfronts of Louisville and Southern Indiana make Greater Louisville more competitive in attracting and retaining talent and improve quality of life. Policymakers in Kentucky and Indiana should strategically invest in key quality of place projects such as the Ohio River Greenway, Louisville Loop, and Waterfront Park and fully leverage the unique asset of the Falls of the Ohio State Park to attract national and international attention and programming to our region. Lawmakers should support increased connectivity between Louisville and Southern Indiana through initiatives such as connecting Portland and New Albany with a second regional pedestrian bridge.

With the increased availability of federal grants, GLI encourages state and local governments in Southern Indiana and Greater Louisville to work together to explore ways to decrease or eliminate tolls for the Louisville area bridges. Current tolling rates combined with planned increases tied to inflation place an undue burden on our region's workforce and discourage commerce and travel through this integral corridor. The Joint Board & Tolling Board should consider ways to ease the burden on businesses and the workforce that regularly use the bridge including limiting rate increases and investing in methods of monthly rates that are amenable to the work schedule of hybrid workers who may not be in the office over 20 days a month. By investing in these changes, the Board would signal steps towards creating a stronger regional connection across the river.

## REGIONAL BROADBAND ACCESS

Beyond physical connections, broadband access across Southern Indiana and Greater Louisville is critical for further economic development and connectivity. Policymakers in both states should continue leveraging available federal and state funding in partnership with internet service providers.

## SOUTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

GLI supports efforts to attract and retain talent in Southern Indiana through the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) and the formation of the Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority. This multi-county partnership allows the Greater Louisville region to leverage competitive state grant funding for economic development and quality-of-place projects. The Indiana General Assembly should continue to dedicate funding to this important initiative.



Over **1,000,000**  
workers are set to **exit**  
the **Kentucky** workforce  
over the **next 10 years.**

(KY Stats)

## TUITION RECIPROCITY

GLI is pleased to see the continued expansion of tuition reciprocity throughout the bi-state region. Tuition reciprocity between Kentucky and Indiana increases access and choice for students pursuing higher education and helps to remove barriers to regionalism in Greater Louisville. Lawmakers and higher education authorities in both states should actively work to support the timely renewal of Kentucky and Indiana's tuition reciprocity agreement and the participation of regional institutions.

## CYBERSECURITY

With rising tensions across the globe, the threat to businesses in the United States and Kentucky from cybersecurity attacks and data breaches are rapidly increasing. Cybercriminals are targeting businesses of all sizes, from major health care systems to small main street retail establishments. Investing in cyber-ranges and related infrastructure to allow appropriate testing and preparation will allow businesses in the state to securely operate today and in the future. Building the pipeline for a trained cybersecurity workforce is essential to keeping Kentucky businesses competitive. GLI encourages the Kentucky General Assembly to invest in cybersecurity education, innovation, and research. Furthermore, state government officials should continue to invest in and modernize their own cybersecurity defenses, on their own and through appropriate partnerships with the federal government.

## DRUG-FREE WORKPLACES

Workers terminated for violating an employer's drug-free workplace standards should not be eligible to receive unemployment benefits. GLI recommends further amendments that ensure workplace safety with regards to workers compensation claims. The General Assembly should add language that clarifies if a drug test indicates the presence of marijuana or other controlled substances in the system of a registered qualified medical marijuana patient/worker following an accident during work hours, it will be presumed that the worker was under the influence and the injury was caused by the intoxication unless proven otherwise. This presumption can only be overcome by clear and convincing evidence. If it is not, then an employer is not responsible for wage replacement.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Growing the region's economy through business attraction and expansion efforts is one of GLI's foremost priorities. Business expansions and new employers in Greater Louisville create jobs and provide opportunities for all. Targeted economic development incentives offered by the state play a key role in helping businesses get off the ground, expand operations, and locate new facilities and headquarters in the region.

In the upcoming session, the Kentucky General Assembly must continue to support successful and effective economic development incentive tools and explore ways to increase Kentucky's competitiveness. Greater Louisville is proud to be a manufacturing hub and hopes to continue to attract manufacturing to the region. In addition to manufacturing, attracting other businesses that may not be as capital intensive, but which produce in high-wage, high-demand jobs is paramount for diversification of the market. This diversification would require an amendment to the Kentucky Business Investment (KBI) program to include recurring software subscriptions or licensing fees and the initial software and licensing costs associated with each new full-time job created as eligible costs to qualify for the incentive program. These changes would allow us to scale our homegrown companies and small businesses and attract cutting-edge enterprises. As the General Assembly works to lower the personal income tax, the business community wants to stay engaged with legislators to ensure that the KBI program remains a strong and valuable economic development tool, and that its impact is not diminished.

**In 2025 Louisville ranked 9th in Gross  
Regional Product compared to 17 peer markets.**

(Lightcast)



Louisville needs additional tools to attract new businesses, help existing businesses expand, and retain businesses. It is vitally important that all existing tax credit and incentive programs in Kentucky are working at maximum levels of effectiveness, and more incentive dollars are needed. GLI encourages the Kentucky General Assembly to examine existing programs to see where additional opportunities to spur business growth might exist. Where feasible, incentive programs should encourage patronization of Kentucky-based businesses. In addition, Kentucky should more effectively leverage tools to support investment in economically distressed areas, such as increasing the annual cap on the New Markets Development Program Tax Credit. GLI also supports strengthening Kentucky's Qualified Research Facility Tax Credit to help position Greater Louisville as a center for innovation and ideation.

## DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

GLI supports a local property tax abatement to help spur economic development. Currently, the allowed property tax abatement can only last up to five years. The abatement should be expanded to allow for new buildings, and the five year limitation should be removed to allow for flexibility based on the project. Property tax abatement programs can stimulate economic development by incentivizing

property improvements and investments. By reducing or eliminating property taxes for a certain period, these programs encourage property owners to undertake redevelopment projects, construct new buildings, or renovate existing properties.

GLI also supports incentivizing the conversion of downtown office buildings into residential, hospitality, retail, and entertainment.

## KENTUCKY BOURBON

The General Assembly must work to protect and grow Kentucky's homegrown Bourbon industry. The Greater Louisville region has benefitted more than anywhere else in the state by the global success of Kentucky Bourbon. Recent policies adopted by the General Assembly ensure distilleries in our region and throughout the state can continue to create unique tourism experiences and attract more visitors along the Kentucky Bourbon Trail.

Even though 95% of the world's supply of Bourbon is produced in Kentucky, other states have taken notice and want what Kentucky has. The General Assembly should continue to elevate our signature industry by lowering the tax burden and reducing unnecessary regulations.

GLI supports parity with the treatment of spirits, wine, and beer, and therefore supports streamlining alcohol taxes on canned cocktails by fairly taxing the alcohol by volume (ABV) similarly among alcohol types, as well as allowing all canned cocktails with similar ABV.

## KENTUCKY LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS

To enhance workforce flexibility and ensure our region's competitiveness, GLI opposes new state and local mandates. When regulations are enacted at the state and local level which differ from proven, uniform protections, it creates an added cost of doing business for employers and reduces Kentucky's ability to compete with peer cities and states. Lawmakers should pursue programs and policies that allow for voluntary participation, including for voluntary paid leave insurance products. This would give employers a new option to support working families and attract and retain workers.

GLI recognizes efforts in the General Assembly to clarify issues related to employee classification and misclassification in the construction industry. Legislation to address worker classification and misclassification in Kentucky should protect independent contractor relationships and ensure competitive parity for all businesses. Legislation on this issue must not result in overregulating impacted industries, negatively impacting economic development, or exacerbating workforce challenges.

## LAND DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT

Land development and redevelopment strongly supports economic growth, job creation, housing affordability, improved quality of life, and urban density. While many decisions regarding land development and redevelopment policy are made locally, the General Assembly can and should play a positive role in promoting pro-growth land-use policies. GLI encourages changes at the state level to make Kentucky more competitive, including:

- Enacting a state workforce housing credit to make affordable accessible housing projects more financially feasible for the private sector.
- Support the state affordable housing trust fund by increasing the fee collected from deed transfers to fund affordable housing projects across the state.
- Expand access to Kentucky Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program beyond its current restriction to just financial institutions and allow flexibility of funds for commercial and residential projects.
- Restructuring statutory language on TIF financing to make it more accessible to developers including evaluating the efficacy of the net-new calculation, lowering the minimum investment threshold required to qualify for financing, raising the cap on multi-use projects, or allowing developers to access more TIF financing upfront.
- Aligning state economic development incentives with federal programs such as Opportunity Zones and, New Market Tax Credits to support business development in these areas and remain competitive with our neighboring states.

## PENSION REFORM

The General Assembly has made progress in recent years to invest in the unfunded liability of Kentucky's public pension funds. However, further reforms are needed to ensure that the state's economic potential is not restricted and that lawmakers can continue to make much-needed investments in key growth areas such as education, childcare, and workforce development. Members of the General Assembly must work together to enact sustainable reforms to ensure system solvency and reduce costs for the state government and local governments throughout the Commonwealth.

## PUBLIC SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

GLI and our public safety partners continue to monitor gang-related violent crimes. Group leaders often use underage individuals to carry out these crimes to minimize criminal penalties. This not only increases violence in our community but also perpetuates cycles of violence in youth. Lawmakers should continue to address these crimes happening throughout our city to ensure that the community is safe, and the leaders of tomorrow are not being lost to a cycle of violence. GLI is proud to support and have seen the benefits of the group violence intervention program (GVI) and hopes to see lawmakers continue to support its programming in the upcoming session.

GLI encourages Kentucky lawmakers to consider allowing consolidated governments defined under KRS 67C the ability to use cameras automated enforcement as an option for traffic control at intersections. Studies have shown the effectiveness of automated enforcement can reduce fatal crashes by 21%. While automated enforcement can raise concerns regarding due process and privacy, many states have structured their laws to treat violations resulting from red-light cameras similarly to parking tickets, in which they would not affect a driver's record or insurance rates. Implementation should be based on safety concerns, concentrating on problem intersections with a history of crash data and violations.

Lawmakers should provide state funding for new resources and new technology to local police departments, as well as to combat violent crime. Regarding gang violence, much of the violence is perpetrated by a small number of individuals who are on the radar of police. Lawmakers should enact a state wiretapping law to monitor and apprehend gang leaders to prevent violent crimes in our community. With a significant percentage of violent crime being gang-related, this is crucial to identifying and apprehending group leaders, thereby reducing violent crime in Louisville. Kentucky is one of the few states that does not have a wiretapping law.

## SMALL BUSINESSES, START-UPS, AND ENTREPRENEURS

Creating an environment where small businesses, start-ups, and entrepreneurs of all backgrounds thrive is key to the future of Greater Louisville's economy. The General Assembly can continue to support these types of businesses and employers in the Commonwealth by maintaining full funding of Kentucky's Small Business Development Center, expanding the Angel Investment Tax Credit Program to allow for all Kentucky counties to take advantage of the full available credit, continuing the SBIR/STTR Matching Funds Award Program, and continuing to support entrepreneurial



# Gun related deaths are **down by 25%** year to date from 2024.

(Louisville Metro Gun Violence Dashboard)

programming. Increasing flexibility for state investment dollars and reducing barriers to start new businesses should be prioritized.

Fostering an environment where small businesses and start-up entrepreneurs have access to institutional knowledge and resources is essential for their success and the strength of our local economy. GLI encourages the General Assembly to continue funding through the Kentucky Cabinet of Economic Development for entrepreneurial mentorship programs like Amplify Louisville's entrepreneurship-in-residence programs and University of Louisville's executive-in-residence program.

GLI supports policy solutions to promote inclusion and minority business growth, such as the modernization of government contracts and certification, contract set asides for minority businesses, tax policies and other benefits, funding of business development programs, and investment opportunities. Raising the state's small purchase limit to \$50,000 (from its current level of \$20,000) would encourage state spending directly from Kentucky's small businesses, many of whom do not have the administrative capacity to competitively bid for every relatively small procurement opportunity.

Furthermore, to expand the option of entrepreneurship to more Kentuckians, GLI supports the addition of small business owner eligibility language to Kentucky's existing Employee Child Care Assistance program.

## STATE TAX REFORM

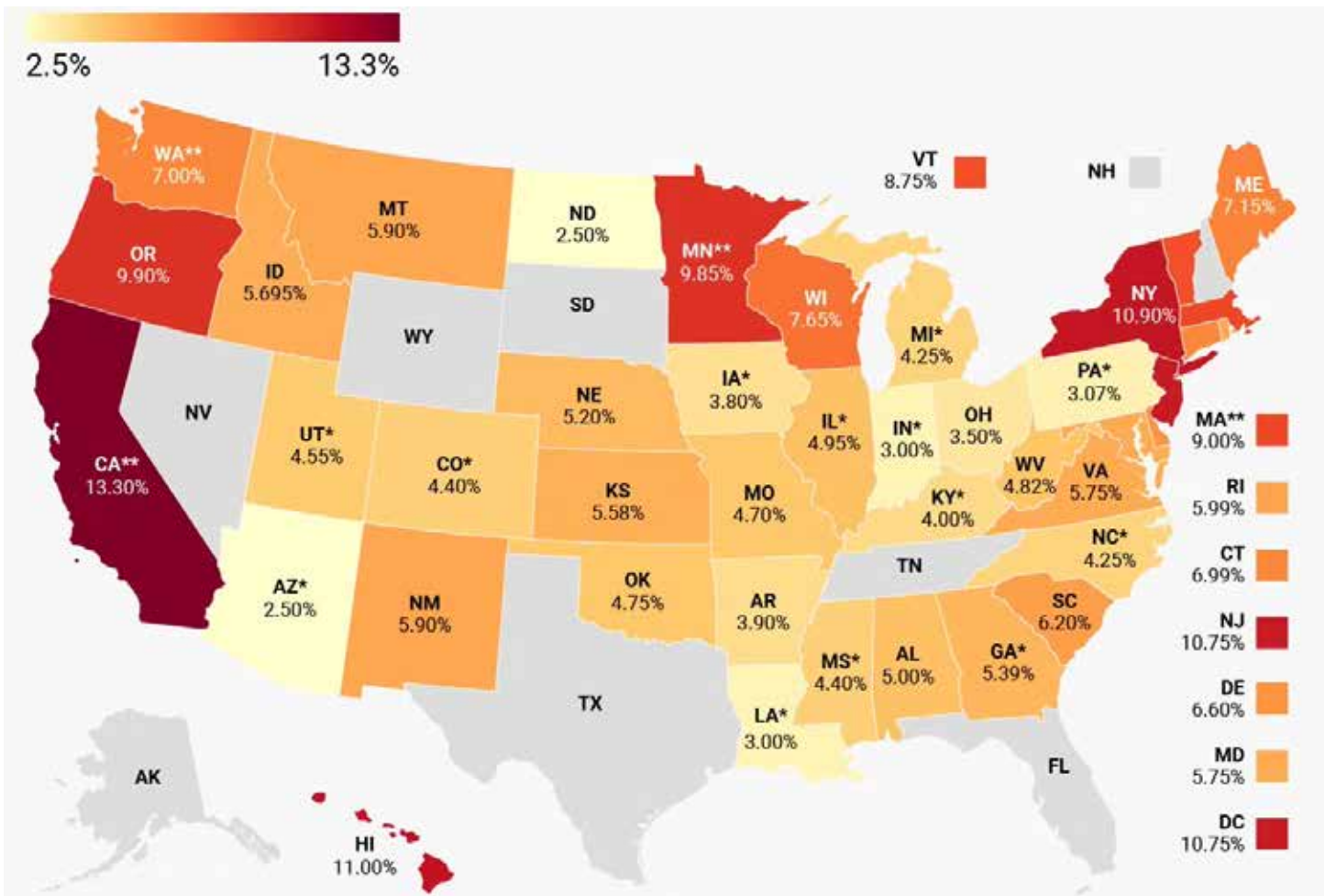
In a 21st century economy where businesses and talent can locate wherever they choose, Kentucky must provide a business-friendly environment to attract, grow, and retain tomorrow's employers. GLI firmly believes that creating an environment for business success will place the Commonwealth on a path of unprecedented momentum that will only increase with time.

GLI looks forward to seeing the General Assembly continue to lower the state's individual income tax rate. These reforms improved Kentucky's tax code and will support economic growth and the Commonwealth's business competitiveness.

Lawmakers should remain focused on continuing to make tax policy in Kentucky more competitive with surrounding states and encourage business growth in the Commonwealth. This should include decreasing the state's outdated reliance on production-based taxes and allowing for comprehensive tax reform at the local level.

GLI supports repealing the limited liability entity tax (LLET). However, if retained, the cost of goods sold (COGS) definition must be modified to align Kentucky's LLET COGS definition with that of the COGS definition for federal and Kentucky income tax purposes. GLI supports identifying mechanisms to replace lost revenues from an LLET repeal, provided that the outcome was a reduced tax compliance burden on businesses. By bringing Kentucky in line with the federal and its own income tax definition for COGS, it will both enhance compliance by businesses and improve enforcement by the state.

## TOP MARGINAL STATE INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATES (AS OF JANUARY 1, 2025)



GLI applauds the General Assembly for updating Kentucky's conformity with the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) in recent sessions. However, we encourage the General Assembly to update the IRC conformity date every session. Adopting an updated conformity date to the IRC benefits Kentucky taxpayers, tax practitioners, and tax administrators. IRC conformity refers to the degree to which a state tax code conforms to the federal tax code and simplifies a state's implementation of its tax policy by using federal taxable income as a starting point for calculations.

## LOCAL TAX REFORM

Much has changed in our Commonwealth since 1891, except for a restrictive section of the Kentucky Constitution that limits the legislature's power to comprehensively reform local government tax policies. Section 181 of the Kentucky Constitution only permits the General Assembly to delegate very limited revenue raising options to local governments including property, occupational, and a few fees and license taxes. City and county governments in the Commonwealth need increased flexibility to generate revenues and more leeway to design flexible local revenue systems that

capitalize on each community's unique offerings and create an economically competitive environment. This is important not only for providing key services and meeting obligations but for economic development and future growth. State lawmakers must be able to allow city and county governments in Kentucky to develop and implement forward-thinking, business-friendly tax systems to compete and thrive in the 21st century as all of our surrounding and competitor states do.

Not only will this change increase economic development and improve community services, but it will also make Kentucky more competitive with our surrounding states by allowing us to move away from a system that taxes productivity instead of consumption.

Acknowledging the unique character of each and every local jurisdiction across the Commonwealth, Kentucky should also continue its efforts to make income-based local taxes more uniform to transition from or reduce the disparate treatment of taxpayers, particularly those who deliver income in multiple jurisdictions. Furthermore, state, and local tax administrators should continue to streamline the tax filing, processing, collection, and enforcement processes across Kentucky.

## TOURISM, HOSPITALITY, AND THE ARTS

Louisville's tourism, hospitality, and arts scenes have long been major drivers of economic growth and talent attraction in Greater Louisville. The arts and hospitality scene across the region continues to attract tourism and business for Louisville. GLI encourages lawmakers to continue their support for Kentucky Venues, the operator of the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center and Kentucky International Convention Center. Kentucky Venues generates over \$360 million in economic impact each year and 69% of the hotel occupancy in the Greater Louisville region comes from the 300 - 350 events that Kentucky Venues hosts each year. GLI is proud to support Kentucky Venues as a major tourism driver for the region.



# Kentucky ranks 22nd nationally based on tax competitiveness.

(Tax Foundation)

# EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

---

## ATTRACT AND RETAIN TALENT

Stagnant population growth, talent attraction, and retention are challenges impacting all regional employers and pose a serious threat to economic growth in Kentucky and Greater Louisville. To address these challenges, GLI launched Live in Lou, a talent attraction initiative aimed at increasing our region's skilled workforce, reversing population growth trends, and ensuring that Greater Louisville grows at a rate that is competitive with peer cities.

GLI encourages the General Assembly to fund a statewide talent attraction campaign to highlight the strengths of communities across the Commonwealth and support attraction initiatives that proactively encourage individuals with training in high-demand industry sectors to live and work in Kentucky, and the Greater Louisville region.

## RELOCATION INCENTIVES

In order to capitalize on the national shift toward remote work, the General Assembly should adopt a relocation incentive program to attract new talent, including remote workers, to the Commonwealth. This could be implemented in a number of ways including home construction and rebate incentives, new mover land grants for new home builders, or direct cash payments for new movers to the state working full-time remotely at a business based outside of Kentucky.

## STUDENT LOAN TAX INCENTIVES

Retaining workforce is a key component to growing our state and regional economy. GLI encourages the General Assembly to implement a student loan tax incentive to encourage recent college graduates to stay in Kentucky as they begin and grow their careers. Easing the burden of student loan debt through tax credits could be a powerful tool in retaining this educated segment of the workforce that will have higher earning and spending power for our local and regional economies.

## BENEFITS CLIFF

With Kentucky's workforce participation rate hovering around historically low levels, it is imperative that the General Assembly address the multi-faceted reasons

that many Kentuckians opt out of the workforce. A major barrier to work for many Kentuckians is the benefits cliff, which refers to the decrease in public benefits that can occur when recipients are subject to a small increase in earnings. Kentucky has already implemented programs to address this, such as the transitional benefits policies in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Kentucky can leverage existing programs, like Medicaid Works, to create opportunities for individuals with disabilities to retain the benefits that keep them employed, and reduce the penalties for marriage for participants. GLI encourages lawmakers to implement additional policies that could aid in the transition for Kentucky families, such as establishing state refundable tax credits and tapering out benefit amounts rather than abrupt cutoffs. As Kentucky begins to design programs to implement the work requirements in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, taking these steps would help smooth the transition and encourage workers to embrace career opportunities and higher wages.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Criminal justice reform remains a top priority for addressing years of workforce challenges for businesses and families. Without a system designed to get people on track, the cycle of recidivism and crime will continue to impact our communities. GLI has been proud to support criminal justice reform in the past and recognizes its critical role in bolstering our economy. In the coming session, GLI encourages lawmakers to take bold action in criminal justice reform with the goal of reducing incarceration and recidivism rates in Kentucky and encouraging workforce, educational, and substance use treatment opportunities for all individuals who encounter Kentucky's criminal justice system. Policy suggestions include:

- Reform cash bail in Kentucky to address inequities for communities of color and those in poverty which are disproportionately affected. The current system often forces individuals who cannot afford bail into pre-trial detention, negatively affecting their ability to maintain employment before their case is adjudicated.
- Eliminate the ban on individuals convicted of a felony from receiving KEES funds.





- Consider legislative solutions to allow Kentuckians with felony records to regain their right to vote.
- Continue incentivizing education, training, treatment, and employment in Kentucky's probation and parole systems.
- Develop increased alternatives to imprisonment and more effectively optimize current alternative programs and pilot programs, such as the pilot pretrial diversion program established by the General Assembly for substance abuse disorder.
- Support local governments, higher education institutions, and nonprofits in implementing effective education and employment-focused re-entry programs in jails throughout Kentucky.
- Continue improving Kentucky's expungement system by reducing wait periods, streamlining procedures, lowering fees, and digitizing records, and implementing updates to allow for automatic expungement of existing eligible offenses.
- Ensure that any individual who encounters the criminal justice system and needs substance use disorder treatment or mental health services has ample access to treatment opportunities and providers. Pursue policies to support successful re-entry by working with corrections and employers to structure community supervision requirements that are conducive to employment.
- Monitor and assess current and future legislative measures that may have a disproportionate impact on communities of color, including criminal statutes and proceedings.
- Narrow Kentucky's persistent felony offender laws, which in their current forms can lead to increased mandatory sentencing for lower-level felony offenses and have been found to disproportionately affect minority populations while contributing to overcrowding in jail and prison populations.
- Decrease the number of fines and fees that justice-involved individuals are subject to. Individuals in poverty are often incarcerated longer or solely for non-payment of fines or restitution, contributing to overcrowding of Kentucky's county jails and making it harder for those individuals to maintain employment.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

With the goals of ensuring high-quality lifelong learning opportunities for its residents, increasing degree and certificate attainment leading to meaningful work opportunities, and meeting the growing demand for talent in the Greater Louisville region, post-secondary institutions and students must be supported. Kentucky's college enrollment rate has trended downward for the last several years, falling to 44% in 2023. This gap leaves Greater Louisville at a

Only **35%** of Kentuckians  
have an associate  
degree or higher.

(KY Stats)

disadvantage behind its peer markets as we work to compete and grow the talent and workforce the region needs today and in the future.

It is imperative that Kentucky increase its investment in postsecondary education to 2007-2008 per student levels or greater to help keep student costs down. A highly educated and skilled workforce drives the economic engine of the Commonwealth. Universities, colleges, and other institutional alternatives, including technical school and competency-based programs, must all be supported to meet the diverse needs of the region and deliver affordable, effective, and impactful higher education outcomes. Health care outcomes are enhanced by increasing the pipeline of nurses, physicians, and other health care providers, which attracts employers and employees to the state and region. To increase student access and success, the state should provide consistent support for dual credit and early college programs.



## Kentucky Ranks 46th in Post-Secondary Enrollment.

(Prichard Committee)

GLI also encourages the General Assembly to provide funding for world-class research facilities in Engineering, Robotics, Automation, and Advanced Manufacturing to drive university-industry engagement in the region's key technology areas.

### K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION

State support for public education is essential to advance the work of local school districts, grow Kentucky's future workforce, and to attract new businesses and residents.

As school districts struggle with staff shortages, GLI encourages lawmakers to fund teacher recruitment and retention programs. Such programs should be sufficiently flexible to respond to the unique needs of urban, suburban, and rural school districts. Additionally, providing funding assistance and hiring flexibility for classified staff including school nurses, bus drivers, nutrition workers, and many more roles, is essential for the efficient operation of schools and to fully support students for academic success.

Ensuring a quality education for every student is critical. Student outcomes are directly linked to economic growth and to have a strong future economy we must prioritize public education. The state and region must focus on improving student outcomes to remain globally and regionally competitive.

GLI understands the importance of providing the best education to the children of the Commonwealth and appreciates the focused efforts of the General Assembly in navigating the ongoing concerns with Jefferson County Public Schools. With nearly 100,000 students and 165 schools, the success and efficiency of JCPS operations is critical for our community. GLI encourages the General Assembly to continue a mindful discussion of the impact of JCPS on the Louisville community and to seek an outcome that sets Louisville up for long-term success and economic growth. Any changes made to improve the district's efficiency should be research based and performed in collaboration with the district's superintendent.

# Kentucky's workforce participation rate has increased by over 3000 in the last year.

(KY Stats)



GLI has continually supported exploring ways to improve operational efficiencies for the district, including the 2014 financial audit and the 2017 audit by the Department of Education, which resulted in the foundation of JCPS' Future State Plan. Since those audits, JCPS leadership has implemented important changes to their structure and operations, amid unprecedented workforce and pandemic challenges. However, we continue to believe the district's superintendent needs more flexibility for effective decision-making and communication.

GLI has been a long-time partner of JCPS' successful Academies of Louisville program, which focuses on work-based learning and prepares students for in-demand careers, and GLI continues to advocate for expansion of the Middle School Explore program as well as increased business community engagement to create strong talent pipelines for new, highly skilled jobs in the region. In addition to providing quality education for these formative years, setting students up for success as they seek higher education is crucial. In recent years, Kentucky saw record declines in student participation in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by those looking to attend college. GLI encourages state agencies to work with JCPS, as well as districts across the state, to ensure that students understand the importance of FAFSA, and time is dedicated in school to make sure those students eligible for the benefits have the resources they need to complete the application.

## MAINTAINING A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE WORKFORCE

To further support talent attraction and retention in Kentucky and Greater Louisville, lawmakers should ensure state policies and relevant public agencies fully support immigrants and refugees who relocate to the Commonwealth from abroad. Lawmakers must adamantly oppose any legislative or regulatory action that could be perceived as discriminatory or unwelcoming and instead embrace policies that foster economic inclusion for all.

Employers must be allowed to autonomously control their hiring and recruitment practices. Current laws allow employers to adopt the standards that work for their individual businesses and those laws should be maintained. GLI discourages lawmakers from restricting employer's rights to implement inclusive workplace policies important to their culture and operations.

## KENTUCKY'S SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER CRISIS

As Kentucky continues to address substance use disorders, the General Assembly must remain committed to allocating state funds and taking full advantage of available federal funds to provide the necessary resources for treatment, prevention, and job training. The Kentucky Opioid Abatement Trust Fund has already proven to be a tremendous asset for both Kentucky and local communities, directing resources toward prevention, treatment, and re-entry supports.

Making child care  
more affordable for working  
families in Kentucky could  
add 28,000 more Kentuckians  
to the workforce and nearly  
\$600 million to the economy.

(Metro United Way)

- Stabilizing and strengthening the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). This subsidy for low-income families enables those caregivers to continue working while their children access high-quality child care. Kentucky must maximize provider reimbursement rates and shift from a market-based system to one tied to the actual cost of care, ensuring providers can deliver sustainable, quality programs.
- Growing and supporting the early learning workforce is critical for this sector. Maintaining programs such as categorical eligibility (free child care for child care providers through CCAP), early childhood educator scholarships, and investing in other recruitment and retention strategies are essential to building a trusted, stable workforce.
- For Kentucky's child care system to be sustainable, employers must be active partners in the solution. The Employer Child Care Assistance Program (ECCAP) is an innovative solution supported by the Kentucky General Assembly that matches state funds with employer stipends for their employees with child care expenses. To ensure that efficiency of this program and increase utilization, we encourage the General Assembly to move to a third-party administrator and expand options for how employers can support their workforce.

## SECOND CHANCE HIRING

The General Assembly should act to encourage individuals who have encountered the criminal justice system to pursue careers that require occupational licenses by mandating pre-application determinations for those licenses. This would allow jobseekers to know whether their criminal history is disqualifying before investing in the training and education required for the license. Occupational licensing reform and similar initiatives can increase workforce participation among this population and decrease recidivism.

## STABILIZE KENTUCKY'S CHILD CARE SECTOR

High-quality, accessible, and affordable child care is not just a family issue – it is critical infrastructure for Kentucky's economy. Child care supports workforce participation, employer retention, and drives long-term economic growth. GLI applauds the General Assembly's 2024 state investments that have helped stabilize the sector, yet significant challenges remain that limit parents' ability to work and create barriers for businesses trying to attract and keep talent.

GLI supports legislation and appropriations that strengthen the child care sector and ensures the system works for families, providers, and employers. Priorities include:

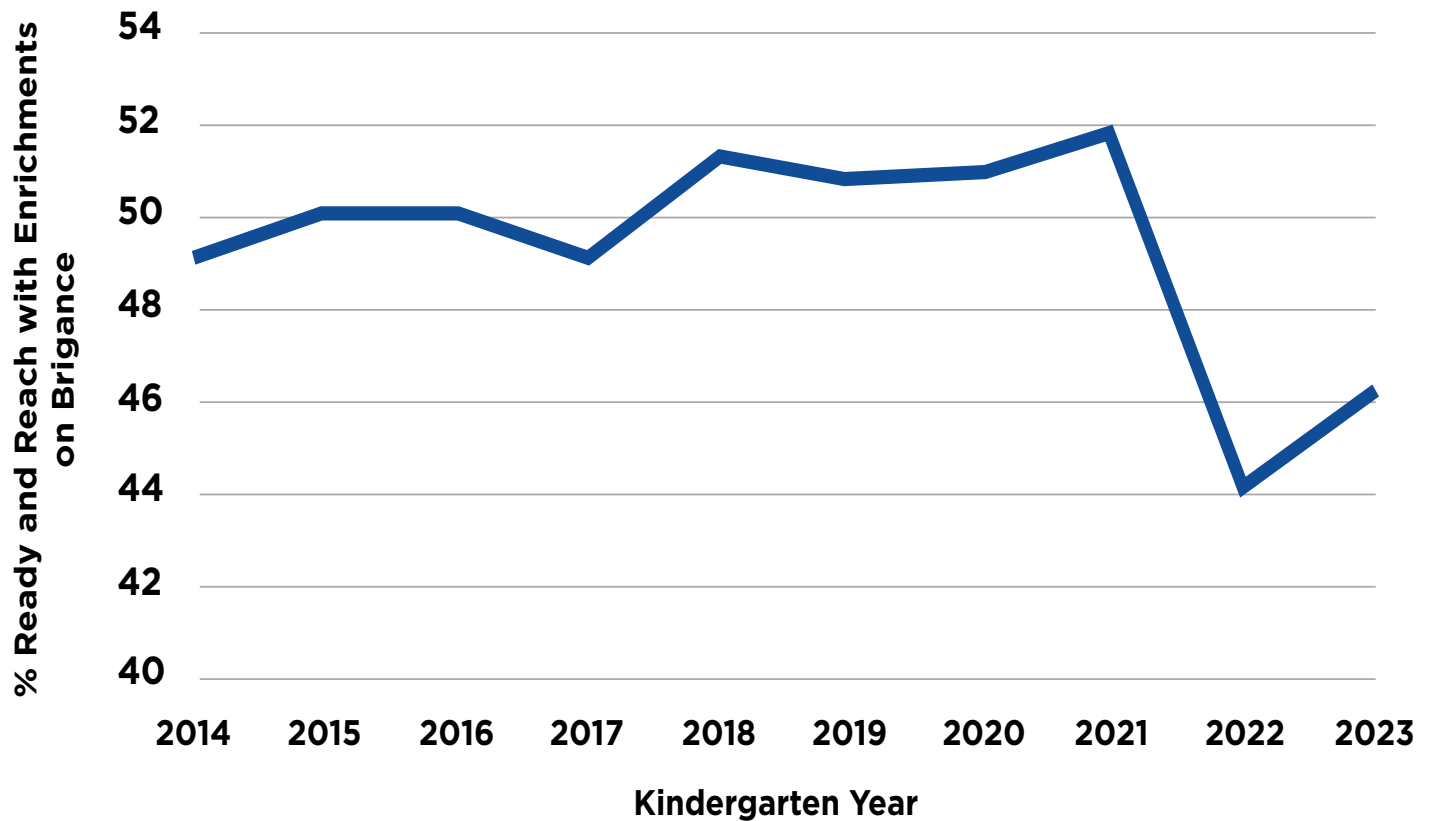
## WORKFORCE TRAINING & PREPARATION

Greater Louisville employers continue to face severe workforce challenges. Regional employers shoulder thousands of dollars in training and retraining costs and miss opportunities for new projects and growth due to unfilled positions and workforce capacity limitations. Equally as pressing, the rise of automation, artificial intelligence (AI), and other innovative technologies will increasingly lead to significant labor force disruption and will require a fundamental rethinking of workforce training and retraining initiatives. It is critical that lawmakers view Kentucky's current and future workforce challenges as a significant barrier to economic growth and make the investments needed to build a workforce that can meet the needs of employers and anticipate the unique demands of a 21st century economy. GLI encourages the General Assembly to support these critical efforts, especially as federal funding and programming has declined in recent years. **Some priorities include:**

- Establish a permanent fund for grants to workforce boards and other providers to provide more industry-focused training and retraining initiatives targeted at high-demand jobs with good career pathway opportunities.



## KENTUCKY KINDERGARTEN READINESS TEN YEAR TREND



- Create and fund initiatives aimed at cultivating a competitive tech workforce, including trained AI data scientists to support sustained AI experimentation, development, and deployment along with advanced manufacturing industries in Kentucky.
- Continue to fund and support the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship program, invest in efforts to expand awareness of the program, and improve efficiency and ease of use for applicants.
- With more than 300,000 working age adults without a high school degree or equivalent certification, connecting these adults with apprenticeships and adult education programs is critical to the growing of Kentucky's workforce. GLI supports continued funding for Goodwill of Kentucky's The Excel Center, which is engaging this population of adults to help them earn high school diplomas and prepare them for college or career.
- Permanently provide funds for GED testing and obtaining career competency credits.

## YOUNG ADULT AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING

There are approximately 12,000 disconnected youth in Jefferson County between the ages of 16-24, which is higher than many of our peer cities. This problem can have many far-reaching consequences for communities that fail to address it including high unemployment rates and higher rates of crime and homicides. Metro Louisville has invested in programming to combat this trend through programs like The Spot, which offers support and career resources for this target population. Without continued investment for this type of programming, the problem of disconnected youth could cost Louisville and Kentucky taxpayers billions of dollars. GLI encourages the General Assembly to support this work.

# ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

## ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROJECTS

As the state seeks to gain a competitive advantage against our peers, it is crucial that policies develop that allow for predictable and simplified planning for businesses in the state and those looking to relocate to Kentucky. GLI supports the simplification of permitting processes for renewable energy projects to ensure that there is certainty and attainability for those seeking permits. Support by the General Assembly and state more broadly would ensure that as Kentucky moves forward into a new era of energy that all players are working to ensure the industry's success.

GLI also opposes the state required 1000-foot setback for all renewable energy projects. The General Assembly should move away from this arbitrary measurement in favor of one that provides more leniency for projects looking to support a renewable energy future in Kentucky.

## AFFORDABLE ENERGY

Access to energy resources at competitive rates is vital to attracting and retaining businesses and talent in Greater Louisville. Kentucky has long enjoyed the distinction of being an affordable energy state. GLI supports policies that serve to help regional energy companies to continue providing services and resources at competitive rates while maintaining a reliable network for users. GLI is opposed to mandates that threaten to drive up costs for energy providers and consumers.

## RETAIN REGULATORY PROFESSIONALS

Businesses operating in the energy and environmental sectors are required to work closely with the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet to ensure compliance with numerous administrative and environmental regulations. GLI continues to advocate for the Commonwealth to retain a staff of highly skilled, knowledgeable professionals to assist with compliance and permitting processes. Retention of this staff is more critical than ever and training any new hires to perform at peak levels supports the Cabinet's work as well as efficiently serving the businesses that interact with them. By adequately and consistently funding Cabinet staff training and personnel costs, the General Assembly can help to ease these processes and allow businesses to grow and operate more efficiently.

More than **2,400** jobs  
have been created **in the**  
**Louisville region** in 2025.

(KY Stats)

## BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION

Brownfield remediation and redevelopment programs are critical for reducing the prevalence of blight and hazardous properties in Greater Louisville. GLI supports programs aimed at assisting businesses and developers with brownfield remediation and redevelopment through assessment services and funding opportunities.

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Kentucky has seen significant investments in electric vehicle production. To support the increase in electric vehicles and ensure that Kentucky becomes a hub for this growing market sector, Kentucky must implement a visible, robust, and reliable fast-charging network across our state's roadways.

## REFORM NOTICE OF VIOLATION PROCEDURES

Current administrative enforcement procedures allow little flexibility or discretion on the part of inspectors. Generally, any and all excursions of existing regulations and requirements result in the immediate issuance of a "notice of violation" (NOV). With the exception of immediate threats to health, safety, or the environment, inspectors should have an alternative to issuing a NOV for noncompliance and the authority to waive fines for first-time offenders. There is currently no end date for punitive administrative action stemming from a NOV. GLI urges the General Assembly to place reasonable time limits on punitive action following the issuance of NOVs by state agencies.

# HEALTH CARE

## A HEALTHIER KENTUCKY

Kentucky has long suffered from poor health outcomes in comparison to the rest of the nation, which has resulted in reduced quality of life, placed strains on our health care systems and state budget, and harmed the competitiveness of our workforce. Particularly among communities of color, increased support, education, and resources should be considered. GLI strongly supports measures aimed at improving the health of Kentuckians and encourages policy efforts that eliminate health disparities and advance health equity in our region, including efforts aimed at reducing tobacco and nicotine usage and vaping. This includes removing smokers as a protected class, funding smoking cessation programs, and allowing for increased regulation of the use and marketing of tobacco, nicotine, and vaping products.

Investment is needed for capital improvements at Louisville's Community Care Campus which provides a 24/7 respite for individuals experiencing homelessness who also require medical care. This is an important collaboration between multiple health care businesses in Louisville that can lead to dramatic changes for those experiencing homelessness.

## CERTIFICATE OF NEED

GLI encourages the legislature to maintain the current system of Certificate of Need. The current system takes the impacts and benefits of new medical facilities, health services, and major medical equipment into account to provide health care more efficiently to Kentuckians.

## HEALTH CARE TALENT & WORKFORCE NEEDS

To adequately serve a growing and aging population, Kentucky must address the shortage of medical professionals by creating and supporting programs to build the medical workforce and by providing incentives that will retain and attract health care professionals and workers, modernizing and streamlining the regulatory environment, and allowing healthcare workers to act to the fullest extent of their practice.



## MEDICAID

A healthy workforce is vital to economic development but must come at a cost to the state that is sustainable. This core principle should serve as the foundation of any changes to how Kentucky serves its Medicaid population. Modifications to Kentucky's Medicaid system should focus on effective state spending on health care, improve equitable health outcomes, provide a smooth transition to private coverage for Medicaid recipients leaving the system, and minimize burdens on providers, insurers, and employers. Reforms should serve to increase efficiencies within Kentucky's Medicaid system such as encouraging the use of generic drugs when appropriate. Further efforts should focus on reducing fraud, waste, and abuse; supporting underserved and rural communities; encouraging and rewarding workforce participation; and investing in local economies.

To allow for Kentucky to continue receiving the federal matching funds it needs to administer Medicaid services and cover the Medicaid population, the General Assembly should ensure that all taxes impacting the health care sector in the Commonwealth comport with requirements and guidelines of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Behavioral health services are a significant driver of increased costs in the state's Medicaid program. GLI encourages the state to reinstate prior authorizations for behavioral health services and partner with providers who are committed to quality, evidence and outcomes-based care and focused on the treatment and recovery of Kentucky's most vulnerable citizens.

## WELLNESS AND PROACTIVE DISEASE PREVENTION

As the costs of medical care continue to increase, it will be critical to integrate wellness and disease prevention strategies to alleviate the economic burden on both private and public health care. Policy and funding that prioritizes public health and wellness outcomes should be a focus for a sustainable future. GLI encourages lawmakers to promote policies, regulations, and consumer protections that educate citizens about potential environmental health hazards and identify and limit environmental exposures to natural and manufactured contaminants, especially in vulnerable populations.

**Kentucky ranks 25<sup>th</sup>  
nationally for healthcare  
spending per person.**  
(Legislative Research Commission)

## PROTECT HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS FROM FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS

GLI supports comprehensive reforms to Kentucky's legal liability climate, which studies have shown to be one of the top ten worst in the country.

For Greater Louisville to continue cultivating its status as a center for high-quality and innovative health care, state lawmakers must enact liability protections and reforms to curtail and contain frivolous lawsuits in the medical industry. More reforms to Kentucky's legal liability are needed including restrictions on fraudulent legal advertising, limits on claimants' attorney fees, and a constitutional amendment to allow caps on damages. The current litigious climate has led to rising malpractice insurance costs that negatively affect healthcare affordability and accessibility for patients and employers. Kentucky should establish itself as a leader in protecting health care professionals from frivolous lawsuits. This would improve patient care and help our region retain and attract health care professionals and businesses.





# TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

## INVEST IN MOBILITY

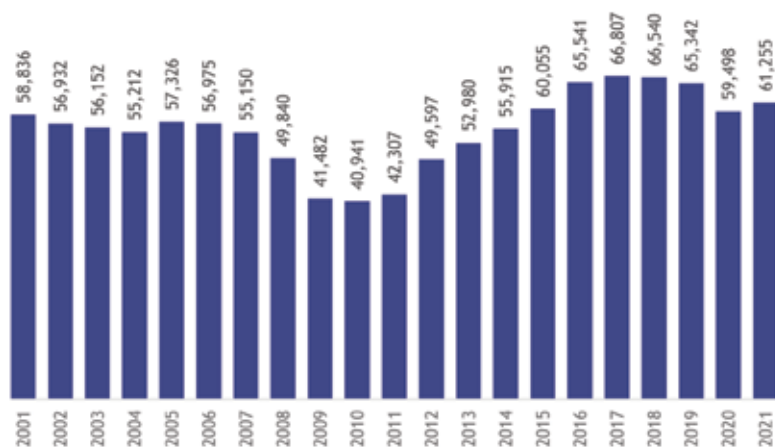
In Greater Louisville, a robust public transportation system is key to delivering a qualified workforce to employers, getting students to class, and supporting strong economic development.

Additional state level commitment to transit funding is imperative to support mobility throughout the city and providing better public transit service that would increase employers' access to Louisville's workforce. GLI encourages lawmakers to establish a dedicated and sustainable revenue source for public transportation that will adequately address the mobility needs of our region.

With increased federal funding available through the IIJA and grants through the Federal Railroad Administration, GLI encourages state and local officials to capitalize on this record level of investment to extend passenger rail service through Louisville. Rail service would create efficient and accessible connectivity between Louisville and peer markets, which is critical for continued economic and population growth.

Workforce shortages in key transportation sectors, like aerospace engineering, are affecting the Greater Louisville region and the state's ability to compete for companies and talent operating in this high growth sector. GLI encourages lawmakers to focus on industry-specific workforce programs that will grow this workforce among Kentucky's population and attract professionals from around the country. GLI applauds the work of the General Assembly as they have begun to address industry shortages like SB 127 in 2024 for the aviation sector. More work remains, and GLI hopes to see these investments made for other struggling sectors as necessary.

Transportation Equipment Manufacturing Employment in Kentucky



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, accessed February 2023.

## INVESTMENT IN QUALITY WATER & SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

To improve the quality of regional water and sewer infrastructure, legislative and regulatory actions should encourage sustainable and long-term growth in regional sewer capacity and regional water expansion projects. To avoid catastrophic loss and damage, resources are needed to repair and modernize flood protection systems. In order to meet the demands and needs of economic growth, investment in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure should be made to enable sustainable growth. Stormwater quality treatment techniques such as pervious pavement should also be included in these efforts. GLI opposes efforts to repeal Kentucky's statewide fluoridation standards for community water systems. Allowing local governments to regulate water fluoridation could create a county-by-county patchwork of rules, which would harm the ability of regional drinking water systems to provide quality services, support economic growth, and protect public health.

Over **190,000**  
people commute  
into **Jefferson**  
**County** for work  
per day on average.

(KY Stats)

## MODERNIZE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING & ROAD-AID ALLOCATION

As a critical logistics and manufacturing hub, Greater Louisville relies heavily on a reliable, high-quality network of bridges and roads to support economic development and growth. GLI continues to support increased investment in Kentucky's roads and highways and opposes efforts to divert road-fund dollars to pay for General Fund obligations. To maximize the impact of increased infrastructure investment, the General Assembly must also modernize the road-fund allocation formula that Kentucky has used to allocate gas tax revenues since 1948 to more accurately account for lane mileage, traffic counts, and population growth.

## COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE FUTURE

Kentucky should ensure that regions like Greater Louisville are well-positioned for the future by supporting the development and modernization of telecommunications infrastructure. Beginning in 2021, significant federal government funding became available for broadband deployment through programs like the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund and State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and soon more will

come through the Broadband Deployment Equity, Access, and Deployment fund. The 2020 Kentucky Legislature funded the Kentucky Broadband Deployment Fund that is administered by the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) with the \$300 million appropriation of ARPA funding. With the passage of House Bill 315 in 2022, the Kentucky General Assembly created further guidance for fund distribution and established the new Office of Broadband Deployment within KIA. GLI supports continued funding for broadband deployment grants for wired and wireless networks and opposes measures that threaten to impede or hamper investment in digital infrastructure. The new FCC Broadband map makes it clear that unserved locations are often scattered between or in very close proximity to underserved locations. Holistic projects that include both unserved and underserved locations will attract more private investment, as these projects allow providers to reach the scale needed to deploy broadband in an efficient, cost-effective way. In 2024 the Kentucky General Assembly had the foresight to pass HB 267 to clarify that the IJA funding will be disbursed pursuant to the federal Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) guidelines to avoid potential conflict with existing state legislation that could have caused delays in implementation.

To further encourage investment in telecommunications infrastructure, the General Assembly should also ensure that regulatory processes are as streamlined as possible and provide for fair and reasonable terms, conditions, and rates to access state-controlled rights of way and infrastructure. To that end, GLI supports the goals of FCC's Declaratory Ruling and Third Report and Order on wireless broadband deployment, which aims to facilitate a timely buildout of 5G, small cell. Regulations must support, not impede, the development of these critical infrastructure assets by technology and communication providers.

In urban areas, where broadband infrastructure has been deployed by numerous wireline and wireless providers, state and local governments should seek to utilize this existing infrastructure by partnering with and supporting private providers, rather than build duplicative, taxpayer-funded networks. Additionally, GLI is supportive of state and local conversations regarding access to utility poles to ensure rules and regulations are agreeable to all invested parties and contribute to the successful expansion of broadband into rural areas.

In 2024, the General Assembly made Kentucky more competitive with surrounding states by passing HB 8, pursuant to which providers will be eligible to recover 50% of sales tax paid for broadband equipment up to a total cap of \$5 million each year for all providers. If there are claims for more than \$5 million, each provider will receive its proportionate share based on what it paid in sales tax. With the implementation of the BEAD funding and the prior ARPA funding, the sales tax paid by the industry will far exceed \$5 million and the industry is hopeful that the impact of this tax credit will motivate future consideration of an increased cap.

# 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

## **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**



**SHELBY SOMERVELL**

Senior Vice President,  
Government Affairs and  
External Relations



**OLIVIA OLSON**

Vice President,  
Communications & PR



**HELEN HACKER**

Director, Government  
Affairs & Policy

[GLI]