

2016

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

[GLI] GREATER LOUISVILLE INC.
The Metro Chamber of Commerce



The most competitive communities are those with a steadfast commitment to improving their workforce, quality of life, and business climate through aggressive, proactive programming. Greater Louisville Inc. and regional business leaders know that driving Greater Louisville's economy is the number one priority. To that end, in the fall of 2013 Greater Louisville Inc. partnered with regional leaders and Market Street Services to develop comprehensive regional economic growth strategy—Advantage Louisville. The plan focuses on immediate opportunities for job creation and economic growth. The following legislative agenda is driven by the GLI 2016 Strategic Plan and outlines the legislative actions necessary to achieve the economic and job growth outlined in Advantage Louisville 2020.

Promote Investment in Quality Economic Growth

Attract & Grow Great Businesses

In a 21st century economy where businesses and talent can locate wherever they choose, Kentucky must provide a business-friendly environment and adequate incentives to attract, grow, and retain tomorrow's top employers.

Growing great businesses here in the Commonwealth requires a complimentary mixture of business-friendly tax structure, targeted support from government organizations, and an increase in access to capital.

One very important step that Kentucky can take in business attraction is to pass Right to Work legislation and give employees the freedom to choose whether or not to join a union at their place of employment. To augment Kentucky's pro-business environment, the legislature should increase funding for economic development and business attraction to continue the unprecedented momentum of the last two years.

Small Business Drives Employment & Economic Growth

Small businesses represent 96.7 percent of all employers and employ 47.8 percent of the private-sector labor force. Kentucky must cultivate these businesses and support small business owners. Funding for Kentucky's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) match programs is critical to the future of Kentucky's small businesses. Kentucky must incentivize capital investment and improve access to capital for its business start-ups. These companies would likewise benefit from incentives and regulatory reforms that facilitate governments and corporations doing business with Kentucky-based small businesses.

The legislature should protect small businesses from overly burdensome regulations and should permit the creation of Public Benefit Corporations to attract impact investors and permit a wider array of 21st-century businesses.



Promote Investment in Quality Economic Growth

Streamline Regulation

As Kentucky-based businesses grow across the nation and the world, patchworks of regulation create onerous and expensive compliance issues. Kentucky should seek to make definitions for independent contractors and workers compensation statutes more closely conform to surrounding states. These reforms would create regulatory continuity in the bi-state region that would promulgate a climate for better economic growth, simplify compliance, and reduce costs to employers.

Regional continuity should include the repeal of Kentucky's prevailing wage laws or significant amending of the statutes to raise the threshold or manner of calculating the rates. GLI likewise supports maintaining the state and local minimum wages in line with the federal law.

In energy, it is entirely possible and absolutely necessary to create a regulatory structure that strikes a balance between environmental sustainability and realistic business responsibility and accountability. Sound and reasonable environmental regulations enhance quality of life and contribute to economic competitiveness. One way to do this is to streamline regulatory procedures, and employ the use of a stakeholder process in the development of any rulemaking.

Specifically, the public should have access and input when developing Water Quality Standards and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

Legislative and regulatory action should reduce permitting backlogs and use permitting fees to fund environmental programs for which they are intended.

Promote Local Investments for Transformation (LIFT)

The General Assembly should endow local governments with flexibility and additional options in raising dedicated revenue for specific transformational community development projects, which are limited in scope and approved through local referendum.

In an extended economic recovery, Kentucky's cities continue to struggle to invest and maintain infrastructure and to fund important community projects. The Kentucky Constitution severely limits cities' ability to raise new revenue. GLI supports an amendment to the Kentucky Constitution that would permit cities to ask voters to decide on a temporary local option sales tax. Thirty-eight states allow one or more local governments to levy a local option sales tax. GLI advocates for LIFT because voters deserve the opportunity to decide if they want to raise revenue for specific projects in their communities.

Expand Gaming in Kentucky

Expanding gaming will create new jobs and grow our economy. The tax dollars derived from gaming can improve our education system, build infrastructure that promotes economic growth, and ensure the long-term stability of the state budget. Kentucky has been left behind for too long, and our surrounding states continue to take advantage of our unwillingness to act.

A Simple & Competitive Tax Code*

Kentucky's revenue and expenditure policies should be aligned to promote growth and business investment while providing resources to meet the Commonwealth's necessary obligations. Spending should be prioritized to invest in Kentucky's future competitiveness. Revenue generation should encourage growth and prosperity and must be coupled with spending reforms. All tax measures should serve to build and attract a talented workforce.

Comprehensive tax reform is critical to the economic future of the Commonwealth.

It should be:

SIMPLE.

Kentucky's tax code should be simplified for ease of compliance and reduced tax administration costs. The legislature should eliminate most sales tax exemptions and sunset any outdated tax

exemptions and underutilized or ineffective tax credits. For ease of compliance, the legislature should streamline the application for remaining tax credits while more rigorously investigating fraudulent claims.

FAIR.

Any reform should strive to be broad-based and should not impose a disproportionate burden on any specific sector or industry. To reduce the exorbitant tax burden on businesses large and small in the Commonwealth, Kentucky should decrease the personal and corporate income taxes and the Limited Liability Entity Tax (LLET). The business inventory tax should be eliminated.

COMPETITIVE.

The tax code should transition to be more consumption-based for increased competitiveness. Revenue measures should adjust Kentucky to a consumption-based tax system. Kentucky should increase the cigarette tax, expand gaming in the state, and reduce current tax exemptions on retirement income.

**These Tax & Fiscal Policy positions represent the general principles and philosophies of GLI and its member businesses. These positions may be amended upon review of any comprehensive tax reform legislation filed during the 2016 General Assembly Session.*

Promote Investment in Quality Economic Growth

A Sustainable Retirement System

The single largest threat to Kentucky's fiscal wellbeing, credit rating, and business attraction efforts is the nearly \$40 billion unfunded pension liability. The legislature must seek a long-term solution for shoring up this deficit through changes in benefits and allocate revenue toward obligations.

In the private sector, Kentucky should enable the development of a privately managed, voluntary, and portable retirement savings plan for all employees who lack access to a plan at their workplace.

Infrastructure is Critical

Now is the Time for Road Aid Modernization

Kentucky's urban areas spend more than \$200 million per year constructing and maintaining around 10,000 miles of city streets, only a third of which comes from state or federal funds. GLI seeks to modernize the 66-year-old formula to adequately account for lane mileage and usage when calculating fund allocations.

Stronger Infrastructure through Public-Private Partnerships (P3s)

Kentucky is the only state among all bordering states that does not allow the use of P3s for transportation, putting it at an economic

disadvantage. The use of P3s in other states has led to savings for taxpayers and improved expertise and efficiency in executing infrastructure projects. There is a strong need for innovative delivery mechanisms such as, but not limited to, Public-Private Partnerships.

A Vibrant and Sustainable Multimodal Transportation System

Kentucky should provide adequate and sustainable funding sources for the five major modes of transportation in the short and long-term to create a world-class multimodal transportation system. To achieve this end, the legislature must:

- Protect the integrity of the road fund by refusing to divert road funds to pay for General Fund obligations
- Support continued funding and maintenance of public transportation
- Commission an interim study on how other states incentivize Class I, II, and III railroads to improve track safety and speed
- Protect the integrity of the Aviation and Economic Development Fund
- Fund increased infrastructure at Kentucky's major ports
- Promote safe transportation options beneficial to bike and pedestrian mobility

Strong Energy Infrastructure

Likewise, the legislature should fund capital investments in Kentucky's energy infrastructure, including modernizing and expanding energy delivery and resources to ensure Kentucky's continued energy competitiveness and making energy pricing and usage more transparent. Development of "green" infrastructure, including green building construction and rehabilitation, storm water conservation efforts such as pervious pavement and green roofs, and the expansion of tree cover in urban areas through partnerships and incentives, is critical to Louisville's growth and future quality of place.

The Future of Fiber

The legislature took a necessary step in bringing Kentucky's telecommunications infrastructure into the 21st century with the passage of House Bill 152 in the 2015 General Assembly. With the possibility of further fiber investments in Louisville, the legislature must take all possible steps to increase the proliferation and accessibility of affordable high-speed internet infrastructure.

Ensure a Financially Healthy Health Care System in Kentucky

GLI supports a health care system in Kentucky that is sustainably funded, controls costs of specialty drugs and care, and that provides the most competitive and transparent system for businesses, insurers, and providers.

Because the Commonwealth has assumed more funding responsibility due to Medicaid expansion, it is imperative that sufficient funds are budgeted and allocated to address commitments to individuals qualifying under the new guidelines.

A healthy system must be transparent, efficient, and constantly improving. Kentucky must enforce health information transparency for providers, employers, and insurers. The Commonwealth should pass legislation to incentivize the use of evidence-based practices by providers that encourage effective, low-cost treatments and interventions. To these ends, the state and the Greater Louisville region must invest in health care research, development, and commercialization – aggressively pursuing all available federal funding.

Grow Our Signature Industries

Grow the Bourbon Industry

With the growing popularity of the Urban Bourbon Trail® and the expansion of the Kentucky Bourbon Trail® experiences into downtown Louisville, visitors across the nation and the world are flocking to the Derby City for these experiences. Kentucky must modernize its regulations of the distilled spirits industry to unleash the immense growth potential for Bourbon, craft distilling, and the “bourbonism” tourism industry.

Promote Investment in Health & Aging Care

As Greater Louisville becomes a national health care leader, it is important for state law to incentivize investment and minimize barriers to entry in the state health care market. GLI supports Medical Liability Reform legislation that would limit the exposure of health care companies to frivolous lawsuits and would incentivize more health care professionals to relocate to the Commonwealth.

To adequately serve a growing population, Kentucky must address the shortage of medical professionals in the Commonwealth by creating programs to build the medical workforce and providing incentives for medical professionals to relocate.



The Future of Advanced Manufacturing

Already home to more than 230,000 manufacturing jobs, Kentucky is poised to be a leader in the United States' advanced manufacturing revolution. To improve Kentucky's industrial climate, GLI opposes forcing an employee to join a union as a condition of employment.

Logistics Hub for the World

As the home to UPS WorldPort, Louisville is already the world's leading logistics hub, but this position is not guaranteed. To continue capitalizing on Greater Louisville's central location and proximity to all five major modes of transportation, Kentucky must invest in being the world standard for 21st century infrastructure.

Foster Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Investment Spurs Innovation

For Kentucky's entrepreneurs to succeed, they must have access to the capital they need. GLI supports initiatives that increase available capital, especially doubling funding for the Angel Investment Tax Credit, increased funding for the Kentucky Innovation Network, and the long-term development of a state-chartered "Fund of Funds" to incentivize further private investment in business start-ups across the Commonwealth.



Energy as a Catalyst for Growth

With forward-thinking investment and incentives, Kentucky is poised to be a leader in the move toward energy independence. Kentucky's energy policies should grow renewable, domestically-produced and alternative energy, while maintaining the Commonwealth's low energy costs. Kentucky should incentivize investment in clean coal technologies as well as increase funding in key areas critical to energy breakthroughs, including science, technology, engineering, and math.

Energy policies that grow renewable, domestically-produced, and alternative energy resources in Kentucky will protect the vital role energy plays in economic development and business success. That includes greenhouse gas reductions that are effective but fair to Kentucky's efforts at maintaining efficient and affordable energy.

Legislation should encourage the development of alternative energy sources by funding research and development programs at Kentucky universities, assisting in bringing new energy technologies into the mainstream marketplace, and offering incentives for companies to build new energy plants and research facilities in Kentucky. It should likewise incentivize residential, commercial, and industrial consumers to adopt technologies that conserve energy, utilize alternative fuels, or reduce consumption.

Champion Education & Workforce Development

Implement a Cradle to Career Pipeline in Kentucky

To produce a workforce that will excel in the 21st century, education must start before Kindergarten. The legislature should make meaningful steps to fund need-based pre-K so that every student can enter Kindergarten ready to learn. We must align postsecondary education with workforce needs, focusing equally on two- and four-year degrees to fill high- and middle-skilled jobs.

Accountability for Institutions & Individuals

To ensure success, institutions and individuals must be held accountable for increased effectiveness. A professionalized education system should permit differentiated compensation, incentives, and ancillary benefits for teachers and administrators based on responsibilities, qualifications, effectiveness, and service location.

To allow every student to be an agent of their own success, Kentucky should incentivize computer coding in high schools and provide access to high-quality courses in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

Let JCPS' Superintendent Name JCPS Principals

GLI encourages the General Assembly to empower the Superintendent of Jefferson County Public Schools to match principals' strengths and experience with schools' specific needs.

JCPS' Superintendent is accountable for the performance of all 155 schools in the District – but lacks authority (in all but the worst-performing schools) to name the leader who, more than any other, enables teachers to do their best work and students to learn. Repeated outside audits have criticized the district's human resources capacity as weak, specifically for allowing nepotistic hiring and promotion decisions. JCPS' board recently defined building professional capacity as a top strategic priority, and ordered the superintendent, in her annual performance review, to improve human resources performance. To succeed, she must build a pipeline of experienced principals with varied leadership styles, suited to the varied needs of JCPS' widely variant schools, and place them where they can be most effective.

GLI does not ask for change to superintendent authority elsewhere in the state, where Kentuckians rightly take pride in the successes of our 1990 school reform. But for Louisville's uniquely large district, with the potential

strengths of modern leadership training and human resources management (and the known weaknesses of bureaucratic drift if these strengths are not activated), empowering modern human resources management is a key to system improvement. We ask the legislature to authorize the superintendent, informed by input from teachers, parents, staff, and community members regarding selection criteria and in consultation with school-based decision making councils, to appoint principals in Jefferson County schools.

Uphold Kentucky's Rigorous State Education Standards

Kentucky was the very first state to implement the Common Core standards in 2011. The Standards are based on college and workforce needs assessment, are benchmarked internationally, and allow for local decision making. Since their implementation, Kentucky has seen an increase in ACT scores and reading and math proficiency. It is critical that Kentucky uphold these standards that are leading the Commonwealth to have a more capable, career-ready workforce. The Kentucky Core Academic Standards should continue to develop and adapt to keep Kentucky students competitive with international benchmarks.



Champion Education & Workforce Development

The Road to 55,000 Degrees

With a goal of adding 55,000 degrees in the Greater Louisville region by 2020, it is imperative that Kentucky improve the affordability and effectiveness of post-secondary education by addressing the rising cost of college and offering institutional alternatives, including trade school and competency-based programs such as Commonwealth College. In cooperation with Indiana, Kentucky must renew tuition reciprocity and expand it to additional counties and universities in Kentucky and Indiana. State support of higher education should be restored to 2009 levels. Some portion of the



funding to postsecondary institutions should be performance-based and reward institutions that produce high-performing graduates who finish on time and without significant student debt. To increase student access and success, the state should provide a consistent mechanism of funding for dual credit and early college programs.

Great Cities Have Great Universities & Libraries

To support universities in Louisville and across the Commonwealth, GLI supports funding for the Research Challenge Trust Fund, Bucks for Brains, and other university-based research. The Commonwealth should also continue to support a robust system of public and university libraries that cooperate to provide equal access to information for all Kentuckians.

Focus on Workforce Training

To ensure a qualified workforce of all ages, the legislature must support the expansion of adult education and workforce training programs. Every year, thousands of manufacturing and maintenance jobs go unfilled though they do not require a college degree. Subsidies for GED testing, career competency credits, and targeted investments of state money to fund industry partnerships and job training initiatives are critical to long-term workforce sustainability.

Cultivate & Attract Greater Louisville's Diverse Talent

Promote Health & Lifelong Wellness in the Workforce

A healthy workforce is important to a strong economy. Therefore, it is critical that the legislature support incentives for businesses encouraging healthy lifestyle choices. The state should also consider further measures to increase wellness, including a statewide smoke-free workplace law, an increase to the cigarette tax, and the long-term sustainability of the Quality and Charity Care Trust Fund (QCCT).

Ensure that Greater Louisville Businesses have Access to all Qualified Workers

For too long, a Class D felony sentence has been a life sentence in Kentucky. The legislature should pass expungement reform legislation to return reformed non-violent felons to the workforce. The Commonwealth should likewise pursue additional changes to criminal justice law that lower costs, reduce recidivism, and lead to more productive and self-sufficient citizens.

Kentucky's primary, secondary, and postsecondary education institutions should adequately fund English as a Second Language (ESL), foreign language, and global competency programs that make Kentuckians more competitive and competent in a world economy and that allow new Kentuckians to be educated and find adequate employment in the Commonwealth.

Kentucky will thrive most when it positively attracts and retains the best national and international human capital and talent. To further this objective, immigration regulations, public policies, and incentives in Kentucky should welcome and encourage top talent to settle in the Commonwealth. Kentucky's immigration and positive domestic in-migration legislation should ensure ease of compliance with immigration regulations for Kentucky's businesses to thrive.



Connect Greater Louisville's Places & Identity

Spur Development across Blighted Areas

The Kentucky legislature must incentivize investment in depressed and underutilized properties to rejuvenate the neighborhoods and local economies in some of Kentucky's most historic areas. This should include easing the transfer of vacant and abandoned properties into productive use, permitting city and county governments to provide property tax relief, and restructuring statutory language on TIF financing to make it friendlier to developers. Kentucky should also revise outdated building regulations that make urban development more difficult and expensive without improving safety. Vibrant neighborhoods where all properties are utilized are critical to these revitalization efforts.

Aiding this process, the legislature should provide funding for assessment, remediation, and redevelopment of Brownfields to bring unused and underutilized property back on the tax rolls. Planning and zoning laws should be modified to make it more difficult to delay redevelopment projects through endless appeals.

A Connected Region

All changes in the transportation system should facilitate the movement of goods and services or the transportation of people to and from job centers throughout the region.

Kentucky and Indiana should ensure that the final tolling for the Ohio River Bridges Project does not discourage interstate commerce or do undo harm to local businesses utilizing the bridges. Furthermore, public transit agencies should be allowed to receive a 100% rebate of the state fuel taxes paid and on toll charges for the use of federal state and local roadways and bridges.

A Unified Identity for a Unified Region

The 15 counties that form the Greater Louisville Metropolitan Statistical Area in Kentucky and Southern Indiana must cooperate on a social, economic, and policy level to create a unified region with a cohesive national brand. Through regional collaboration, Greater Louisville offers all of the benefits that come from big cities, small towns, and everywhere in between. By cooperating across counties and across states, Kentucky and Southern Indiana communities can play to our regional strengths, keep expenses in check by sharing resources, and offer a competitive region to live, work, and play that will become a national destination for families and talent.

The Louisville Loop seals Greater Louisville's position as a world-class city with a world-class park system. With the expansion of the Ohio River Greenway in Clark and Floyd Counties, the Louisville Loop has the potential to become truly regional. The two remaining tasks are to

adequately support completion of the Ohio River Greenway in Indiana, and to identify impediments, incentives and other remedies to permit pedestrians back on the K&I bridge, allowing full completion of a pedestrian loop.

Promoting Kentucky's Cultural Institutions

The Greater Louisville community has an arts and cultural scene that competes with the top cities in the world. The legislature should increase investment in the Kentucky Arts Council and other cultural institutions because they play such a critical role in regional identity and drive economic development throughout the Commonwealth by attracting and retaining top talent, promoting the vitality of the region, leveraging tourist dollars, and helping sustain a positive quality of life for our citizens.



Improving the Regional Environment

To improve the quality of our regional environment, legislative or regulatory action should encourage the sustainable and long-term growth in regional sewer capacity and Louisville Water Company's regional water expansion projects.

The Ohio River is Our Greatest Asset

Louisville would not exist but for the Falls of the Ohio. This river that built one of the region's richest cultural centers must continue to play an important role as an economic engine for the bi-state region. With the expansion of the Jefferson Riverport in Southwest Louisville, the new connectivity of the Port of Indiana in Jeffersonville, the soon-to-be-completed East End Crossing, and expansion of the Panama Canal, inland waterways are poised for resurgence across the United States and Greater Louisville must ensure that it is a central part of this growth.

Beyond trade, the Ohio River offers a sustainable water resource for the region. Kentucky and Indiana's legislatures should work in cooperation to devise a long-term plan for water utilization that ensures safety and sustainability while supporting economic development through tourism, manufacturing, recreation, and agriculture.

Leadership & Support

PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP

GLI thanks the many individuals who volunteer their time and expertise to assist in business advocacy efforts. A special thanks is extended to those listed below who lead the Public Policy Council and its Issue Advisory Committees.

PUBLIC POLICY COUNCIL CHAIR:

Tierra Kavanaugh Wayne, TKT & Associates

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GLI TOP INVESTORS

Top Investors share GLI's visionary approach to economic development—helping to nurture the growth of existing businesses as well as attract new, diverse companies and talented professionals to our region.

CEO COUNCIL:

(\$100,000+/YEAR INVESTMENT)



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LEADERSHIP:
(\$5,000/YEAR INVESTMENT)

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GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

City of Jeffersontown
Louisville Metro Government

AGENDA-IN-BRIEF

Promote Investment In Quality Economic Growth

- Pass Right to Work
- Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Match Programs
- Allow for Public Benefit Corporations
- Reform Workers Compensation
- Repeal Prevailing Wage
- Pass Local Investments for Transformation (LIFT)
- Expand Gaming in Kentucky
- Pass Comprehensive Tax Reform
- Fund and Implement Reforms to the Kentucky Retirement System
- Modernize the Road Aid Formula
- Allow Public Private Partnerships (P3s) for Transportation
- Fund Greater Louisville's Multimodal Transportation System
- Develop a Strong Energy Infrastructure
- Improve Fiber Infrastructure
- Define "Independent Contractor"
- Monitor the Medicaid Expansion
- Implement Medical Review Panels/Tort Reform

- Grow Our Signature Industries
 - Modernize Regulations for Distilled Spirits
 - Investment in Health and Aging Care
 - Advanced Manufacturing
 - Logistics Hub

Foster Innovation & Entrepreneurship

- Increase Funding for Small Business
 - Angel Investment Tax Credit
 - Kentucky Innovation Network
 - "Fund of Funds"
- Support Incentives for Alternative Fuel Fleets

Champion Education & Workforce Development

- Increase Funding for Education & Workforce Development
- Allow Superintendents to Hire Their Principals
- Support Kentucky Core Academic Standards

Cultivate & Attract Greater Louisville's Diverse Talent

- Implement Smoke Free Workplace Policy
- Reform Kentucky's Expungement Statutes

Connect Greater Louisville's Places & Identity

- Ease Condemnation of Blighted Properties
- Encourage sustainable, long-term growth in regional sewer capacity



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