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2018 GUIDING PUBLIC POLICY PRINCIPLES

Mission Statement

The Chamber has many interests in common with the City of Raytown, the Raytown Quality Schools, the Metropolitan Community College and the Missouri business community and is supportive of many of the positions adopted by those organizations.

By recognizing these common interests, the Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce seeks to promote our businesses and organizations. Our goal is to advocate for our members and the business community in the Raytown area, with our public policy makers on all levels of government accordingly, we adopt the following principles.

Raytown Community

The Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce, the City of Raytown and the Raytown Quality Schools have mutual, vested interests in the economic well-being and quality of life in the Raytown area. The Chamber supports:

- ✓ Assisting the Raytown Economic Development Committee of the City of Raytown to promote the Raytown area to developers, investors, entrepreneurs, and residents.
- ✓ Adopting legislation enabling voters to approve a county fee on all communications devices to support emergency 9-1-1 costs, in addition to a statewide fee on pre-paid wireless devices to provide resources for small communities to enhance their 9-1-1 systems.
- ✓ Legislation that enables fourth class cities, such as Raytown, to adopt rental licensing requirements in the same manner as other classes of cities are currently able to do.
- ✓ Monitoring opportunities that enable fourth class cities to be consistent with other communities in the area.
- ✓ Continuing to provide input in the decisions affecting the Rock Island Trail and related amenities.

Transportation

The State of Missouri and Raytown need a long-term, sustainable transportation funding strategy focused on improving safety and encouraging economic development. The Chamber supports:

Local

- ✓ Continuing investments along the Highway 350 corridor with the goal of attracting and expanding quality economic development projects.
- ✓ Public transportation in Raytown, including the creation of a transportation network that benefits the entire Raytown community.
- ✓ Continued funding to support construction of a Rock Island Trail connection to Kansas City through the cities of Pleasant Hill, Greenwood, Lee's Summit and Raytown, along with Jackson and Cass Counties.
- ✓ Expanded development of transportation corridors throughout Raytown to support business growth and development, tourism and improving the quality of life for its citizens.

State/Federal

- ✓ A combination of methods that increase funding for maintaining the existing system, improving safety, providing for economic development, and offering transportation choices.
- ✓ Monitoring the 20th Century Transportation Task Force and its proposed outcomes.

Business and Economic Development

The State of Missouri and the City of Raytown need a strong package of economic development programs and incentives to increase their competitiveness in today's markets and economy. The Chamber supports:

Local

- ✓ Strengthening Raytown's economic development resources and ability to retain existing businesses, encouraging redevelopment within our community and continuing the effective and responsible use of tax incentive programs.
- ✓ Recognizing the arts as an important economic development tool by providing funding for arts organizations and programs.

State/Federal

- ✓ Promoting financial discipline within laws approved at state and federal levels and limiting unfunded mandates to local entities.
- ✓ Supporting regulatory model modernization legislation that promotes utility rate stabilization, infrastructure replacement and expansion for economic development purposes and to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy.
- ✓ Enabling the development and voluntary use of alternative, domestic, and renewable energy resources that are considered economical and environmentally friendly, including policies that support expansion and development of energy infrastructure, such as alternate-fuel transmission systems and infrastructure to deliver energy to the Kansas City region and other high demand areas.
- ✓ Encouraging policies that increase use of alternative fuel vehicles and support the deployment of the Clean Charge Network in the metropolitan area.

Education

A high-quality educational system is vital to the economic health of the Raytown area community. The Chamber supports:

Local

- ✓ Promoting local control of school boards including measures to create parameters for movement of students from unaccredited districts to accredited districts.
- ✓ Increasing funding for career and technical education programs that enhance the skills of the regional workforce. Maintain funding for the Missouri Works program.

State/Federal

- ✓ Providing adequate, equitable funding to support all public colleges' and universities' operating budgets, including a capital investment plan that will provide on-going support for public college and university facilities.
- ✓ Keeping the A+ promise. Students who meet the requirements to receive A+ scholarship awards should receive what they were promised: full tuition and fees at a community college or area career/technical school.
- ✓ Legislative efforts which continue to allow access to a college education at all of the state's post-secondary institutions, including private colleges, through the Access Missouri program.
- ✓ Providing all direct and associated costs for state-mandated programs for school districts, including meeting the statutory obligations of transportation for FY 2018, special education and Section 504; at-risk; Parents As Teachers; testing and assessment.
- ✓ Investing in high-quality early learning and expanding all Early Childhood Education opportunities.
- ✓ Opposing legislation allowing teachers or school administrators to carry concealed firearms into higher education, secondary or elementary facilities even if they have a valid concealed carry endorsement or permit.
- ✓ "The Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce supports the State Board of Education acting in the best interest of students, parents and local school districts across Missouri without the influence of political considerations in ensuring that Missouri maintains an environment that supports quality education for all students."

Health Care and Social Awareness

A healthy workforce and a healthy community are critical to the economic vitality of the Raytown community. The Chamber supports:

Local

- ✓ Increasing access to mental health care for the most vulnerable population, especially those who cycle through public health and criminal facilities, by supporting an expansion of the KC Assessment and Triage Center to include Eastern Jackson County Law Enforcement and Hospitals.
- ✓ Strengthening local services that improve workforce wellbeing, including mental health, social services, senior services, violence prevention, drug abuse, domestic violence prevention and others.

State/Federal

- ✓ Encouraging, at both the federal and state level, a health care delivery system based on quality coordinated care, efficient use of health care resources, and appropriate and timely reimbursement and payment; therefore, helping employers and employees control health care costs.
- ✓ Reforming regulations regarding Advanced Practice Nurse scope of practice that would be more in line with other States of similar urban/rural composition and physician labor shortage