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## **2018 Legislative Agenda**

### **Economic Development**

- Support policies that will grow manufacturing, technology, tourism and knowledge-based industries and encourage the revitalization of Duncan & rural Oklahoma.
- Support the creation of state economic development incentives that treat all communities equitably regardless of population.
- Support programs that encourage speculative investment into industrial and retail buildings.

### **Energy & Natural Resources**

- Maintain necessary incentives for the exploration, production, and refinement of Oklahoma oil and natural gas, while also supporting policies that encourage greater development and use of those resources and the continued development of wind and other alternative energy resources to complement the use of oil and natural gas.
- Oppose unnecessary federal and state regulation that restrict local authority.
- Support policies to protect local control on water and land use restrictions.

### **Lawsuit Reform**

- Continue to develop changes in Oklahoma's civil justice system that will make it more responsive to the needs of business.

### **Taxation**

- Support greater local control over taxation, including diversified revenues, to allow the most responsive form of government to directly address resident needs.
- Support tax reform, incentives and other initiatives that will grow Oklahoma's economy through increased jobs and capital investment to include the state's military installations and related jobs.

### **Infrastructure & Transportation**

- Support partnerships for infrastructure projects (i.e. road/and or utility upgrades) that attract capital investment and jobs.
- Support the development, improvement, and maintenance of our state's and city's water, transportation, power, energy and communications infrastructure investments in our economy.
- Support the creation of a long-term transportation plan for Oklahoma that looks beyond the 8-year resource allocation plan and takes growing economies into account.

### **Water**

- Ensure that Oklahoma water laws, policies, and regulations meet the needs of Oklahoma's citizens, assure adequate water to meet the future requirements of business and industry and do not limit opportunity for growth and development to include a long term comprehensive water asset management plan for Duncan and for the State of Oklahoma.

### **Education & Workforce Development**

- Support high education standards and programs to encourage upskilling employees in an effort to create a larger and more qualified workforce (support increased coordination between common education, career tech, and higher education systems).
- Support funding for Oklahoma's common education, career technology and higher education campuses to ensure affordable tuition for our citizens and encourage the growth of our jobs and our economy to include efforts necessary to attract and retain talented teachers.
- Enable local communities to support educational improvement based on local priorities.

### **Workers' Compensation & Unemployment Compensation**

- Support legislation that continues to strengthen Oklahoma's workers' compensation and unemployment compensation laws to create a fair and consistent system.

### **Health Care**

- Support sound legislative initiatives to help strengthen healthcare in rural areas.
- Urging lawmakers to accept federal funds to broaden coverage through Insure Oklahoma (Oklahoma Plan).
- Opposing state budget reductions for hospitals and other providers as well as issues restricting access to health care services.



## **2018 Legislative Plan of Action**

The mission of the Duncan Chamber of Commerce and Industry is to provide leadership in improving the business climate and the quality of life by mobilizing community resources including Duncan Area Economic Development Foundation, City of Duncan, Duncan Regional Hospital, Sanford Children’s Clinic, Duncan Convention and Visitors Bureau, Main Street Duncan, The Simmons Center, Stephens County Fair Grounds and Expo Center, Cameron University, Red River Technology Center, and Duncan Public Schools. The mission statement is used as the guiding principle of our Chamber and in the composition of our yearly legislative agenda.

The Chamber of Commerce’s legislative affairs committee sets a legislative agenda that identifies and supports issues important to our partner organizations, agencies, and community at large. The Chamber agenda supports reforms that will help improve the business climate, create jobs, and enhance the quality of life in Duncan. The legislative priorities identified represent the vision, strategy, and long-term collaborative effort of our Chamber of Commerce and our community.

The Chambers’ Legislative Affairs committee works to develop and successfully advocate strong local, state and federal legislative agendas around key policies that support a positive business climate and economic competitiveness. The Chamber supports effective business programs and tax incentives to encourage local economic development. We promote consistency of the regulatory environment that creates business certainty, creates jobs, and encourages economic growth.

The Chamber will continue to increase the value of Chamber legislative affairs activities important to members and ensure representation of the business community at local and state governmental meetings. We will work to build a stronger partnership with regional chambers and related organizations around initiatives that help maintain Duncan’s competitiveness in a global economy. We will work closely with the City of Duncan, as well as with key partner organizations, on local and state policies of importance to the business community and our quality of life.

### **Issues of Importance to Duncan: Local, State, and Federal**

#### **Infrastructure**

1. The Duncan Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with other organizations will actively support state legislation that boosts infrastructure policies. This legislation must support strategies that encourage the development of an environment that is conducive to driving investment in water, power, energy, and communications infrastructure in our economy.

#### **Economic Development**

1. Encourage the revitalization of Duncan and rural Oklahoma through community development incentives.
2. Support the creation of state economic development incentives that treat all communities equitably regardless of population.
3. Support programs that encourage the speculative investment into industrial and retail buildings.

4. Protect the ad valorem tax abatement program for qualifying manufacturing facilities and support initiatives to properly fund local taxing jurisdictions.
5. Support economic development programs and incentives that create and maintain jobs and investment in Oklahoma including the Quality Jobs Program & Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts.
6. Support continued funding for the Oklahoma Quick Action Closing Fund to attract new jobs at a level that allows Oklahoma to be competitive with surrounding states.
7. Support funding for the Training for Industry (TIP) Program administered through the Oklahoma Career Tech System, allowing businesses to receive additional training and education for employees.
8. Support policies that will grow tourism, technology and knowledge-based industries.

### **Energy & Natural Resources**

1. Support our local oil and natural gas exploration, production, service, and supply companies in their ongoing efforts to grow our local economy.
2. Support policies to protect local control on water and land use restrictions.
3. Maintain the necessary incentives for the exploration, production, and refinement of Oklahoma oil and natural gas, while also supporting policies that encourage greater development and use of those resources.
4. Support the development of wind and other alternative energy resources to complement the use of oil and natural gas.
5. Oppose any unnecessary legislative or regulatory intrusion into the energy industry.

### **Lawsuit Reform**

1. Continue to develop changes in Oklahoma's civil justice system that will make it more responsive to the needs of business.

### **Taxation**

1. Support greater local control over taxation, including diversified revenues, to allow the most responsive form of government to directly address resident needs.
2. Support increase in local revenue through possible City Sales Tax Initiative; Encourage County government to confine revenue raising through ad valorem, not sales tax.
3. Support tax reform, incentives and other initiatives that will grow Oklahoma's economy through increased jobs and capital investment to include the state's military installations and related jobs.

### **Transportation**

1. Support a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the maintenance and improvement of Duncan's transportation infrastructure through GO bonding.
2. Support partnerships for infrastructure projects (i.e. road and/or utility upgrades) that help attract capital investment and jobs.

3. Support the improvement and maintenance of the state and city's transportation infrastructure (Highways & bridges, Waterways, Rail, and Airports).
4. Support the creation of a long-term transportation plan for Oklahoma that looks beyond the 8-year resource allocation plan and takes growing rural economies into account.

### **Water**

1. Support the development of a long term comprehensive water asset management plan for Duncan and for the State of Oklahoma.
2. Ensure that Oklahoma water laws, policies, and regulations meet the needs of Oklahoma's citizens and assure adequate water to meet the future requirements of business and industry.
3. Support, protect, and defend our Waurika Lake & Municipal Lakes water rights.

### **Education and Workforce Development**

1. Support the ongoing program efforts of the education system (Duncan Public Schools, Cameron University, and Red River Technology Center) and the business community that meet Oklahoma's current and future work force needs.
2. Enable Duncan and other local communities to support educational improvement based on local priorities.
3. Support efforts to attract and retain talented teachers.
4. Support the growth of STEM, Project Lead the Way and Career Pathways programs in Oklahoma to create a career ready workforce.
5. Support the alignment of business needs and workforce training including internships and apprenticeships.
6. Support high education standards and programs to encourage upskilling employees to create a larger and more qualified workforce (support increased coordination between Common Education, Career Tech, and Higher Ed Systems).
7. Support adequate funding and competitive standards for all levels of Oklahoma education to provide a skilled workforce for the global economy.

### **Workers' Compensation & Unemployment Compensation**

1. Support legislation that continues to strengthen Oklahoma's workers' compensation laws to create a fair and consistent system.

### **Health Care**

1. Support the ongoing efforts and programs of Duncan Regional Hospital and Sanford Children's Clinic in meeting the health care needs of our community including Pathways to a Healthy Stephens County.
2. Support sound legislative initiatives to help strengthen healthcare in rural areas.
3. Urging lawmakers to accept federal funds, whenever available, to broaden coverage through Insure Oklahoma (Oklahoma Plan) or other viable options.

4. Opposing state budget reductions for hospitals and other providers as well as issues restricting access to health care services.
5. Support efforts to enhance the access and affordability of health care thereby increasing the number of those retaining insurance.