

# Guiding Principles

The Government Affairs Committee encourages elected officials to work with the business community to bolster the economy and improve our global competitiveness. We encourage cooperation and partnerships among government, education, business and civic groups. Each year your Chamber's Government Affairs Committee outlines goals and objectives based on the following guidelines.



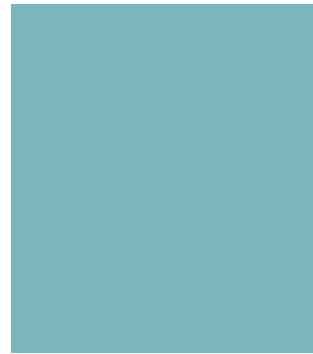
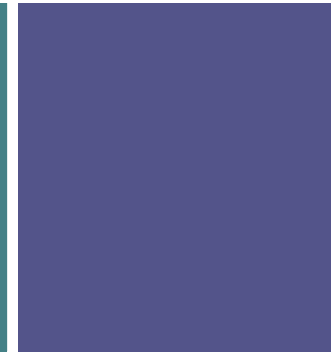
The issues addressed by the Government Affairs Committee are those that:

- Involve or pertain to the business community as a whole;
- Impact more than a substantial portion of the Chamber membership;
- Influence the overall economic development of the area;
- Impact an entire business sector such as manufacturing, services or tourism/retail;
- Impact the entire business climate.

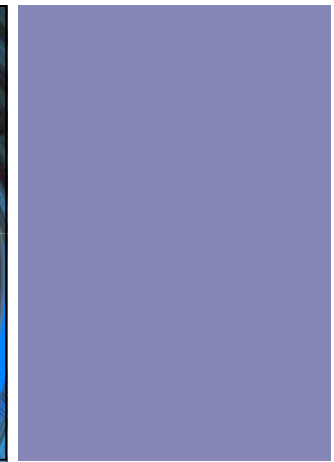
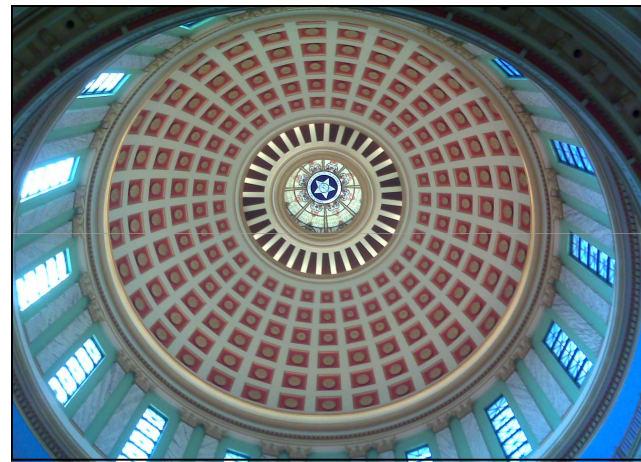
Public positions and support statements will be given when the issues meet the above guidelines. For those issues that don't meet the above guidelines, we offer assistance by providing appropriate networking contacts with other stakeholder organizations, government agencies, representatives or community leaders.

*Considered and Adopted by the Newcastle Chamber Board of Directors, November 10, 2011*

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# 2012 Legislative Agenda



Run Your Business  
While...  
We look out for it

## Overview

The Newcastle Chamber of Commerce's 2012 Legislative Agenda represents the Chamber's

commitment to creating an improved business climate and quality of life for Newcastle, McClain County, and the Tri City region as well as Oklahoma. Our agenda addresses the key concerns for our community, county and state. The Chamber adopted the agenda in late 2011, empowering staff and volunteer leadership to communicate these positions to key policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels.

The Chamber strongly believes these legislative recommendations will lead to a thriving economy for local businesses and an enhanced quality of life for area citizens.

## Local

- Support educational improvement based on local priorities.
- Support reform of city regulations, which will allow for a more business friendly environment.
- Encourage regional economic development efforts, policies and actions.
- Support transportation re-development of connection between Highways 62 and 37.
- Support transportation restructuring of Highway 76 for reduction in traffic incidents.

Below and Page 3 are State Initiatives and in support of the State Chamber of Oklahoma's Key Principles.

## Economic Development

- Support tax incentives that create and maintain jobs and investment in Oklahoma.
- Support funding for the Oklahoma Quick Action Closing Fund to attract new jobs.
- Encourage the revitalization of rural Oklahoma.
- Support policies that will grow technology and knowledge-based industries.

## Health Care

Support the creation of a statewide private-sector driven, web-based health insurance marketplace network system incorporating our state's values, demographics, tax structure and principles rather than depending upon the federal government to require our state to utilize a one-size-fits-all government created structure which does not do so.

## County

Support visible and active infrastructure re-investment by county government in community.

## Energy

- 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.
- Support the development of alternative energy resources to complement the use of oil and natural gas.
- Oppose any unnecessary legislative or regulatory intrusion into energy industry.

## Water

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.

## Workers Compensation

Support legislation to restructure Oklahoma's workers' compensation laws to create a fair and consistent system.

## Workforce Development

- Support funding for Oklahoma's career technology and higher education campuses to ensure affordable tuition for our citizens and encourage the growth of our jobs and our economy.
- Support streamlining of school district administration functions to put more money in the classroom.
- Support development of a healthy and skilled workforce.
- Support efforts to attract and retain talented teachers.
- Support policies that encourage new ideas and innovation in the education field as a way to improve academic achievement.

## Immigration

Support comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level to better secure our borders and oppose legislative efforts that negatively impact business.

## 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 tax reform that grows Oklahoma's economy and is fair to business.
- Support tax incentives and other initiatives that will boost the state's military installations and related jobs.