

2010 Top 3 Legislative Priorities

- 1 We support the prudent use of **economic development** tools including Tax Increment Financing (TIF); and we support continued participation and input from all affected taxing authorities in decisions regarding tax abatement and reallocation of funds.
- 2 We support the passage of legislation that enables local voters to **authorize the sale of bonds for their local school district** up to 20% of that district's assessed valuation.
- 3 We support creative and innovative initiatives to increase federal, state and local funding in order to **improve Missouri's interstates, highways and infrastructure**.



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2010 Legislative Priorities

*The mission of the
Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce
is to enhance the business community,
economic growth and quality of
life in the Northland.*

Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce

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NORTHLAND REGIONAL
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

2010 Legislative Priorities

Business

- A. We support legislation that provides business the ability to offer affordable health care insurance for employees.
- B. The Chamber supports minimal, competitively neutral, regulation of all voice, video & data providers.
- C. We support continued efforts to build a comprehensive workforce development system.

Cities/Counties

- A. We support appropriations to reimburse county governments for costs incurred while housing state prisoners in county jails.
- B. We oppose any legislation reducing or redirecting revenues generated by admission fees for gambling boats paid to the docking municipal and county governments.
- C. We support state legislation to allow a reasonable statewide 9-1-1 wireless surcharge that would support enhanced 9-1-1 service throughout Missouri.
- D. We support full funding of all state and federally mandated programs.

Economic Development [see Top Priorities]

- A. We support the prudent use of economic development tools including Tax Increment Financing (TIF); and we support continued participation and input from all affected taxing authorities in decisions regarding tax abatement and reallocation of funds.
- B. We support legislation authorizing the creation of multi-county Economic Development Districts to enable several counties or portions of counties to join together in developing a package of incentives to attract or retain major employers or implement major infrastructure projects including the power to issue bonds and levy a tax throughout the area to repay them.

Economic Development [continued]

- C. We support creation of new economic development tools that encourage job growth and retention, in particular, large scale projects.
- D. We support legislation that would provide additional economic development tools to local jurisdictions competing against incentives offered by jurisdictions outside Missouri.
- E. We support legislation that would make Missouri more competitive in attracting and retaining high tech companies and jobs.
- F. We encourage the state to provide a funding stream to assist communities in participating in state Certified Sites program.
- G. We support legislation to create a competitive Missouri incentive for data center locations and expansions.
- H. We support efforts to ensure adequate water levels and river flow in the Missouri River.

Education [see Top Priorities]

- A. We support the passage of legislation that enables local voters to authorize the sale of bonds for their local school district up to 20% of that district's assessed valuation.
- B. We support continued full funding of the foundation formula for elementary and secondary education.
- C. We support increased funding for higher education and continuation of the A+ Program.
- D. We oppose legislation that erodes the authority of local school boards and undermines the voice of local voters.
- E. We support revisions to the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) which allow flexibility in allocating NCLB related funds and the inclusion of reasonable growth performance benchmarks.
- F. We support full funding of all state and federal mandated programs.

Health Issues

- A. We support reform of our health care system to make health care available and affordable for employers and individuals in Missouri in order to reduce the number of uninsured Missourians.
- B. We support additional insurance reform for health care.
- C. We support the continuation of Certificate of Need (CON) in the State of Missouri.
- D. We support adequate reimbursements for Missouri Health Net and Medicare.
- E. We support transparency throughout the health care industry including the communication of accurate health care quality and price data to consumers. To ensure accurate and consistent information, transparency should be inclusive for the entire health care industry, including hospitals, health insurers, physicians, ambulatory centers and others. Data reporting should be standardized and risk adjusted and should focus on the consumer's medical conditions.

Parks & Recreation

- A. We support continued commitment to trails, parks and recreation initiatives. We encourage cooperation among all governmental agencies and public involvement in their planning and implementation.

Transportation [see Top Priorities]

- A. We support creative and innovative initiatives to increase federal, state and local funding in order to improve Missouri's interstates, highways and infrastructure.
- B. We support increased funding for regional public transit.
- C. We support legislation to expand the aviation industry in the Northland.

For more information or an electronic copy of these Priorities, visit www.northlandchamber.com

The **vision** of the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce will serve to enhance business opportunities and services for members;

- Provide a strong and unified voice for the Northland
- Promote high quality growth and development; and
- Lead the development of activities and partnerships among business, government and education.