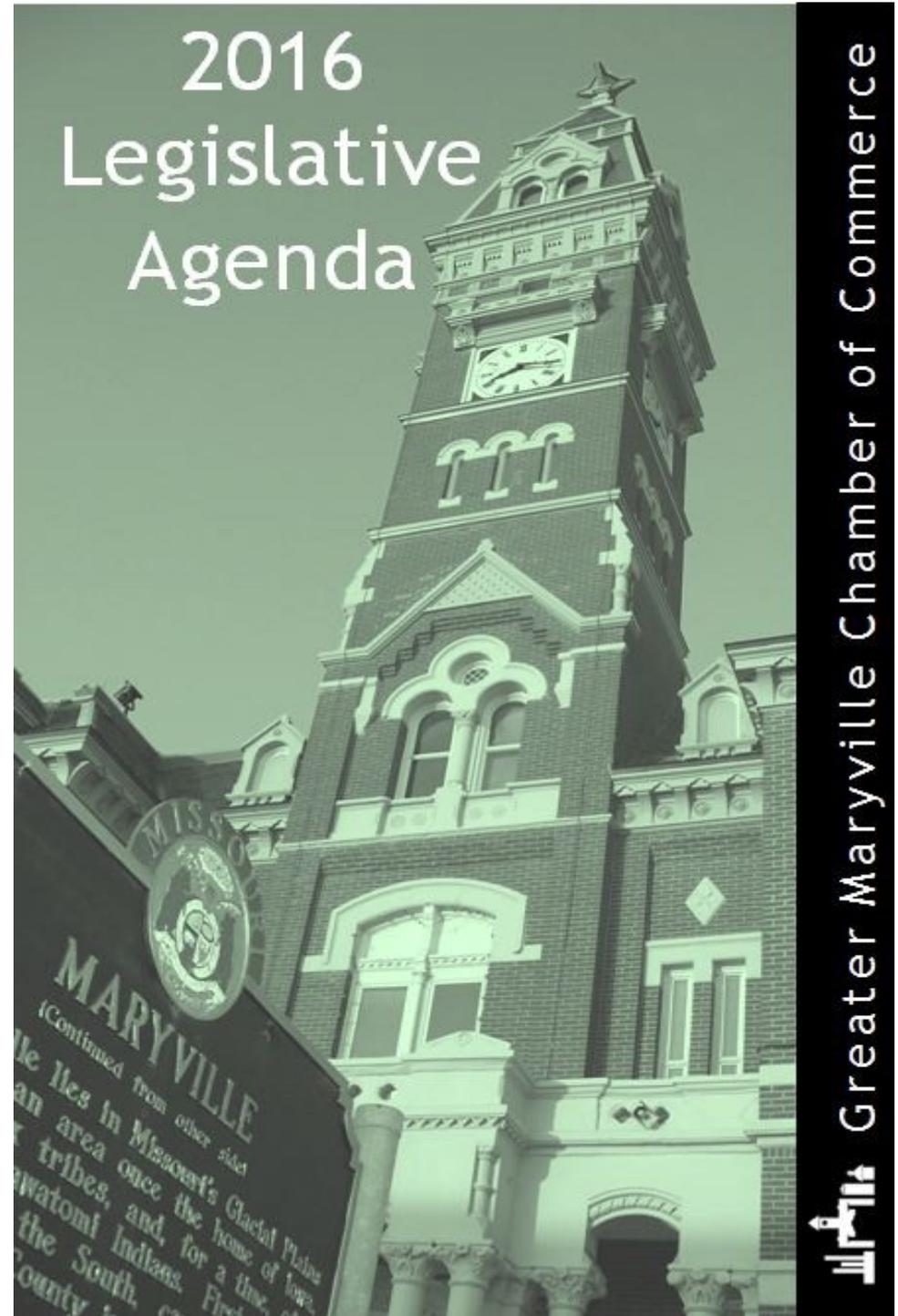




408 N. Market Street
(660) 582-8643
maryvillechamber.com
chamber@maryvillechamber.com



The Greater Maryville Chamber of Commerce, located in Northwest Missouri, represents nearly 250 business and professional organizations. The Chamber’s goal is to provide leadership to assist in the growth and development of business, and to enhance the community as a desirable place to live, work, and play.

This Legislative Agenda is the product a volunteer-driven process by the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Greater Maryville Chamber of Commerce. Comprised of knowledgeable volunteers whose mission is to review, debate and make recommendations to the Chamber’s Board of Directors. Chamber staff and volunteers advocate on behalf of our business community to elected officials at the state capitol in Jefferson City.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Tax Credits

The Chamber strongly encourages lawmakers to support and protect proven tax credit programs that are critical economic development tools used to stimulate employment and leverage private investment. We oppose efforts to reduce the effectiveness of such programs including proposals to subject them to the annual appropriations process. Additionally, the Chamber encourages lawmakers to pass legislation that level the playing field with surrounding states when negotiating for jobs and investment.

Small Business and Entrepreneurial Support

The Chamber encourages initiatives that would positively enhance the small business and entrepreneurial climate in the state and to encourage growth and development in this critical sector. The Chamber supports legislation that would provide assistance to small businesses by providing state matching grants for federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) or Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs such as grants for professional services, greater access to low-interest loans for start-up businesses and expansion capital.

Thank You

*Chamber Government Affairs Committee
Members and Legislative Agenda Resources*

**Joyce Cronin
Arnie Kreck
Becky Albrecht
Chad Higdon
Cliff McNair
Dan Hegeman
Dave Schmidt
Jordyn Swalley
Kay Wilson
Kelley Baldwin
Melody Blair
Michael Baumgartner
Robert Cronk
Tom Salisbury
Josh McKim**

City of Maryville Officials

Mayor

Renee Riedel
415 North Market
Maryville, MO 64468
riedel@maryville.org

Mayor Pro-Tem

Tim Shipley
415 North Market
Maryville, MO 64468
tshipley@maryville.org

Councilmember

Jason McDowell
415 North Market
Maryville, MO 64468
jmcowell@maryville.org

Councilmember

Rachael Martin
415 North Market
Maryville, MO 64468
rmartin@maryville.org

Councilmember

Jerry Riggs
415 North Market
Maryville, MO 64468
jriggs@maryville.org

Public Works Director

C.E. Goodall
415 North Market
Maryville, MO 64468
P: (660) 562-8012
cgoodall@maryville.org

City Manager

Greg McDanel
415 North Market
Maryville, MO 64468
P: (660) 562-3271
gmcDaniel@maryville.org

Assistant City Manager

Ryan Highland
415 North Market
Maryville, MO 64468
P: (660) 562-3271
rhighland@maryville.org

City Clerk

Sheila Smail
415 North Market
Maryville, MO 64468
P: (660) 562-8001
ssmail@maryville.org

Finance Director

Denise Town
415 North Market
Maryville, MO 64468
P: (660) 562-8007
townden@maryville.org

Public Safety Director

Keith Wood
222 East 3rd Street
Maryville, MO 64468
P: (660) 562-3209
director@maryvilledps.com

Energizer Replacement Recruitment

There are a couple of issues that need to be changed to help recruit another industry to Maryville. The Chamber supports becoming a Right to Work State. 75% of active projects will not consider a state that is not.

Workforce Development

The Chamber supports increased appropriations for workforce training incentives and technical education programs that offer customized skill and classroom training and retraining to new and expanding businesses. The Chamber encourages the state legislature and the governor to protect funding for training in order to enhance Missouri's workforce. During this time of high unemployment in our state, job training and retraining are more critical than ever. This would help with recruiting industry to Maryville.

Rural Regional Economic Development

Population and business growth in rural areas are projected to be declining at an increased rate in years to come. To help prevent and be proactive, the Chamber supports full funding of grants aimed at rural regional economic development organizations to help keep these rural areas alive.

EDUCATION

Elementary and Secondary Education

We support funding for pre-K through 12th grade education plus vocational programming for all areas required to make Missouri's educational system competitive and capable of meeting our state's educational needs. The Chamber supports full funding of Missouri's foundation formula as stated by law passed in 2006. .

The Chamber supports continued local control of how teachers are evaluated and compensated and also how educational standards are met.

Northwest Missouri State University /Missouri Academy

Northwest Missouri State University is uniquely connected to the region and the entire state through its hallmark programs serving the education, agriculture and science sectors. Its strengths extend beyond these areas, with particular emphasis placed on STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) excellence not just in nanoscale science, biology and within its shared-use Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE), but also through its Missouri Academy of Science, Mathematics and Computing. The Missouri Academy serves high-performing youth seeking to complete the last two years of high school and the first two years of college in a stimulating environment.

Northwest Missouri State University has higher-than-average retention and graduation rates bode well for the region and the state relative to an educated and engaged workforce. Northwest’s focus on affordability is punctuated by lower-than-state-average student debt load and student loan default rates dropping while state and national default rates rise. Furthermore, Northwest’s 700+ jobs and numerous activities attracting consumers from the region provide an economic boost for the state.

The Chamber further supports legislation that would:

- Protect core funding and strengthen operating and capital budgets for higher education – including the proposed six percent increase to the base for higher education in the next fiscal cycle;
- Support issues related to scholarship funding – especially, but not limited to, protecting and enhancing Missouri Access and overall scholarship support and addressing the amount private organizations receive;
- Provide support for the Missouri Academy of Science, Mathematics and Computing as well as the Missouri Innovation Campuses; and support Northwest’s capital priorities of
 - Upgrading agricultural sciences infrastructure (e.g., Agricultural Learning Center, R.T. Wright Farm and Valk Building);
 - Building a new academic building to help address burgeoning enrollments and strengthen offerings in the computing science area;
 - A sorely needed alternative energy production upgrade including funding for two new boilers.

Prosecuting Attorney

Robert L. Rice
 County Courthouse
 305 North Main
 Maryville, MO 64468
 P (660) 582-8285
 F (660) 582-8291
 nodawaypa@embarqmail.com

Circuit Judge

Roger M. Prokes
 County Courthouse
 305 North Main
 Maryville, MO 64468
 P (660) 582-4231
 roger.prokes@courts.mo.gov

Public Administrator

Diane Thomsen
 124 East 3rd Street
 Maryville, MO 64468
 P (660) 582-3134
 F (660) 582-3145
 thomsen@suddenlink.net

Coroner

Vincent Shelby
 P (660) 582-7451

Nodaway County Officials

Presiding Commissioner

Bill Walker
 Administration Center
 403 N. Market, PO Box 218
 Maryville, MO 64468
 P (660) 582-5541
 nodcom@embarqmail.com

North District Commissioner

Bob Westfall
 Administration Center
 403 N. Market, PO Box 218
 Maryville, MO 64468
 P (660) 582-5541
 nodcom@embarqmail.com

South District Commissioner

Bob Stiens
 Administration Center
 403 N. Market, PO Box 218
 Maryville, MO 64468
 P (660) 582-5541
 nodcom@embarqmail.com

Recorder of Deeds

Sandra Smail
 Administration Center
 403 N. Market, PO Box 218
 Maryville, MO 64468
 P (660) 582-5711
 nodcorecorder@embarqmail.com

Sheriff

Darren White
 404 North Vine
 Maryville, MO 64468
 P (660) 582-7451

County Clerk

Karen Leader
 Administration Center
 403 N. Market, PO Box 218
 Maryville, MO 64468
 P (660) 582-2251
 F (660) 582-5282
 nodclerk@embarqmail.com

Collector-Treasurer

Marilyn Jenkins
 Administration Center
 403 N. Market, PO Box 218
 Maryville, MO 64468
 P (660) 582-4302
 nctreas@embarqmail.com

Assessor

Rex Wallace
 Administration Center
 403 N. Market, PO Box 218
 Maryville, MO 64468
 P (660) 582-7633
 Personal Property
 P (660) 582-3374
 Real Estate
 nodgis@embarqmail.com

Associate Circuit Judge

Doug Thomson
 County Courthouse
 305 North Main
 Maryville, MO 64468
 P (660) 582-2531
 glen.dietrich@courts.mo.gov

Circuit Clerk

Elaine Wilson
 County Courthouse
 305 North Main
 Maryville, MO 64468
 P (660) -582-5431
 elaine.wilson@courts.mo.gov

HEALTH CARE

Medicaid Funding

With the Missouri Legislature not accepting the 100% funding for 5 years and 90% funding for all years that follow from the federal government, many of the deserving citizens fall into the “donut- hole”. The Chamber continues to support accepting the funds from the federal government to keep people healthy and helping the State with less medical expenses. The Chamber would support the law to say if the federal government backs out of their promise to continue to support at 90% the law will no longer be in effect.

ENERGY

Energy Diversification

The Chamber supports investment strategies in energy reliability and efficiency and we support policies that provide a balance between consumers and environmental protections. The Chamber encourages expansion and development of energy infrastructure without economically burdening industry/business.

“Cap and Trade” legislation, as currently proposed, would be unfair to states in the Midwest and Southern regions, which predominately generate electricity from fossil fuels. The legislation, if enacted, would put a cap on the amount of carbon that can be emitted on a national basis. This would put our region at a competitive disadvantage, while states in other regions would not feel the full impact of these new federal mandates. The Cap goes into effect 2020 and then lowers the carbon amounts until 2030.

The Chamber believes that affordable, reliable and sustainable energy is essential to a thriving state economy. As projections for energy demands continue to steadily increase, the Chamber supports measures that increase the availability of affordable and reliable energy through expanding overall energy production from increasingly cleaner sources, promoting broad-based energy efficiency measures, and encouraging investment in alternative energy technologies. Proposed energy policy must be comprehensive and must consider all forms of available energy including natural gas, coal, nuclear, hydro, wind, solar, and biofuels.

TRANSPORTATION

Alternative Forms of Funding

With the loss of federal and state transportation dollars, future funding for Missouri's transportation infrastructure improvements is in jeopardy. As such, the Chamber urges the legislature to explore various funding options such as increased general sales tax; motor fuel tax; dedicated general revenue or toll roads for new construction beyond the existing interstate highway system in order to strengthen Missouri's transportation system.

ISSUES IN THE WORKPLACE

Robinson vs. Hooker

A recent court of appeals ruling in the case of Robinson vs. Hooker concluded that an injured employee can now personally sue a co-worker for negligence that may have caused an injury to a fellow worker. Missouri statutes, as interpreted by this court decision, expose Missouri workers to a significant liability without insurance protection of the workers' compensation system. The Chamber advocates for legislation that will reverse this court ruling.



Missouri Governor

Jeremiah W. Nixon (D)
 State Capitol, Room 216
 201 West Capitol Avenue
 Jefferson City, MO 65102
 P (573) 751-3222
 F (573) 751-1588
constituent.services@mo.gov



Missouri Lieutenant Governor

Peter D. Kinder (R)
 State Capitol, Room 224
 201 West Capitol Avenue
 Jefferson City, MO 65102
 P (573) 751-4727
 F (573) 751-9422
ltgov@mail.mo.gov



Missouri Senator

Dan Hegeman (R)
 State Capitol, Room
 201 West Capitol Avenue
 Jefferson City, MO 65102
 P 573-751-1415
dan.hegeman@senate.mo.gov



Missouri Representative

Allen Andrews (R)
 State Capitol, Room 135 AB
 201 West Capitol Avenue
 Jefferson City, MO 65101
 P (573) 751-9465
allen.andrews@house.mo.gov

DIRECTORY OF OFFICIALS

United States Senators



Roy Blunt (R)
 Russell Senate Office Building, Suite 260
 Washington, D.C. 20510
 P (202) 224-5721
 F (202) 224-8149

District Office
 911 Main Street, Suite 2224
 Kansas City, MO 64105
 P (816) 471-7141
 F (816) 471-7338



Claire McCaskill (D)
 Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 506
 Washington, D.C. 20510
 P (202) 224-6154
 F (202) 228-6326

District Office
 4141 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 101
 Kansas City, MO 64111
 P (816) 421-1639
 F (816) 421-2562

United States Representative



Sam Graves (R)
 Longworth House Office Building, Suite 1415
 Washington, D.C. 20515
 P (202) 225-7041
 F (202) 225-8221

District Office
 201 South 8th Street, Room 330
 St. Joseph, MO 64501
 P (816) 233-9818
 F (816) 233-9848

Occupational Disease

A recent circuit court ruling concluded that exposure over time that resulted in injury should not be construed as a workplace injury and should therefore not be covered by the worker's compensation law. Missouri statutes, as interpreted by this court decision, leave employers liable for claims that will likely not be covered by workers' compensation insurance. We urge lawmakers to pass legislation that will reverse the ruling to protect employers and employees.

Second Injury Fund

The Chamber encourages comprehensive reform of the Second Injury Fund system to ensure solvency by considering legislation that would:

- Eliminate Permanent Total Disability payments once worker is eligible for full social security benefits or if worker becomes gainfully employed.
- Allow a worker to receive only one permanent total disability award in his/her lifetime.
- Limit permanent partial disability settlements and awards to one time for each pre-existing condition.
- Limit access for pre-existing disabilities to military and work related injuries.
- Prohibit a permanent total disability award to a worker that qualified for social security disability before the date of the injury.

Cost of Business Operation

Everyday the cost to open the doors of a small business goes up. Excessive and fraudulent workmen's comp claims, unemployment payment, and the high cost of insurance and theft all stack against the business owner before a profit can be realized. The Chamber encourages the Legislature to keep costs not only in check but reduced.

Labor Relations

The Chamber opposes the Employee Free Choice Act, or any other legislation that would compromise the rights of employees to unionize through the secret ballot process, expose workers to union intimidation, and impose federally-appointed arbitrators into contract negotiation. The Chamber supports the right of workers to voluntarily join unions under fair and democratic rules but opposes legislation that would impose new and costly regulations on businesses, disrupt the way businesses are run, and stifle productivity and economic growth.

Minimum Wage

The Chamber encourages lawmakers to consider legislation that would eliminate the indexing provision from the minimum wage proposition passed in 2006 in order to protect the state’s economy. The minimum wage needs to be looked at as a start up wage for unskilled labor.

INFRASTRUCTURE

DNR

By following the EPA regulations on waste water treatment, small towns such as Barnard, Guilford and Skidmore in Nodaway County and Stanberry in Gentry County are forced to spend a large amount of money to be up to standards, resulting in expensive sewer bills. The Chamber encourages lawmakers to consider standards which are more easily achieved, but which still assure healthy solutions. The State of Missouri needs sensible solutions that allow us to continue to live in our small towns.

AGRICULTURE

EPA & Regulations

In Nodaway County and Northwest Missouri, agriculture is an essential business and operation that we want to continue to grow and succeed in the future. In order to help our agriculture community, the Chamber supports the need of protection from the EPA and excessive regulations.

STATE INITIATIVES

Prevailing Wage

The Missouri Municipal League supports amendments to the prevailing wage law that would exempt de minimus amounts for work on public projects and all work involving repairs thus eliminating undue burden and expense on small public projects.
(Adopted from Missouri Municipal League Policy)

Internet Taxes

Level the playing field for Missouri’s Brick and Mortar businesses by supporting initiatives like the Main Street Fairness Act. Local businesses are the backbone of our communities and the source of a majority of jobs in Missouri. They should not have to be undermined by our tax code that gives out-of-state internet companies an advantage. As proposed, The Main Street Fairness Act brings Missouri law into line with twenty-four other states currently collecting sales tax on internet goods. It will simplify and unify Missouri’s tax code, setting one date on which tax collection begins and establishing definitions for items like food, soft drink, candy, drugs, lawn equipment, etc.

Debt

Government debt has become a drain on the whole country. Missouri is fortunate to be in as good a financial condition as it is, but we must start to address our long term liabilities so we can maintain a healthy balance sheet. The Chamber recommends all new state hires be at parity to private sector wages and retirement scales and time tables need to be changed to address the longer life of the population. If Social Security is now 67 for full benefits, the government employee should be the same age.