



## **2009 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

Our goal is to study and analyze issues of interest to the **Raytown** area business community, take positions on those issues and communicate the Chamber's viewpoint to its members, elected officials and the community.

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, as well as the Missouri Chamber Federation.

Our common interest is to improve the quality of life in our community to make it an attractive place to live, work and do business. It is especially important in historically challenging economic times that the Chamber and its allies work together to create a climate that promotes growth and the wellbeing of our community. In line with this, we have adopted the following priorities:

### **EDUCATION**

A quality educational system is key to the economic health of the **Raytown** community. The Chamber supports:

- Providing equitable and adequate funding for all levels of public education, including funding to cover governmental mandates, A+ schools, early childhood education, job retraining and retention programs and needed capital improvement projects.
- Implementing the METS initiative to strengthen math, engineering, technology and science education.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

In today's competitive society and difficult economic times, Missouri and its communities need a strong package of programs and incentives that provide a competitive edge. The Chamber supports:

- Strengthening Missouri's economic development resources and ability to retain existing businesses, encouraging the redevelopment of older communities, allowing cities of less than 75,000 population to create a Land Clearance Redevelopment Authority without a super-majority vote of the people and continuing the effective use of tax incentive programs, such as TIF, as important economic development tools.
- Recognizing the arts as an important economic development tool through providing funding for arts organizations and programs.
- Proceeding with the formation of the **Raytown** Development Partnership and hiring of an executive director to strengthen **Raytown's** economic development effort.

## **BUSINESS**

It is important that Missouri has a strong, positive business climate to maintain and grow existing businesses and to attract new businesses. The Chamber supports:

- Implementing state budgeting processes that provide funding for important state programs without placing an undue burden on the business community, including cost-benefit assessment of the impact of new laws and administrative regulations on Missouri businesses.
- Adopting necessary reforms or maintaining recent improvements in important programs such as the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, Workers' Compensation, tort reform and employment at-will.
- Encouraging investment in energy efficiency measures through regulatory and legislative policy. The Chamber supports minimal, competitively neutral regulation of all voice, video and data providers.

## **LOCAL**

The City of **Raytown**, the **Raytown** Quality Schools and the **Raytown** Area Chamber of Commerce all have a vested interest in the economic well being of the **Raytown** area and the quality of life offered to the citizens and business in the area. The Chamber supports:

- Continuing improvement and investment along the Highway 350 corridor including improvement to and maintenance of the roadway and adjacent areas and attracting quality economic development projects to the area.
- Redeveloping and revitalizing the downtown area.
- Providing appropriate funding for police and emergency medical service programs, including reasonable funding of wireless access to 9-1-1 services throughout the state.
- Encouraging regional approaches to public transit and transportation, including light rail, and designation of **Raytown** as a transportation hub.

## **HEALTH CARE/SOCIAL AWARENESS**

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

- Encouraging a health care delivery system based on quality, coordinated care; efficient use of health care resources; appropriate and timely reimbursement for health care services; and helping employers and employees control health care costs.
- Ensuring the viability of health care providers who provide services to the uninsured and the underinsured and maximizing all available resources in addition to leveraging Missouri general revenues, while controlling the growth of the funding of Missouri's Medicaid program.
- Strengthening local services that improve the well being of the workforce, including mental health, social services, senior services, violence prevention, drug abuse, domestic violence prevention and others.
- Discouraging the growth in the number of uninsured residents in Missouri, including enacting incentives for Missouri companies that provide health insurance for their employees.

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