

## Community Partners

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# MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER!

## 2022 Joint Legislative Statement FOR EMPORIA & THE LYON COUNTY AREA





## Safe, Diverse and Inclusive Communities

Emporia and Lyon County support safety and inclusion for all. The population of our communities is diverse, and we celebrate those differences.

## Tax Policy

Emporia and Lyon County residents recognize the importance of a balanced and fair tax policy for our state. Tax policy can drive job growth and recruit new businesses by building excellent infrastructure, providing high quality education, and enhancing the health and quality of life for our citizens.

## Education

Education is essential to the vitality and dynamism of the Emporia — Lyon County community. To ensure equity, every public-school student in Kansas deserves an opportunity for a high-quality education preparing them to be college and career ready. We support the requests of the Kansas Board of Regents to restore funding for public universities, community colleges, and technical colleges to pre-pandemic levels.

We ask the Kansas Legislature to:

- Fully fund the school finance formula, including CPI; fully fund special education; 3-year commitment to education funding so that districts can plan. This also supports economic development.
- Maintain sustainable funding for KPERs
- Increase benefits to Tier 3 employees to help retain current employees. Due to staff shortages, allow work after retirement.



## Health Care

High quality, affordable health care is essential for a thriving and healthy community. We support primary and specialty care, behavioral health, dental care, public health and various wellness initiatives that ensure sufficient funding for providers. We support taking advantage of federal funding by expanding Medicaid.

We ask the Kansas Legislature to:

- Support a continuation of Medicaid to allow telemedicine parity for treatment by telephone and televideo with equivalent reimbursement as an office visit.
- Fund rural recruitment efforts and incentives in the health care industries to assist in retaining and keeping a quality workforce.

## Economic Development

The most pressing issue facing our business and industries is the difficulty recruiting and retaining employees. The state must become a partner in assisting our communities to address issues such as affordable housing and childcare. Both are critical for the growth of our business and industries. We support the preservation and funding of incentive programs such as PEAK, HPIP, STAR and JCF. In addition, having tools such as TIF, TDD, and CID available to use locally are important.



## Transportation

We support fully funding the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation program and will work as a partner in our regional projects. Lyon County has 301 bridges, ranking second in the state. Current major transportation projects include major improvements at the Emporia Regional airport and construction of transcontinental double tracks by BNSF. The expansion of broadband into our rural areas is also vital to the growth and prosperity of our citizens.

We ask the Kansas Legislature to:

- Continue to fully fund the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program.
- Participate in the expansion of broadband into our rural areas.

