

The Greater Warrensburg Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center

2010 Legislative Priorities

Representing our members, the Board of Directors of the Greater Warrensburg Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center actively promotes a four point public policy agenda:

- Strong economic growth
- Adequate funding for all levels of education,
- Satisfactory transportation infrastructure to support vibrant commerce and economic development in Johnson County, Missouri,
- Superior city and county services that advance the economic vitality and Quality of life in our community.

Issue – Economic Development

The Greater Warrensburg Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center recognizes that the continued growth to Warrensburg's economy and job opportunities is vital to future success.

Action Needed

- We support balanced use of economic incentives to facilitate commercial development.
- Improvement of the Max B. Swisher Skyhaven Airport
The Greater Warrensburg Area Chamber of Commerce supports the extension of the runway and development of support facilities at the Max B. Swisher Skyhaven Airport.
- Support for area military installations and units.
The Greater Warrensburg Area Chamber of Commerce supports the efforts of the preservation and expansion of Whiteman Air Force Base, the continuance of the missions of the 509th Bomb Squadron, the 442nd Air Force Reserve Unit, First-135th Attack Battalion and the Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 114 *and* Joint Fires Network Unit 1.
- The promotion of Missouri, Johnson County, and Warrensburg being a military friendly area is a must. The focus on military or defense related industries is a priority for the Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce.
- Support the initiatives of the Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission and the Whiteman Area Leadership Council.
- Support for local tourism initiatives to promote Warrensburg as destination tourism.
- Support tourism funding for the promotion of Missouri as a tourism destination should continue to be a priority of this state, county, and city. The Chamber supports the Division of Tourism for promotion of Missouri's tourism industry and cooperative marketing programs.
- Support for the consolidate/coordinated efforts for local business to develop efforts, resources and federal and state and local incentives for business development is a must for economic growth in Warrensburg and Johnson County.

Issue – Education

The Greater Warrensburg Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes that the quality of life and economic vitality of our community, state and nation are more closely linked to education than any other social policy factor. We are proud of our long tradition of partnership with our community institutions that deliver quality education at the primary, secondary and higher education levels. We are alarmed at the rate at which Missouri is losing ground in public support for education. We believe that a natural partnership exists between the business community and education, a partnership that suffers when short-sighted conflict clouds long-term mutual interest for both institutions.

Action Needed

- **Guaranteed adequate funding for every school district**
The Greater Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce recognizes that having a successful education system requires that the state make satisfactory funding available for every school district.
- **Guaranteed adequate funding for higher education**
The Greater Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce recognizes that the economic vitality of our state is increasingly reliant upon the intellectual capital of our citizenry. Creativity, productivity and leadership rooted in the understandings that grow from higher education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels best serve our future. Our state must restore responsible levels of funding to our system of public supported higher education.

Issue – Transportation

The Greater Warrensburg Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes that transportation is a critical aspect of economic activity in our state. The quality of our transportation system leverages Missouri's natural geographic advantage. Conversely, a deteriorating transportation system squanders that advantage. All modes: water, air, rail, and highway, make critical contributions to the transportation system for our state. It is proven that transportation has a direct impact on employer's ability to compete. Protecting and advancing our system of transportation is not an option – it is an economic and (for safety reasons) social imperative.

Action Needed

- **Additional Funding for Highway Improvements**
We support the exploration of transportation funding mechanisms earmarked for debt service on additional transportation improvement bonds.
- **Maximize Federal Funds**
The Greater Warrensburg Area Chamber of Commerce encourages work toward passing legislation associated with federal mandates to avoid financial penalties from the federal government.
- **Improvement of Highway 13**
The Greater Warrensburg Area Chamber of Commerce supports upgrading Missouri Highway 13, from Higginsville to Clinton to improve safety and support the growing economic activity in this corridor.
- **Highway 50 Access to Skyhaven Airport and UCM**

- The Greater Warrensburg Area Chamber of Commerce supports the construction of an interchange on US Highway 50, west of Warrensburg, to provide safe access to University of Central Missouri and the Max B. Swisher Skyhaven Airport. A growing number of students commute daily from the greater Kansas City area to University of Central Missouri. A west side interchange would reduce the traffic load on Missouri Highway 13 and eliminate the safety issues at the current west side at-grade crossing.
- Maintain Amtrak Service
The Greater Warrensburg Area Chamber of Commerce supports the maintenance of Amtrak service in Missouri. Amtrak provides a critical public transportation option for citizens of all socio-economic backgrounds, but particularly for students at University of Central Missouri, tourists who attend the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia, and tourists who participate in conventions and events in St. Louis, Kansas City, Washington and Hermann.