



**Travel Industry
Association of Kansas**

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**Travel Industry Association of Kansas
2019 Legislative Agenda**

Advocate:

- To identify long-term, sustainable funding mechanisms to policy makers for the promotion of tourism at the state level, such as defined in the Kansas Tourism Initiative. Strive to maintain funding levels in an effort to compete on an even field with neighboring and regional states.
- For tax measures that generate revenue through investment in projects or initiatives that produce jobs and/or encourage visitor spending. Specifically support the STAR bonds program and work to promote the role of tourism professionals in the project approval process.
- Timely completion of projects related to transportation including levels of funding necessary to complete those designated in the current comprehensive transportation plan. In addition, work with transportation advocates to secure long-term revenue source for future transportation program needs.
- Policies that promote the growth and development of a strong agritourism business sector.
- Against limitations or prohibitions of public lobbying.
- Oppose any legislation that would potentially have a negative influence on the travel industry and/or adversely affect the positive fiscal impact of tourism.

Support

- Maintaining consistent, sufficient funding for the Division of Travel and Tourism so it may continue to promote the state of Kansas as a tourism destination. Advocate that travel and tourism dollars remain dedicated to direct tourism projects and not be diverted to efforts beyond the realm of marketing and promotion of the state.
- Encouraging the continued development of natural heritage areas of state and national significance as well as continue support of National Heritage Area initiatives.
- Sustaining the current legislation on Open Records/Open Meetings Act and oppose legislation which weakens current open records/open meeting statutes.
- A healthy business environment that encourages small business and entrepreneurial ventures related to tourism in Kansas. Monitor regulatory oversight so that it encourages the delivery of a successful tourist experience in Kansas.

Monitor

- Policies related to the Transient Guest Tax to ensure the dollars collected are used for the primary source of promoting travel and tourism. Maintain awareness of tax issues that may affect Destination Marketing Organizations.
- Efforts to lessen the impact of convention and tourism promotion through the use of the Transient Guest Tax. Work with legislative committees and Kansas Department of Revenue to review Transient Guest Tax statutes for uniformity and enforcement.
- Implementation of new workers compensation statutes and, when necessary, oppose efforts which would have a negative impact on service industry businesses.
- Potential discriminatory legislation that would impact travelers visiting Kansas.
- State and federal legislation with regard to immigration and naturalization that impacts the service industry business.