



**Travel Industry
Association of Kansas**

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**Travel Industry Association of Kansas
2022 Legislative Agenda**

Advocate

- Pandemic relief measures for the Kansas tourism industry in the form of grants, tax forgiveness and economic development investment that will stimulate recovery and incentivize visitors to return to Kansas.
- To identify long-term, sustainable funding mechanisms to policy makers for the promotion of tourism at the state level. Advocate for additional funding for Kansas Tourism so that Kansas can compete on a level field with neighboring and regional states.
- Tax measures that generate revenue through investment in projects or initiatives that produce jobs and/or encourage visitor spending. Specifically, promote the role of tourism professionals in the STAR Bonds project approval process.
- Timely completion of projects related to transportation including levels of funding necessary to complete those designated in the transportation plan. In addition, work with transportation advocates to secure and maintain long-term revenue source for future transportation program needs.
- Investment in workforce development and training to attract workers needed to support the tourism industry.
- Against limitations or prohibitions of public lobbying.

Support

- Tourism enterprises such as promotion of agri-tourism and eco-tourism in Kansas, maintaining state support for KS Parks System as well as renewal of natural heritage areas of state and national significance including the 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.
- Legislative initiatives which reinforce Kansas welcomes all travelers and educate legislators on the negative fiscal impact to the state that legislation may have.

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.
- Kansas economic development strategic planning and assure Kansas tourism is recognized and included as part of the overall long-term plan.
- Work with legislative committees and Kansas Department of Revenue to review Transient Guest Tax statutes for uniformity and enforcement across all qualifying lodging establishments.
- Implementation of new workers compensation statutes and, when necessary, oppose efforts which would have a negative impact on service industry businesses.
- State and federal immigration and naturalization legislation that impacts the service industry business.