



2026
REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA





The annual OneVoice process is a regional advocacy business effort led by the Tulsa Regional Chamber. The coalition of organizations endorsing the OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda includes more than 75 city and county governments, chambers of commerce, economic development organizations and education institutions.

Representing business-driven consensus on northeast Oklahoma's top policy priorities, the 2026 OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda will guide the Chamber's advocacy efforts throughout the year. The agenda's 15 state and 15 federal priorities are the result of collaboration between more than 300 individuals from hundreds of businesses and more than 75 chambers of commerce, municipalities, counties and economic development organizations.

2026 has the potential to be a pivotal year for many of the policy priorities of the northeast Oklahoma business community. As we have seen over the last few years, action and responsiveness from our elected officials - whether at the local, state or federal level - can have enormous implications for individual companies and entire industries.

Play a part in shaping state and federal legislation by joining a task force to help create the **OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda**. The agenda is developed annually through the collaboration of more than 500 individuals representing hundreds of businesses and more than 75 chambers of commerce, municipalities, counties, and economic development organizations.

Participation in the OneVoice task forces will be available only to employees of Chamber members that invest at the Advocate Level or above, as well as representatives from regional chambers of commerce. Task forces will meet (virtually via Zoom) throughout the fall to generate policy positions and legislative priorities for consideration on the agenda. The top priority from each task force will automatically be added to the final OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda.

The remainder of the task forces' priorities will be deliberated and voted on by all Chamber members in attendance during the annual **OneVoice Regional Legislative Summit**.

The Summit is open to all levels of membership, so please mark your calendars and plan to participate!

For questions about your organization's membership investment level, please contact us.

TO JOIN A TASK FORCE, CONTACT A MEMBER OF OUR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM.



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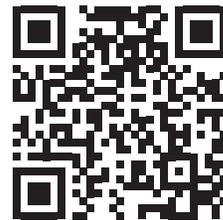
**OKLAHOMA
HOUSE**



**OKLAHOMA
SENATE**



**TULSA CITY
COUNCIL**



**TULSA COUNTY
COMMISSION**



GUIDING PRINCIPLES & THEIR EXPLANATION

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ENSURING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

Driving a prosperous economy means championing the conditions that help employers grow, attract talent and compete. When the state invests in the fundamentals that strengthen our communities and support working families, businesses feel the impact through a stronger workforce, more vibrant industries and a more predictable environment to plan for the future. This commitment helps ensure northeast Oklahoma remains competitive, resilient and positioned for long-term success.

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BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE CRITICAL TO BUSINESS

Creating critical infrastructure starts with laying the groundwork for growth, reliability and connection across our region. When Oklahoma invests in modern transportation networks, prepared sites, strong municipal resources and dependable energy systems, businesses gain the stability and predictability they need to thrive. These investments strengthen northeast Oklahoma's competitiveness and open the door to long-term economic opportunity.

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DEVELOPING AN EDUCATED AND HEALTHY WORKFORCE

Strengthening our workforce starts with ensuring Oklahomans can learn, grow and stay healthy throughout their careers. When the state invests in high-quality education, robust training pathways and accessible health and mental health supports, businesses benefit from a stronger talent pipeline and a more dependable workforce. These commitments help build a more prosperous future for employers, families and communities across northeast Oklahoma.



ENSURING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

Support Oklahoma's Film & Music Industries

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports protecting and expanding Oklahoma's film and music incentive programs to drive jobs, investment and cultural vibrancy. With the film sector generating more than \$200 million in direct impact in 2024, we urge raising the film incentive rebate cap to **\$80 million** and pursuing targeted incentives for local music venues and artists. Defending existing programs while expanding funding will keep Oklahoma competitive with neighboring states, attract productions, grow a skilled workforce and strengthen the state's creative economy.

- Texas has an annual rebate cap of \$200 million.
- New Mexico has an annual cap of \$130 million.
- Louisiana has an annual cap of \$125 million.
- Oklahoma has an annual cap of \$30 million.

Tim Milloy | MovieMaker Magazine | January 22, 2025



2025
Best Place to Live & Work as a Moviemaker
Big Cities



Create a Dedicated Funding Stream for Economic Development

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition recommends the establishment of a permanent, dedicated funding source for economic development in Oklahoma. Currently, the state lacks a consistent funding mechanism for incentives, while nearly all of our competitor states maintain dedicated resources to recruit and retain jobs and capital investment. At the same time, the planned reduction of Oklahoma's state income tax threatens to eliminate our most effective incentive tool, the Quality Jobs program, over the coming years. To remain competitive, Oklahoma must secure a stable funding stream for economic development that does not rely on project-by-project approvals or annual legislative intervention. Potential revenue sources include sports betting, settlement funds such as PFAS or other emerging opportunities, as well as other innovative streams. By creating a reliable and forward-looking mechanism, Oklahoma can strengthen its ability to attract investment, grow jobs and ensure long-term economic vitality.

Strengthen Accessible and Workforce Housing

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports efforts to expand accessible and workforce housing as a critical economic and workforce development strategy. Rising housing costs have outpaced wages at a ratio of 5 to 1, leaving many essential workers (teachers, health care providers, first responders and service industry professionals) unable to comfortably afford available housing. This weakens labor markets, increases turnover and disrupts student learning, with unstable housing contributing to chronic absenteeism and lower graduation rates. To address these challenges, we urge lawmakers to revisit the rulemaking of the \$215 million Oklahoma Housing Stability Fund to ensure the program can be used alongside Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, streamline applications, eliminate unnecessary costs and restructure the urban/rural split to make the program more equitable. Targeted investment in financially accessible housing will strengthen Oklahoma's workforce, attract new employers and improve educational outcomes, while ensuring all Oklahomans have access to safe, stable, attainable housing.



Increase the Oklahoma Department of Tourism's Promotional Fund

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition urges lawmakers to increase the Oklahoma Department of Tourism's Promotional Fund. Tourism is Oklahoma's third-largest industry, generating \$12.3 billion in economic impact, supporting 108,000 jobs and contributing \$875 million in tax revenue in 2023. To build on this success - especially as we approach the 2026 centennial of Route 66 - the OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports increased funding for the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. Surrounding states invest more aggressively to attract visitors and Oklahoma must compete. With our unmatched stretch of Route 66, stunning state parks, world-class museums and cultural institutions, rich Native American heritage and thriving communities, greater investment will ensure we can promote, maintain and expand the assets that make Oklahoma a premier destination for national and international travelers.

Continue to Foster Healthy Partnership Between the 38 Federally Recognized Tribes and the State of Oklahoma

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports continued efforts to foster and strengthen healthy partnerships between the 38 federally recognized tribes and the State of Oklahoma. These government-to-government relationships are essential to advancing shared goals of economic growth, public health, education and cultural preservation. By encouraging collaboration and mutual respect, Oklahoma can capitalize on its largest competitive advantage, ensuring more effective policy outcomes that benefit tribal citizens, the broader population and the state as a whole.



BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE CRITICAL TO BUSINESS

Support Critically Needed Transportation Funding

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports full funding of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Eight-Year Plan to return our streets and highways to a state of good repair. We further support investment in studies, planning and highway improvements necessary to upgrade the US-412 corridor between I-35, Tulsa and northwest Arkansas to Federal Interstate standards. We support increased state appropriations to ODOT to ensure the effective and efficient construction, maintenance and improvement of all transportation facilities under its responsibility. We oppose the diversion of resources from the State Transportation Fund to other uses and support equitable distribution of state funding to ODOT Districts to keep Oklahoma's transportation network strong for citizens, businesses and industry.

- Poor road conditions, traffic congestion and safety deficiencies cost Oklahoma drivers a total of **\$6.3 billion** each year, according to a report by TRIP, a national transportation research nonprofit.
- Infrastructure investments support **51,000** full-time jobs across Oklahoma, with nearly **800,000** additional jobs in key industries relying on a reliable transportation system.



NEW INTERSTATE PROPOSED

Regional planners are being asked to consider joining Oklahoma officials in asking U.S. 412 be designated a future east-west interstate highway connecting I-35 west of Tulsa to I-49 in Springdale. The route (shown in red) includes and would connect the Tulsa metropolitan area and the northwest Arkansas metropolitan area.

SOURCE: Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission





Continue and Increase Investment in Site Readiness

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition urges the Oklahoma Legislature to continue and expand funding for site readiness. Companies looking to expand or relocate often move quickly and without shovel-ready sites, Oklahoma risks losing investment to better-prepared states. Site readiness funding helps communities ensure land is equipped with infrastructure, utilities and certifications, making Oklahoma more competitive in the national marketplace. These investments pay off through new capital investment, quality job creation and long-term tax revenue. By strengthening site readiness programs, the Legislature can position Oklahoma for sustained growth and secure opportunities for the next generation of workers.

Ensure Adequate Funding for Municipalities

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition urges the Legislature to protect existing sources of municipal funding, as Oklahoma is one of the few states that relies primarily on sales tax collections to fund municipal operations. To ensure that essential services such as public safety, public works and other municipal functions are supported at sustainable levels, we encourage the Legislature to explore more stable and diversified revenue streams. In addition, we support the continued appropriation of one-time funds to assist with critical economic development projects, such as recent investments in levee improvements and the Tulsa Airman Center.

Implement Policies to Expedite Deployment of Critical Energy Infrastructure

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports strengthening and promoting Oklahoma's energy network. We urge the state to implement policies that accelerate the deployment of critical infrastructure- particularly transmission lines and pipelines. This includes streamlining permitting, supporting timely construction of approved projects and investing in long-term maintenance and modernization. To ensure reliability while new projects are underway, we recommend interim solutions such as grid-enhancing technologies that increase electricity flow and reduce congestion costs. Additionally, we support enhanced protections for critical infrastructure against unauthorized low-altitude aerial activity. These measures will help safeguard infrastructure, maintain operational integrity and ensure public safety. By prioritizing these actions, Oklahoma can reinforce its energy leadership, meet rising demand and drive sustained economic growth across the state.

- In 2024, Oklahoma was the nation's **sixth-largest** producer of both marketed natural gas and crude oil.
- Oklahoma produces almost **three times** more energy than it consumes.
- In 2024, Tulsa was identified as a frequently constrained area and **continues to experience** congestion prices.



**LARGEST NATURAL GAS & CRUDE
OIL PRODUCER IN THE NATION**



CREATING AN EDUCATED & HEALTHY WORKFORCE

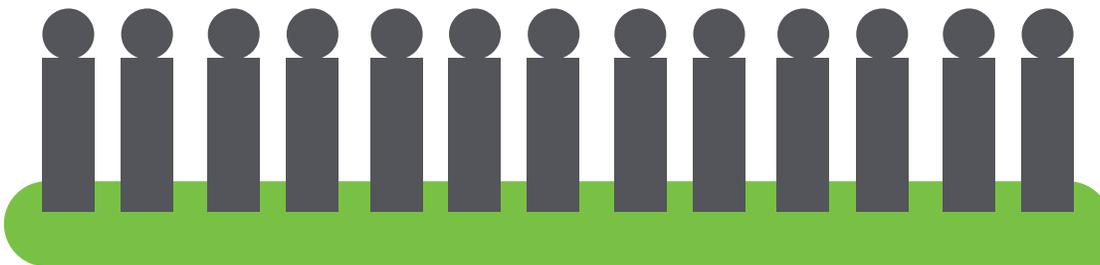
Address Mental Health and Homelessness Funding Modifications

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports investing in mental health, addiction treatment and homelessness wrap-around services by increasing Medicaid reimbursements for both outpatient and inpatient care. Improved reimbursements will sustain providers, expand access and help Oklahoma remain on par with surrounding states. Because Oklahomans are facing mental health crises at record rates and families are experiencing rising housing instability, the future of our workforce and communities is at risk.

Solutions should include expanding inpatient and adolescent detox capacity, strengthening the behavioral health workforce, ensuring school-based support, enforcing mental health parity, fostering public-private partnerships and requiring managed care organizations to address social determinants of health, including housing security. By addressing mental health, addiction and homelessness together, Oklahoma can reduce strain on emergency services, provide stability for families and build healthier communities within Oklahoma.

- By one estimate, the annual costs of untreated mental illness in the greater Tulsa area total close to **\$400 million**, \$41.6 million in direct costs, \$346.2 million in indirect costs, and \$5.2 million in criminal justice system costs.
- Oklahoma's Medicaid reimbursement rates for many behavioral health services are **15-25% below** regional averages, contributing to provider shortages and limited access.
- Nearly **half of Oklahoma** counties have zero practicing child psychiatrists.
- **56%** of Oklahomans who needed mental health treatment didn't get it in 2022.

HOMELESSNESS IN OKLAHOMA



For every 10,000 people living in the state, 13 Oklahomans reported experiencing homelessness in 2024. This is higher than rates reported in neighboring states: Texas (9), Arkansas (9), Missouri (12), and Kansas (9).

MORE THAN 5.4K OKLAHOMANS ARE LIVING WITHOUT STABLE HOUSING

SOURCE: *Oklahoma Policy Institute*

Expand Health Care Workforce Opportunities

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports a well-trained and accessible health care workforce, which is crucial to the success of Tulsa area businesses and the local economy. A healthy and well-supported workforce boosts productivity, reduces costs associated with absenteeism and burnout, fosters innovation and ensures our community's overall health and well-being. Strengthening the pipeline of the state's health care workforce requires utilizing state and federal resources to address health care workforce shortages to meet the needs of an aging and diverse population.

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports the expansion of health care residency opportunities and positions statewide through: prioritizing expanded funding for the Health Care Workforce Training Commission; providing opportunities across the continuum for health care loan repayment as an incentive for workers; and supporting full funding and implementation of the behavioral health workforce development fund to increase psychiatric residencies, master's-level licensure cohorts and training pipeline development.

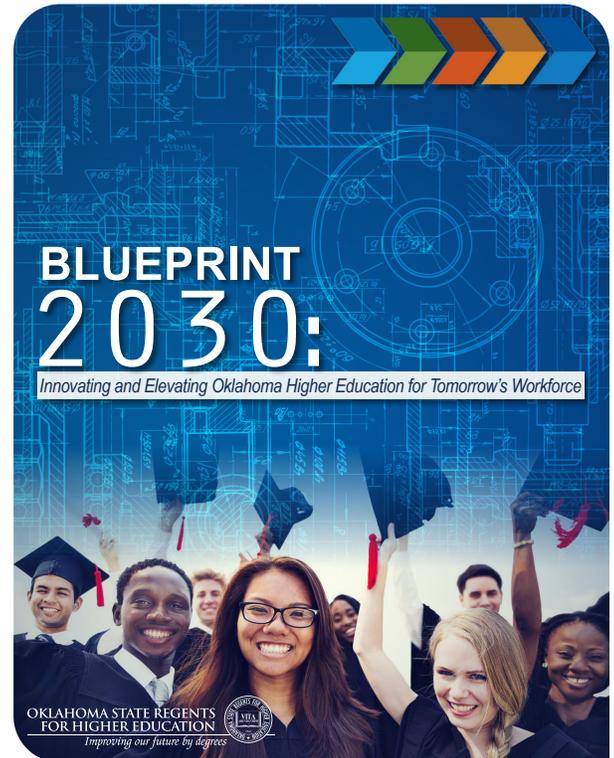


Increase Appropriations to the Trauma Care Assistance Revolving Fund

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports increased state appropriations to the Trauma Care Assistance Revolving Fund to offset uncompensated care losses for hospitals, ambulance services and physicians in Oklahoma's trauma care system. Oklahoma has historically lagged the nation in per capita Level I Trauma Centers. With Ascension St. John and Saint Francis Health System both achieving this designation, the demand on the trauma fund has grown. Oklahoma's overall injury mortality rate is 29% higher than the national average, underscoring the urgent need to expand trauma care capacity and ensure sufficient funding for these lifesaving services.

Create a Sustainable Future for Workforce Development and Higher Education in Oklahoma

The OneVoice Regional Legislation Coalition asks state leaders to prioritize collaboration across pre-k-12 and post-secondary entities including, but not restricted to CareerTech, higher education and industry-recognized training programs in order to maximize our resources in securing quality and sustainable career pathways. Empower higher education to create a comprehensive vision for developing Oklahoma's 21st century workforce. The coalition further encourages the Oklahoma Legislature to work with OSRHE to define "credential of value"; review the State Regents systemwide strategic plan, Blueprint 2030; incentivize engagement of employers through work-based learning, experiential and/or applied learning; support research, development and innovation at higher education institutions; and provide adequate resources for our higher education institutions, career tech and the Oklahoma Workforce Commission that meet the demands of Oklahoma's evolving workforce to ensure success for all students and adult learners.



Support Strategic Investments in Public Education

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition recognizes the vital role public education plays in building a strong workforce and driving economic growth. While recent investments to support teachers and students are appreciated, Oklahoma must do more to address teacher shortages, close achievement gaps and maintain high-quality facilities for student learning. We support sustained increases in per pupil funding and competitive teacher pay to strengthen the educator pipeline, along with expanded access to early childhood education, afterschool enrichment and innovative career pathways. We also support aligning curriculum and assessments with high-demand industries and fostering stronger partnerships among schools, employers and higher education to prepare students for success. These strategic investments will improve outcomes, close opportunity gaps and ensure a skilled workforce that strengthens Oklahoma's ability to compete regionally and nationally.





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