

# THE POINT

GREATER  
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CHAMBER

October 2017

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## OKC Residents Vote YES for a Safer, Better Oklahoma City



*The approved general obligation bond and sales tax proposals will invest \$1.2 billion in Oklahoma City's streets, public safety and infrastructure needs.*

On Sept 12, residents of Oklahoma City voted to invest \$1.2 billion in a safer, better Oklahoma City. Comprised of a general election bond package and two sales tax proposals, the approved ballot items will invest \$847 million in rebuilding and improving Oklahoma City's streets, hire 129 more police officers and 57 more firefighters, and improve overall quality of life and city infrastructure by investing in parks, libraries, transit, economic development and more. Efforts to pass the bond and sales tax proposals were driven by the Chamber-led Coalition for a Better OKC.

“By approving all 15 ballot items, Oklahoma City residents proved that they want to continue Oklahoma City's momentum and ensure its success,” said Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett, chair of the Coalition for a Better OKC. “The general obligation bond and sales tax proposals will have a significant impact on both the condition of Oklahoma City's roads and the safety of residents.”

*Continued on page 15*

## SJI Awarded Top Honor at Metro 50 Awards

SJ Innovations, LLC (SJI) was named the fastest-growing privately held company in the Greater Oklahoma City metro at last month's Metro 50 Awards. Nearly 700 attendees gathered to celebrate the 50 fastest-growing privately held companies in the region at the annual event, where WeGoLook and Monterey Construction received the second- and third-place awards.

SJI, which provides information systems and technical communications support, made its first appearance on the Metro 50 List this year after growing its revenues by more than 5,000 percent from 2014 to 2016. The company has 207 employees and is headquartered in Oklahoma City.

“Since SJ Innovations is a service business it's really about providing a service that your customer views as a good value,” said Sacia Johnson, CEO of SJI. “Our success comes from sharing that simple principle with our employees, who in turn try to create a great value for the customer as well.”

With the second-fastest growth, WeGoLook is making its second appearance on the Metro 50 List. WeGoLook calls itself the “Uber of inspections” because it uses an on-demand workforce to gather and validate information. The company originally launched to give consumers more confidence in their online purchases but has since expanded to include business-to-business applications. From 2014 to 2016, WeGoLook has increased revenue by 862 percent and has added 101 jobs for a total of 116 team members.

“I attribute our success to our team,” said Robin Smith, CEO of WeGoLook. “WeGoLook is a pioneer in the sharing economy, but we wouldn't be successful in changing the way the world works without our amazing team making it happen.”

Third-place winner Monterey Construction, who increased revenues by 721 percent from 2014 to 2016, has revolutionized the custom home building process

*Continued on page 14*

# Criminal Justice Reform Continues in Oklahoma County, Statewide

Since late 2015, the Chamber's Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Reform Task Force has led the call for smart and safe criminal justice reform in Oklahoma County. Since that time, the task force engaged the Vera Institute of Justice to understand the factors that drive the jail's population. The task force found that 75 percent of arrests are for a misdemeanor or lower crimes and 80 percent of people brought into the Oklahoma County jail are under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. There are few diversion programs for mental health or substance abuse treatment. Vera also found that the accrual of fines and fees keep lower-income people in jail longer than their charge would indicate.

After a more in-depth study spanning nine months, the task force released key findings and recommendations in December 2016. Read on for a recap of how the Chamber's criminal justice reform task force is implementing some of these recommendations to reduce the number of people in the Oklahoma County jail.

## **Establishing a permanent oversight body**

As a central recommendation of the report, establishing a permanent oversight body is key to implementing other criminal justice reforms. An inter-local agreement between Oklahoma County, the City of Oklahoma City, the City of Edmond and the City of Midwest City to create the Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Advisory Council (CJAC) has been approved by all four government bodies. The 19-member advisory council plans to begin meeting in the fall.

## **Examining bail and pre-trial practices**

The task force assembled a committee specifically to address the recommendations around bail and pre-trial practices. With leadership from committee chair Judge Cindy Truong, there has been a significant increase in nonfinancial releases and a much quicker approval process. Court Services, a pre-trial services agency, increased staff hours at the jail to include some weekend coverage and two judges are on call seven days a week to consider releasing individuals under recognizance or with conditional release bonds.

As a result, there have been 397 releases approved in just under one-and-a-half months, compared to around 100-120 per month previously. Additionally,

32 people have been released to a new pretrial program from The Education and Employment Ministry (TEEM). The Oklahoma County district attorney and public defender have agreed on a list of minor offenses for which automatic recognizance release would be authorized. That has been approved by Presiding Judge Timothy Henderson and is awaiting approval from the Administrative Office of the Court.

## **Pursuing partnerships with the community**

To help build local capacity for data collection and analysis, the task force established a working relationship with the University of Central Oklahoma's School of Criminal Justice and has agreed on some initial projects. One professor and her students will be doing a study of bond forfeiture and bond surrender issues, and three others have agreed to do a comprehensive assessment of the jail data system's capabilities. There is good potential for an ongoing partnership between the CJAC and UCO for data analysis projects.

## **State-level reform efforts**

The task force also recommended two bills to be considered by the Legislature earlier in 2017 during the regular legislative session. One of the measures, SB 342 by Sen. David Holt (R-Oklahoma City), was signed into law by Gov. Fallin on May 25. SB 342 will create a task force to assess existing laws, policies and practices related to fines, fees and costs assessed on those interacting with the criminal justice system to determine the impact on jail and prison populations. Chamber President and CEO Roy H. Williams has been appointed chair to the task force.

## **Impact on the county jail population**

Before the task force started its work, the population of the Oklahoma County jail averaged 2,581 people. In September 2017, that number fell to 1,935 – something that hasn't happened for a decade or more. It is likely that much of the decrease from 2015 to mid-2017 is due to Oklahoma City's 26 percent reduction in jail bookings for municipal charges, while the more recent decrease appears to be largely a result of the increased pretrial releases.

To stay updated on the work of the Oklahoma County CJAC, sign up for updates at [www.smartsafeokco.com](http://www.smartsafeokco.com).

# Leadership Notes

## *What we share with Columbus*

I came to the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber from Columbus, Ohio, 15 years ago this year, and just last month I had the opportunity to revisit Columbus during the Chamber's InterCity Visit. You can read more about the topics we covered on that trip in this issue of the POINT!, but I wanted to mention one aspect that both cities share that has led to success.

In Columbus, we heard from multiple civic and business leaders on their city's rise to prominence and almost every speaker mentioned one ingredient: the people of Columbus. Culturally, Columbus is known for cooperation. When making important decisions and investments in the future, people with different backgrounds and experiences can come to the table and reach a conclusion that benefits the city as a whole. That key factor has led to incredible growth in Columbus, resulting in \$1 billion in proposed investment in their downtown and a robust and diverse economy.

In Oklahoma City's accomplishments, the ability of our people to band together to create solutions played a role in all of them. We see it in the development and implementation of the MAPS projects. We are seeing it in our county's efforts at criminal justice reform. It is embedded in our culture, and that is something that money cannot buy. Oklahoma City's people are its greatest resource and, as we see in Columbus, that is key to rising to prominence.

Sincerely,



Roy H. Williams, CCE  
Chamber CEO & President



Roy H. Williams, CCE  
President & CEO

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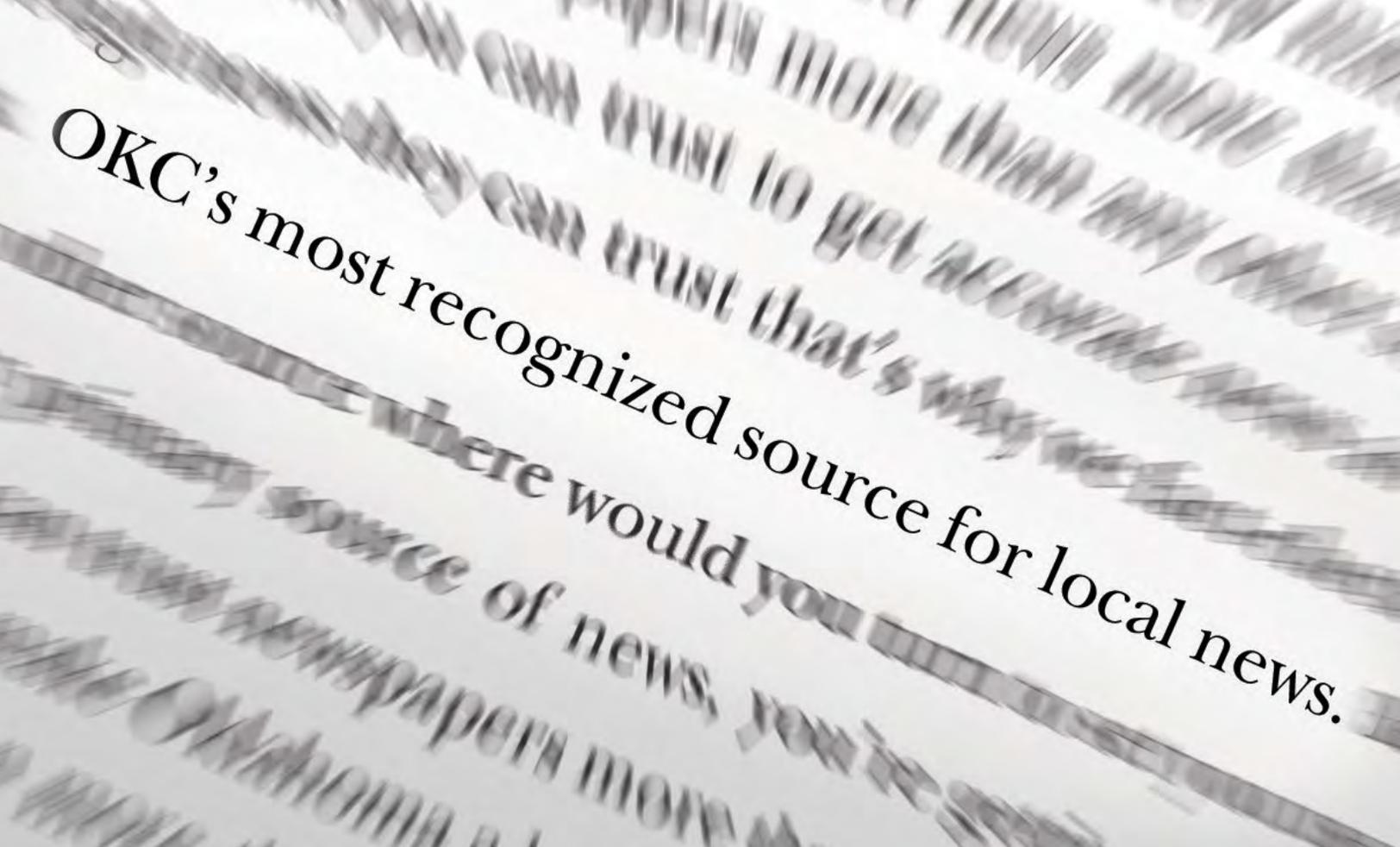
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THE OKLAHOMAN 



# Chamber Releases 2017 Legislative Scorecard

To keep its members informed on the issues at the State Capitol, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber released its 2017 Legislative Scorecard this month. The scorecard includes information prepared by the statewide Research Institute for Economic Development (RIED) to identify elected officials' votes on issues important to the business community. Alongside the RIED scores, the Chamber also assigns a score to legislators based on priority issues advocated by the Chamber during the legislative session. The following charts represent voting records for State House and Senate leadership and elected officials from the Chamber's 10-county partnership region. Scores are based on issues identified by the Chamber and RIED scores for 2017. View RIED scores for previous years at [www.riedreport.com](http://www.riedreport.com), and view the Chamber's scorecard for elected officials statewide at [www.okcchamber.com/scorecard](http://www.okcchamber.com/scorecard).

Senator	Party	District	2017 RIED	2017 OKC
Bice, Stephanie	R	22	100%	100%
Dugger, Tom	R	21	100%	100%
Floyd, Kay***	D	46	59%	75%
Fry, Jack***	R	42	46%	35%
Griffin, A.J.	R	20	100%	100%
Holt, David***	R	30	95%	100+%
Jech, Darcy	R	26	79%	83%
McCortney, Greg	R	13	90%	90%
Paxton, Lonnie	R	23	100%	93%
Pittman, Anastasia	D	48	64%	90%
Pugh, Adam***	R	41	100%	95%
Schulz, Mike	R	38	100%	76%
Scott, Paul	R	43	69%	70%
Sharp, Ron	R	17	100%	90%
Smalley, Jason	R	28	90%	90%
Sparks, John	D	16	41%	66%
Standridge, Rob	R	15	62%	53%
Sykes, Anthony	R	24	56%	43%
Treat, Greg	R	47	90%	95%
Yen, Ervin	R	40	90%	100%

I = Senator Fry missed half the votes due to a family consideration.

\*\*\* = Resigned

NG = No Grade

\*\*\*\*\* = Five bonus points awarded if a legislator did not sign CCR to SB 6 "Open Carry Without a License," or if they carried either the Governor's Criminal Justice or the Chamber's Criminal Justice Task Force bills. Therefore, a legislator receiving more than "100" would have received bonus points.

Representative	Party	District	2017 RIED	2017 OKC
Babinec, Greg	R	33	90%	96%
Baker, Rhonda	R	60	100%	86%
Bennett, Forrest	D	92	69%	60%
Biggs, Scott	R	51	95%	79%
Calvey, Kevin	R	82	64%	56%
Casey, Dennis	R	35	74%	80%
Cleveland, Bobby	R	20	79%	86%
Cockroft, Josh	R	27	100%	96%
Derby, Dale	R	74	85%	63%
Dollens, Mickey	D	93	59%	70%
Downing, Tim	R	42	90%	69%
Dunnington, Jason	D	88	44%	70%
Echols, Jon	R	90	85%	100%
Enns, John	R	41	85%	79%
Ford, Roger	R	95	95%	100%
Griffith, Claudia	D	45	59%	73%
Hall, Elise	R	100	100%	100%
Inman, Scott	D	94	69%	70%
Jordan, John Paul	R	43	90%	76%
Kannady, Chris	R	91	95%	86%
Kerbs, Dell	R	26	100%	100%
Lowe, Jason	D	97	38%	42%
Martin, Scott	R	46	90%	100%
Martinez, Ryan	R	39	95%	89%
McBride, Mark	R	53	85%	96%
McCall, Charles	R	22	100%	96%
McDaniel, Randy	R	83	100%	96%
McEntire, Marcus	R	50	85%	89%
Moore, Lewis	R	96	85%	90%
Munson, Cyndi	D	85	64%	80%
Murphey, Jason	R	31	51%	26%
Osborn, Leslie	R	47	85%	96%
Osburn, Mike	R	81	95%	86%
Perryman, David	D	56	67%	76%
Pfeiffer, John	R	38	90%	79%
Russ, Todd	R	55	79%	93%
Sanders, Mike	R	59	90%	86%
Stone, Shane	D	89	44%	33%
Teague, Tess	R	101	95%	82%
Virgin, Emily	D	44	69%	63%
Walke, Collin	D	87	69%	70%
Wallace, Kevin	R	32	85%	79%
West, Tammy	R	84	95%	96%
Williams, Cory	D	34	44%	36%
Wright, Harold	R	57	90%	96%
Young, George	D	99	69%	80%

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## State of the Economy: Nov. 15

Hear directly from leading international futurist Jim Carroll and an expert panel of local economists on regional economic trends at the Chamber's State of the Economy on Nov. 15 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

Carroll, the keynote speaker, is an expert in trends and innovation. He is recognized worldwide as a thought leader and authority on global trends, rapid business model change, business transformation during economic uncertainty and the necessity for fast-paced innovation.

Regional economists will bring the discussion to a local and state level, giving their interpretation on the current economy. Panelists include:

**Robert Dauffenbach, Ph.D.**, Senior Associate Dean for Economic Development and Impact and Director of the Center for Economic and Management Research at Price College of Business, University of Oklahoma.

**Russell Evans, Ph.D.**, Executive Director of the Steven C. Agee Economic Research and Policy Institute at Meinders School of Business, Oklahoma City University.

**Mickey Hepner, Ph.D.**, Professor of Economics at the College of Business, University of Central Oklahoma

**Dan Rickman, Ph.D.**, Regents Professor of Economics at the Spears School of Business, Oklahoma State University

Tables of eight are available for \$1,250. For information, visit [www.okcchamber.com/events](http://www.okcchamber.com/events). Special thanks to Signature Sponsor Arvest Bank and Signature Event Sponsors Central Liquor Company, Devon Energy Corporation, Enable Midstream Partners, Hobby Lobby, and Walmart District Office of Public Affairs.

## Tee off at Chamber Golf Tournaments

Treat your clients and contacts to a round of golf at the Oklahoma City Golf & Country Club at the Chamber's upcoming golf tournament on Oct. 9, 16 or 23. With three days to choose from in October, the Chamber Golf Tournament is an excellent opportunity to promote your business through networking and sponsorship recognition.

Each day's tournaments will field 36 four-person teams playing a scramble format with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. Teams will enjoy 18 holes of golf, putting green and driving range privileges, goody bags, breakfast, snacks and lunch. First-, second- and third-place winners in all three flights receive prizes at the awards luncheon.

To register your team, visit [www.okcchamber.com/golf](http://www.okcchamber.com/golf). Special thanks to Signature Sponsor INSURICA.

# MegaLunch: Nov. 8

Take a break from sales calls and maximize your networking in a unique way at the Chamber's upcoming MegaLunch on Nov. 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Gaillardia Country Club. To help members spread the word about their business at MegaLunch, a computerized rotation schedule guides members around tables where they present a 90-second pitch to other attendees.

At the end of the event, attendees will walk away with connections with dozens of people from Chamber member businesses. Due to the unique format of this event, only one person per member company can attend.

Tickets are \$40, and advance registration is required. For more information or to make reservations, please email [register@okcchamber.com](mailto:register@okcchamber.com). The deadline to register is 3 business days prior to the event.

Special thanks to MegaLunch Host Sponsor Gaillardia Country Club.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct. 6**  
**Navy Birthday Ball**  
Time: 6 to 9 p.m.  
Location: Chevy Bricktown Events Center, 429 E California Ave.

**Oct. 9, 16 or 23**  
**Golf Tournament**  
Time: 9 a.m. shotgun start  
Location: Oklahoma City Golf & Country Club, 7000 NW Grand Blvd.

**Oct. 10**  
**Member Orientation**  
Time: 4 to 5:30 p.m.  
Location: OCCC Capitol Hill Center, 325 SW 25th St.

**Oct. 26**  
**SchmoopaPaloosa**  
Time: 4 to 7 p.m.  
Location: State Fair Park, Oklahoma Expo Hall, 3213 Wichita Walk

**Nov. 8**  
**MegaLunch**  
Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Location: Gaillardia Country Club, 5300 Gaillardia Blvd.

**Nov. 14**  
**Member Orientation**  
Time: 8:30 to 10 a.m.  
Location: Chamber offices, 123 Park Ave.

**Nov. 14**  
**Sunset Reception**  
Time: 4 to 6 p.m.  
Location: Hilton Garden Inn Oklahoma City Midtown, 2809 Northwest Expressway

**Nov. 15**  
**State of the Economy**  
Time: 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Location: National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

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# SCHMOOZA PALOOZA

Spooktacular SchmoozaPalooza is back!  
Oct. 26, 4 to 7 p.m. | State Fair Park, Oklahoma Expo Hall

Gather with Oklahoma City's business professionals for Oklahoma City's most entertaining networking trade show! From making new contacts and promoting your business to sampling local restaurants and winding down after work with a drink, SchmoozaPalooza will maximize your networking experience in a fun and casual atmosphere.

A \$10 ticket per person includes one drink ticket and a fun way to meet new friends and customers. Want to invite coworkers and contacts to SchmoozaPalooza? Get the PaloozaSpecial and save! Email [register@okcchamber.com](mailto:register@okcchamber.com) to purchase a package. PaloozaSpecials must be purchased in advance and include:

- Four tickets, get two more free
- 10 tickets, get five more free
- 20 tickets, get 10 more free

Maximize your SchmoozaPalooza experience by exhibiting at the event, an opportunity exclusive to Chamber member companies. A \$300 exhibitor booth includes a 10' x 10' draped space, eight-foot draped table, two chairs and a professionally printed sign. For maximum exposure, 10' x 20' spaces with two eight-foot tables are available for \$600. Reserve your booth space now by emailing [register@okcchamber.com](mailto:register@okcchamber.com) or by registering online at [www.okcchamber.com/schmooza](http://www.okcchamber.com/schmooza).

Are you a restaurant or caterer and want to showcase your signature dish to the best of OKC? Food sponsorships are available! Email [register@okcchamber.com](mailto:register@okcchamber.com) for more information. Special thanks to Host Sponsor Oklahoma State Fair, Inc.

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# At SchmoozaPalooza, you will...



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Meet new clients and make a sale.



Play networking games and win prizes.



Enjoy the Schmooza signature drink with a \$10 ticket purchase.

# OKC Convention and Visitor Industry Remains Strong

The Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), a division of the Chamber, wrapped up another successful fiscal year for Oklahoma City's visitor industry on June 30. The Oklahoma City CVB's fiscal 2017 work in tourism promotion led to a year-end projected direct spending of over \$333.5 million in current and future business.

Oklahoma City's momentum during the 2017 fiscal year led to the highest number of room nights ever booked at 393,574 and the highest number of sales leads room nights in the CVB's history at 495,972. The excitement created by the approval of the Omni Convention Center Hotel project, the ongoing development of the new Oklahoma City Convention Center, the progress on the new streetcar system and Scissortail Park, the addition of the Bennett Event Center to event space offerings at Oklahoma State Fair Park, and the significant private development that is taking place in Oklahoma City continues to create growth for Oklahoma City's convention and visitor industry.

The CVB also marketed Oklahoma City as a visitor destination, hosting 36 travel writers and completing 146 media pitches and 23 story assists during the 2017 fiscal year. To support a positive visitor experience, the CVB held 11 Certified Tourism Ambassador training events, resulting in 269 active CTA members in the Greater Oklahoma City metro area.

Customer satisfaction surveys measuring Oklahoma City as a destination, the CVB as an organization and local industry partners averaged an overall satisfaction rating of 97 percent for the year.

"Oklahoma City has made a name for itself as a prime destination for events and leisure visitors, making the tourism industry a major contributor to the Oklahoma City economy," said Natalie Shirley, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, vice chair of convention and visitor development for the Chamber. "The ongoing development of new attractions and facilities will only increase the impact of this industry in the future."



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# Visitor Industry by the Numbers



in total  
Internet  
site visits  
compared to  
previous year

# 495,972

sales leads room  
nights produced\*

\*produced in convention and sports market

# 280

groups\*

\*Provided registration/  
servicing to groups/reunions,  
equine events, conventions  
and sports activities



# 41

site visits\*

\*by groups considering or committed to  
OKC for future meetings or events



# 393,574

definite room nights\*

\*372,088 definite room nights produced in convention,  
sports, group tours and equine markets



# 280

motor coach  
group tours

# \$5.1

hotel tax  
revenue at  
2% tax rate

# MILLION

# Chamber's InterCity Visit Shows Similarities with Columbus

Leadership from the Chamber recently attended an Intercity Visit to Columbus, Ohio. Much like Oklahoma City, Columbus has its own story of revival and reinvestment. And attendees learned that Columbus's work has been a success: Columbus is one of the fastest-growing metros in the United States and is ranked No. 1 for population growth, job growth, GDP growth and wage growth. Columbus has 2.1 million people, five Fortune 500 companies, 15 Fortune 1000 headquarters companies and an incredibly diversified economy, with no industry accounting for more than 19 percent of employment. And with \$1 billion in proposed investment downtown and \$734 million in investment under construction, Columbus is continuing its momentum. Read on for part one of a recap of what Oklahoma City leaders learned from leaders in Columbus about their city's rise to prominence.

## Changing a city's image

Much like Oklahoma City's history, Columbus's downtown area fell into disrepair in the 1990s. According to former Columbus Mayor Michael

Coleman, their downtown was a dangerous place to be outside of business hours, the river was smelly and unusable, and no one lived downtown. With decades of division between the neighborhoods, downtown was a low priority. Mayor Coleman formulated a plan that focused on reclaiming a dying downtown shopping mall with a community park and residential developments.

Many people thought to invest in downtown Columbus was crazy, but businesses located there made up 25 percent of the regional economy and they had great potential to grow. Coleman started by creating a sense of ownership from Columbus's neighborhoods. "Downtown was everybody's neighborhood," Coleman said.

With major public-private partnerships now complete, downtown Columbus is a symbol of the community's ability to work together. "I cannot say I did all of this," Coleman said. "It took the courage of the community to come together and engage in a collaboration."



## GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

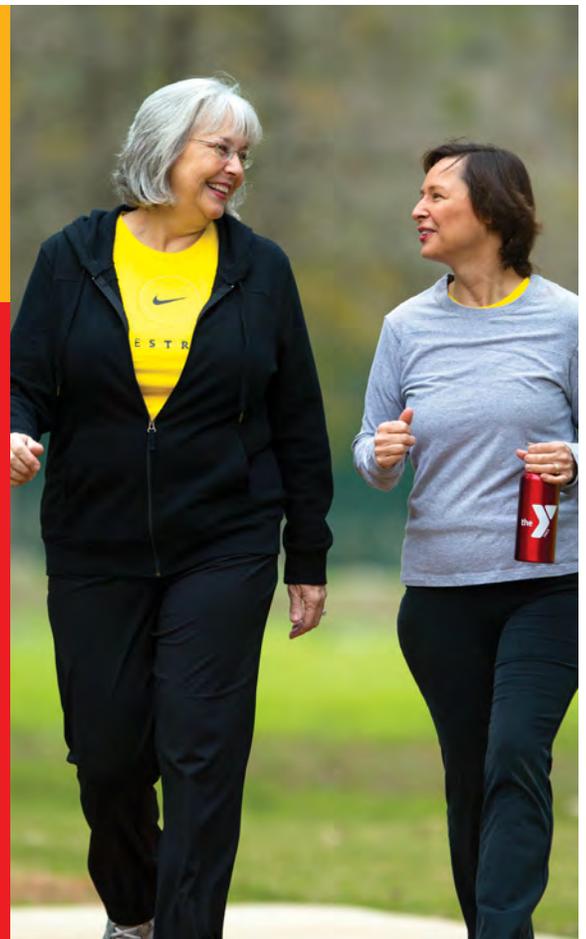
Say goodbye to being a patient and hello to getting back to being healthy. That is exactly what **LIVESTRONG® AT THE YMCA** does. This free 12-week YMCA-funded program supports cancer survivors through small group physical activity and emotional support.

**LIVESTRONG® AT THE YMCA** works with survivors and their support partner to:

- Build Strength
- Reduce Side Effects of Treatment
- Increase Endurance
- Improve Energy Levels and Self-Esteem
- Increase Flexibility
- Improve Quality of Life

By focusing on the whole person and not the disease, **LIVESTRONG® AT THE YMCA** helps survivors move beyond cancer in spirit, mind and body.

**LIVESTRONG®**  
[YMCAOKC.ORG/LIVESTRONG](http://YMCAOKC.ORG/LIVESTRONG)



## Bringing everyone to the table

Doug Kridler, president and CEO of the Columbus Foundation, brought diverse voices to the table when he managed a branding initiative that helped define Columbus for the world at large. Instead of telling Columbus what its brand was, Kridler and his team “distilled the citizens’ input, making the effort authentic and coauthored,” he said.

Their research identified Columbus as “smart and open,” with a focus on openness as their first initiative. Other groups took the brand and put their own spin on it. “There are a lot of voices that make up the true, authentic voice of the community,” Kridler said. “The more you honor those, the more hands you have on deck.”

In honoring all voices, Kridler acknowledged one of Columbus’s most pressing challenges: its high rate of poverty. Columbus’s current poverty rate is 17.1 percent of its population, a number that has grown steadily since 1970. While Columbus has a low unemployment rate, many of those jobs pay near the livable wage rate, if not below. Kridler said that the Foundation is

leading a conversation with all community members about addressing poverty, with a focus on education. “Education is really the only way out of poverty,” Kridler said. “But people in poverty only focus on survival, so you have to find other touch points so people can get in that headspace.”

## Focusing on talent

Like Oklahoma City, Columbus is working to increase the number of trained individuals in its workforce pool to meet the growing demands of companies. “We don’t have enough people with the right skills to meet our demand,” said Tim Harman, director of talent acquisitions for Columbus 2020.

Harman works with a state-funded workforce initiative called JobsOhio to help workers in central Ohio update their obsolete skill set. In addition to providing training for current employees, Harman believes that you have to start with the education system to provide a solid future workforce. “Winning at talent is winning at training, and it starts at the elementary level,” Harman said.

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## Metro 50 Winners Celebrated (cont'd from page 1)

by pioneering a new custom construction model that allows their customers to consistently earn five figures in new equity building the home of their dreams. Monterey Construction has also been recognized as one of the fastest-growing companies in the country by Inc. Magazine.

“In addition to providing one of the strongest and most stable economic environments in the nation, the culture of OKC is ideal for our business style,” said Chris Edwards, president of Monterey Construction. “People are what matter most and what we do best, and the residents of OKC value and emphasize one another more than just about anywhere else I’ve ever been.”

Of the 50 winners, 32 of them had appeared on the Metro 50 list at least once in previous years. With its eighth appearance on the list, AtLink Services, LLC, is this year’s Metro 50 Sustainer, a designation that celebrates winners who have appeared on the list at least seven times in the past 10 years.

Metro 50 is sponsored by American Fidelity Assurance Company/INSURICA, Bank of Oklahoma, Cox Business, EY, Express Employment Professionals, The Journal Record Publishing Company, OGE Energy Corp. and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber.

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# \$1.2 million to be invested in streets, public safety

(cont'd from page 1)

Oklahoma City's average property tax rate will remain unchanged at 16 mills. As of Jan. 1, the new overall sales tax for Oklahoma City will be 8.625 percent, below the state average of 8.86 percent. The temporary penny sales tax extension takes effect Jan. 1, the day after the MAPS 3 penny sales tax expires on Dec. 31.

"Our success at the polls would not have been possible without the members of the coalition, and most importantly, the Oklahoma City residents who voted yes on all 15 ballot items," said former Oklahoma City Mayor Ron Norick, who also co-chaired the coalition. "Thank you to everyone who made this \$1.2 billion investment possible. Your dedication to Oklahoma City will continue to reap benefits for generations to come."

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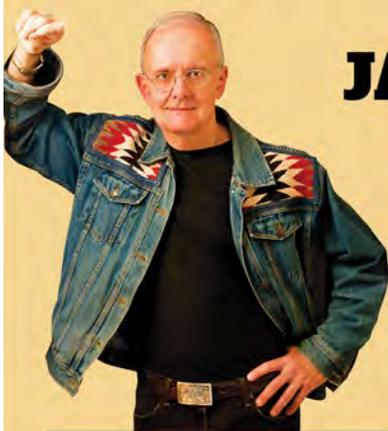
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# GRAND OPENINGS

Congratulations to these Chamber members on their recent Grand Openings! All Chamber members are welcome to attend Grand Openings. To view more photos, see the schedule of upcoming Grand Openings or subscribe to the Grand Openings calendar, visit [www.okcchamber.com/grandopenings](http://www.okcchamber.com/grandopenings).



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# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## Oklahoma City Ranks No. 6 in Major Housing Market Affordability

- Demographia's 13th Annual International Housing Affordability Survey (2017) ranks housing markets based on the market's "median multiple," which is the median house price divided by the median household income.
- The survey used data for metropolitan areas with a population of more than 1 million in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- Wallethub lists Oklahoma City as the 5th best place to flip houses.
- Oklahoma City ranks as the 7th most affordable U.S. city to rent according to StudentLoanHero.com.

Affordability Rank (Out of 92)	Housing market	Median Multiple	Median House Price	Median Household Income
1	Rochester, NY	2.5	\$139,300	\$54,800
2	Buffalo, NY	2.6	\$138,900	\$52,900
3	Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	2.7	\$157,000	\$58,000
3	Cleveland, OH	2.7	\$138,900	\$52,100
3	Pittsburgh, PA	2.7	\$150,000	\$55,200
<b>6</b>	<b>Oklahoma City, OK</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>\$154,800</b>	<b>\$53,300</b>
6	Saint Louis, MO-IL	2.9	\$170,000	\$57,700
8	Detroit, MI	3	\$163,500	\$54,800
8	Grand Rapids, MI	3	\$170,100	\$56,600
8	Indianapolis, IN	3	\$164,100	\$55,500
8	Kansas City, MO-KS	3	\$188,000	\$61,800

Source: 13th Annual Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey: 2017

For comprehensive Economic Indicators and Regional Data, please visit your Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Economic Development Division at [www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators](http://www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators) or contact Eric Long, Research Economist – (405)297-8976; [elong@okcchamber.com](mailto:elong@okcchamber.com)

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