

# THE POINT

GREATER  
OKLAHOMA CITY  
CHAMBER



January 2020

[www.okcchamber.com](http://www.okcchamber.com)

## Voters overwhelmingly approve MAPS 4



*Mayor Holt announces that the residents of OKC passed the MAPs 4 initiative.*

Oklahoma City's voters delivered a message at the polls on Dec. 10, a message that will keep the 20-plus year momentum of OKC's reinvention rolling forward, as the latest installment of a penny sales tax for strategic investment passed by a landslide. The city's MAPS 4 package received 71.7 percent of the vote, making it the most popular of all MAPS votes.

"We've never been this united on a sales tax vote before," Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt said at a watch party hosted by the Love Your OKC coalition. "None of them have hit 70 percent."

*Continued on page 4*

## Chamber unveils 2020 Legislative Agenda

The Chamber recently released its playbook of the public policy priorities it will pursue at the Oklahoma State Capitol this session. Below is an excerpt of the key priorities. Read the full list at [OKCChamber.com/legislative](http://OKCChamber.com/legislative).

### **Economic Development Programs**

The Chamber supports retaining and strengthening the state's premier economic/community development programs which are critical in attracting new businesses to the state, assisting existing companies expand and encouraging investment in communities across the state. Following are the key programs the Chamber will seek to protect:

- Quality Jobs Act, 21st Century QJA, Small Employer QJA and the Prime Contractor QJA
- Aerospace Engineer Tax Credit
- Investment/New Jobs Tax Credit

- Historical Building Rehabilitation Tax Credit
- Cybersecurity/Software Engineer Tax Credit
- Five-year ad valorem abatement and sales tax exemption for manufacturing facilities
- Regional Home Office Insurance Premium Tax Credit

The Chamber will support efforts to reinstate the Tax Credit for Energy Efficient Homes.

### **County Government Reform**

The Chamber supports empowering Oklahoma counties to alter their form of government to meet their unique needs.

### **Workers' Comp Reform**

The Chamber supports defending and improving the comprehensive workers' compensation reform legislation enacted during the 2013 session.

*Continued on page 8*



## Top 50 in the Nation for Cancer Care #1 Hospital in Oklahoma

OU Medicine is the No. 1 ranked hospital system in Oklahoma, and its oncology program at Stephenson Cancer Center and OU Medical Center ranked in the Top 50 in the nation, in the 2019-2020 rankings released by U.S. News & World Report. OU Medicine was also ranked as high performing in four specialties: Ophthalmology in partnership with Dean McGee Eye Institute, Colon Surgery, COPD and Congestive Heart Failure.



To learn more, visit [oumedicine.com](http://oumedicine.com).

## Leadership Notes

The passage of MAPS 4 sets Oklahoma City on another 10-year plan of growth and development. These projects drive a continuing conversation about what's next and how we can make positive change. I want to challenge our community this year to apply that same enthusiasm for improvement to three other areas – a joint new year's resolution - for making Oklahoma City a better place to live and grow a business.

**RESOLUTION ONE** – Engage in the legislative process. I know, politics feels difficult right now, but making sure the voice of business is not dismissed at the legislature is crucial. The quality of life of every Oklahoman is dependent on a strong and vibrant economy. Stay current on legislation that impacts business, read updates from the Chamber on these topics and when needed, make sure your senator or representative knows how important these issues are to you – a quick call or email can make a difference.

**RESOLUTION TWO** – Learn about what is happening in our community. This one is easy. Pick a topic that interests you, concerns you or even something you think is working well. Attend an event that covers the information or seek out a coffee or lunch with someone engaged in the work. Getting involved doesn't mean you have to be on a committee – learn more and then reach out to someone to let them know how you may be able to help.

**RESOLUTION THREE** – Go to an event, a restaurant or an attraction you've never been to before. There has never been a better time to be in OKC. Do something new – and take a friend with you!

Without a doubt, 2019 was great year for Oklahoma City, but I think 2020 is set to be pretty special. We are going to see so many of our plans and dreams become real. It is clear the best is yet to come and by working together, we make it even better.

Sincerely,

Roy H. Williams, CCE  
Chamber President & CEO



Roy H. Williams, CCE  
President & CEO

**VELOCITY**

»» READ ROY'S VELOCITYOKC STORY OF THE MONTH

"STUDENT-CREATED GAME-SYSTEM COMPANY AUDITIONING FOR SHARK TANK"

[VELOCITYOKC.COM/ROYSPICK](http://VELOCITYOKC.COM/ROYSPICK)

## 2020 OFFICERS

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Greater Oklahoma City Chamber  
President & CEO

### THE POINT!

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## CONTENTS

- 5 Chamber-assisted companies add jobs
- 6 Mayor Holt delivers State of the City address Feb. 26
- 11 Speak up for business this legislative session
- 13 Get involved with the Chamber this year



## MAPS 4 approved by 71.8 percent... (cont'd from page 1)

The nearly \$1 billion package — which will fund a new outdoor arena, a new State Fairgrounds coliseum and improvements to the Chesapeake Energy Arena — received broad bipartisan support from OKC politicians.

But MAPS 4 may end up being known for much more than its city-central sports venue projects. Referred to as a “MAPS for neighborhoods” by Holt prior to the election, MAPS 4 features hundreds of millions of dollars for parks, youth centers, mental health care and other social services aimed at improving quality of life in a different way.

The original MAPS passed in 1993 with 54.6 percent support. In 2001, voters extended the MAPS tax for a slew of school construction projects under the MAPS for Kids branding. More than \$470 million was poured into 70 new and reconstructed schools across the city. MAPS for Kids received 61 percent support at the ballot box.

In 2008, voters approved a 12-month extension of the MAPS tax specifically for improvements to the sports arena in anticipation of the Seattle SuperSonics’ relocation to Oklahoma City. The measure received 62 percent support from voters.

In 2009, voters approved MAPS 3, which featured funding for a new convention center, Scissortail Park, the OKC Streetcar, a set of senior centers, riversport developments, trails, sidewalks and other infrastructure investments. The package passed with 54.3 percent support.

“Tonight we have the largest percentage of support in the history of Oklahoma City,” Holt told those who gathered at the watch party. “This is not just a victory. This is a mandate without historic precedent in our city. We have never been more united as one OKC.”

The 1-cent sales tax will be used to fund 16 civic projects estimated to cost nearly \$978 million. The tax covers an eight-year span, with a possibility additional funds could be collected in that time. The projects are not built until the money is raised, so every development is constructed debt-free.

Without the support of Oklahoma City’s business leaders and employees, passage of the measure would have been very much in doubt.

Greater Oklahoma City Chamber President and CEO Roy Williams said the Chamber was pleased to see that residents understood the necessity of these projects and voted to help their neighbors.

“While all the MAPS initiatives have improved our city, MAPS 4 will propel our city to the next level and continue the momentum that has helped us become a destination for top-quality employers and visitors as well,” said Williams. “As the city continues to reinvent itself, we need to be able to take care of our neighbors, and this MAPS will address those concerns.”

The MAPS 4 tax will replace the Better Streets, Safer City temporary tax, which is set to expire at the end of March. Since MAPS 4 will be taxed at the same rate, consumers will see no change in taxes at the register. Only the use of the funds collected by the 1-cent portion of sales taxes will change, starting April 1.

“I cannot thank the voters of Oklahoma City enough for this amazing trust that you’ve put in the city,” Holt said in a video posted to social media. “We will now go forward and implement this MAPS 4 plan and continue this city’s renaissance.”

## Chamber-assisted companies add 4,658 jobs in 2019

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber saw a successful year in 2019 as it continued to pursue economic development opportunities for the region. Greater Oklahoma City saw significant investment by companies in the Greater Oklahoma City region during 2019. In total, 4,658 new jobs are projected in the region including eight new recruitment projects, seven company expansion projects and 74 local companies indicating local growth. For this growth, the average projected wage is \$69,561 with anticipated local investment of \$963 million.

“Oklahoma City is seeing increased momentum in its economic development efforts, as evidenced by the significant number of jobs announced this year by both new and existing companies,” said Jeff Seymour, executive vice president for economic development at the Chamber. “Oklahoma City exemplifies that companies want to locate and grow in communities that invest in their own quality of life.”

A few key announcements for the region include: Cobham, a European aerospace company who announced a new facility in Midwest City supporting workload at Tinker Air Force Base; Burriss Logistics, a new cold-storage warehouse facility that renovated and opened a facility in Northern Oklahoma City; Aevus Diagnostics, a start-up healthcare “big data” analytics

company expanding in the Oklahoma City metro region; TTEC, a third-party back-office company supporting insurance and finance industry clients announcing 350 new jobs in western Oklahoma City; and Bakery Bling, a California-based bakery operation relocating their headquarters operation and expanding their manufacturing presence into a space in western Oklahoma City. The company is projecting 300 new jobs at this location.

“We continue to see expansion opportunities in aerospace, back-office, shared services and regional office headquarter operations and more projects seeking manufacturing and logistics opportunities in our market,” Seymour said. “These opportunities signal the Oklahoma City region’s competitive stance for new investment and diversification and see community investments in quality-of-life, education and community support, bolstering our potential for additional new job creation.”

Other retail announcements include: Chicken N Pickle; Homeland Corporate headquarters and grocery store; Bubba’s 33 (sports bar/restaurant); and food hall Parlor OKC.

### Purchase a Chamber Forum ticket package and stay informed on issues facing OKC

**CHAMBER  
FORUM**

The monthly Chamber Forum event series brings thought leaders together to discuss major initiatives, programs and current issues that impact Oklahoma City’s business climate, economy and community. Stay informed by attending Chamber Forum on the third Wednesday of the month from January through October.

Chamber Forum full-season and half-season ticket packages are now available! Purchase a full-season ticket package for all 10 Chamber Forums scheduled for 2020 at a discounted rate of \$300 or a half-season package for five Chamber Forums for \$150. Email [register@okcchamber.com](mailto:register@okcchamber.com) for more details.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## CALENDAR

**Jan. 14**

**Member Orientation**  
8:30 to 10 a.m.  
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber 123 Park Ave.  
okcchamber.com/orientation

**Jan. 14**

**Sunset Reception**  
4 to 6 p.m.  
Parlor OKC 11 NE 6th St.  
okcchamber.com/sunset2020

**Jan. 15**

**Chamber Forum**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Vast 333 W. Sheridan Ave.  
okcchamber.com/januaryforum

**Jan. 30**

**Legislative Breakfast**  
8 to 9:30 a.m.  
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum  
1700 NE 63rd St.  
okcchamber.com/legislativebreakfast

**Feb. 5**

**MegaLunch**  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Yale Theater  
227 SW 25th St.  
okcchamber.com/megalunch

**Feb. 11**

**Member Orientation**  
8:30 to 10 a.m.  
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber 123 Park Ave.  
okcchamber.com/orientation2

**Feb. 19**

**Chamber Forum**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Vast 333 W. Sheridan Ave.  
okcchamber.com/februaryforum

**Feb. 26**

**State of the City**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Cox Convention Center  
1 Myriad Gardens  
okcchamber.com/soc

## Learn about the Chamber's Legislative Agenda at the Legislative Breakfast

Hear from Oklahoma House and Senate leaders about 2020 legislative issues at the Chamber's 2020 Legislative Breakfast, Jan. 30.

Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Treat, Senate Democratic Leader Kay Floyd, House Majority Floor Leader Jon Echols and House Democratic Minority Leader Emily Virginwill discuss issues that affect local businesses.

This annual event offers the perfect opportunity for Chamber members to meet area legislators and have a voice on the issues impacting the business community.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., program begins at 8 a.m.

Cost to attend is \$40 for members and \$60 for nonmembers. Tables of 10 are available for \$1,000.

To register visit [okcchamber.com/legislativebreakfast](http://okcchamber.com/legislativebreakfast).

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor The Boeing Company and Government Relations Benefactor Devon Energy; Government Relations Benefactors the Chickasaw Nation, Cox Communications, Devon Energy Corporation, OGE Energy Corporation; and Government Relations Sponsors Enable Midstream Partners and Google, Inc.

## Mayor Holt to deliver annual State of the City address Feb. 26

Don't miss this opportunity to hear Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt reflect on his second year in office, including the recent MAPS 4 vote results, and project where the city is headed in the future. More than 1,500 of OKC's business leaders are expected to attend this event on Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cox Convention Center, 1 Myriad Gardens. 2020 Chamber Chair Percy Kirk will highlight the Chamber's strategic objectives for the coming year.

Tickets are \$60 for Chamber members and \$100 for nonmembers. Table sponsorships seating 10 are available for \$1,500. To register, visit [okcchamber.com/soc](http://okcchamber.com/soc).

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor The Professional Basketball Club, LLC - Oklahoma City Thunder.

## 2020 Chamber Forum series kicks off Jan. 15

Don't miss the first Chamber Forum of 2020 as an expert panel discusses criminal justice reform efforts in Oklahoma County. The Oklahoma County Jail Trust has selected a new administrator for the Oklahoma County Jail, changing the structure of management at the facility. Panelists Tricia Everest, Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Advisory Council (OCCJA) chair; Greg Williams, OCCJA CEO; and Tim Tardibono, OCCJA executive director, will discuss how these changes will impact the Oklahoma County Jail and what additional changes are needed as Oklahoma County continues to tackle the issue of justice reform moving forward.

The forum will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the 50th Floor of Vast, 333 W. Sheridan Ave. Tickets are \$35 for Chamber members and \$50 for nonmembers. Register online at [okcchamber.com/januaryforum](http://okcchamber.com/januaryforum).

The January Chamber Forum is the first of 10 forum events that will take place in 2020. The Chamber Forum series brings thought leaders together to discuss major initiatives, programs and current issues that

impact Oklahoma City's business climate, economy and community. You can reserve a seat at all 10 Chamber Forums in 2020 for the discounted rate of \$300—a \$50 savings. To purchase the Chamber Forum series ticket for 2020, email [register@okcchamber.com](mailto:register@okcchamber.com).

Special thanks to Series Presenting Sponsor Cox Business and Series Corporate Sponsor ADG.



## Meet new business contacts at MegaLunch

On Wednesday, Feb. 5, take a break from sales calls and have fun networking in a unique way.

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.

Special thanks to Host Sponsor Yale Theater and Networking Event Sponsor Grand Casino Hotel Resort

**Due to the unique format of this event, only one person per member company may attend.**

Tickets are \$40 for members.

To register, visit [okcchamber.com/megalunch](http://okcchamber.com/megalunch). Deadline to register is 3 business days prior to the event.

Cancellations of individual registrations require a written, 72-hour notice to receive a refund.

# Legislative Agenda... (cont'd from page 1)

## **Criminal Justice/Sentencing Reform**

The Chamber supports legislation and funding for sentencing reforms and rehabilitation programs to ease the financial drain on Oklahoma's criminal justice system, lessen the burden on jails and prisons throughout the state and allow non-violent offenders to enter the workforce more quickly.

The Chamber supports the efforts of the Criminal Justice Reclassification Council created pursuant to HB 1098 (2018).

The Chamber also supports: 1) continuing smart sentencing reform; 2) improving bail and jail practices; 3) making reentry and supervision improvements to reduce fines and fees, enhance workforce opportunities and increase public safety; and, 4) securing additional treatment funding.

## **Gun Legislation**

The Chamber supports the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the responsible expansion of gun-owner's rights in Oklahoma. However, the Chamber will oppose legislation that would allow open/concealed carry of guns into high-economic impact events (many of which are required by contract to prohibit weapons), including horse shows, the Oklahoma State Fair, Olympic-qualifying events on the Oklahoma River, high school basketball and wrestling tournaments at the State Fairgrounds and NCAA and Big XII sporting events.

The Chamber will oppose legislation that would allow guns to be carried on college campuses.

The Chamber will lead the efforts of the "Oklahomans for Business and Property Owners' Rights" coalition to defend against harmful gun legislation and work with the National Rifle Association, the Oklahoma Second Amendment Association and other stakeholders to improve and clarify existing gun laws while, at the same time, ensuring the protection of property rights and public safety.

## **Pension Reform**

The Chamber supports protecting the pension reforms which have improved the long-term fiscal condition of the state.

## **Major Transportation Projects**

The Chamber will advocate for full funding and timely completion of work on major interchanges located at I-44/I-235 (between NW 63rd and N. 50th streets); I-240/I-35 (Crossroads), I-35/I-44 (Remington Park); I-44/Rt. 66/SH-3 (In vicinity of Lake Hefner Parkway/NW Exp.) and I-44/I-40 (K Interchange/Near State Fairgrounds); as well as necessary improvements to I-40 corridor east of I-35 (Tinker Air Force Base) including expansion of I-40 facility to six lanes from Douglas Boulevard to Shawnee; and future development of I-44 corridor from I-40 to SH-62 (southwest OKC to Newcastle) to better provide for future mobility needs due to ongoing commercial expansion.

## **ODOT Eight-Year Plan**

The Chamber supports providing adequate annual dedicated funding necessary to preserve and implement the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) eight-year construction work plan. Furthermore, the Chamber will strongly oppose any effort to divert dedicated transportation funding to other areas of government.

## **State Bridge Improvement Plan**

The Chamber supports providing adequate annual dedicated funding to implement the ODOT Bridge Improvement Plan to repair or replace all of Oklahoma's structurally deficient bridges on the state's highway system by 2020 and further ensure that ODOT is able to maintain a nationally leading bridge improvement program.

The Chamber supports the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority's (OTA) "Driving Forward" Turnpike Program, and specifically, the following Oklahoma City-area projects: Construction of the Kickapoo Turnpike to link I-40 and I-44 (Turner Turnpike) in eastern Oklahoma County to ease congestion on I-35 and construction of a new southwest extension of the existing John Kilpatrick Turnpike between I-40 and State Highway 152/Airport Road to ease congestion at the I-40/I-44 (K Interchange/Near State Fairgrounds). The Chamber further supports turnpike planning consideration to include widening the Turner Turnpike to six lanes from the current construction at mile post 203 extending west to Oklahoma City.

## **Mass Transit/Commuter Rail**

The Chamber supports implementation of transit programs that will best serve central Oklahoma including the Central Oklahoma Transit and Parking Authority (COTPA) 2005 Fixed Guideway Transit Study and its following components:

- Association of Central Oklahoma Government's (ACOG) Regional Transit Dialogue Committees to identify regional transit alternatives/solutions for central Oklahoma
- ACOG's Commuter Corridors Study recommendations to implement mitigation strategies for future congestion

The Chamber further supports efforts by the Regional Transit Authority (RTA), consisting of six core central Oklahoma cities, to launch future regional transit services. The Chamber will work with the RTA, ACOG, municipal governments, ODOT and Class 1 railroads to conduct early-stage planning for introducing commuter rail service into downtown Oklahoma City from Norman and Edmond with alternative transportation options to Del City and Midwest City. Further planning consideration should be given to potential future expansion of rail service to the Shawnee and Yukon areas.

## **Health Insurance Coverage for Oklahomans**

The Chamber supports extending health insurance coverage to more Oklahoma residents through pursuit of all available funds to cover the costs of uncompensated care that is currently shifted to employers and health care providers.

The Chamber further supports broadening Insure Oklahoma to provide health insurance coverage to more of the state's uninsured.

The Chamber will support improving outcomes and care delivery for the Medicaid population.

## **Early Childhood Education**

The Chamber steadfastly supports early childhood education and full funding of pre-K and kindergarten programs. Targeted spending on our youngest children is simply a smart investment. The Chamber supports legislative initiatives to maintain early childhood education programs and initiatives.

## **Long-Term, Strategic Education Funding**



The Chamber supports development of a long-term, strategic plan that will enable improvement in classroom teaching and academic performance. This should include increasing the minimum number of instructional hours, currently 1080 hours, required for a complete school year.

## **Teacher Preparation, Recruitment and Retention**

Oklahoma and the nation have a teacher shortage. Oklahoma's teacher preparation system needs to be improved in order to train, attract and retain high-quality teachers. We support legislation to reward teacher performance and experience; incentivize teachers to work in high priority areas; and grow alternative pathways, such as Teach for America, that enhances the diversity of the teaching profession.

## **Career Tech – Business and Industry Training**

The Oklahoma CareerTech system is acknowledged as one of the top systems in the nation. CareerTech is a key ingredient in attracting industry to Oklahoma through its Training for Industry Program (TIP). The Chamber supports funding to assure training needs for new and existing industry. The business community urges the system to focus on producing a workforce that can meet the needs of high-demand occupations.

## 2019 State Legislature pro-business scores

It is critical for the business community to support candidates and elected officials who will advance pro-business legislation at the Capitol. The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's government relations division uses information prepared by the statewide Research Institute for Economic Development (RIED) to identify elected officials' votes on those issues important to the business community.

The chart below represents the voting records for OKC-area State House and State Senate members based on the issues identified by RIED for 2019. Previous years RIED scores can be found at [www.reidreport.com](http://www.reidreport.com).

Representative	Party	District	2019 RIED
Albright, Kelly	D	95	69%
Baker, Rhonda	R	60	87%
Bell, Merleyn	D	45	56%
Bennett, Forrest	D	92	69%
Boles, Brad	R	51	80%
Branham, Chelsey	D	83	51%
Burns, Ty	R	35	89%
Conley, Sherrie	R	20	67%
Crosswhite Hader, D.	R	41	67%
Dollens, Mickey	D	93	69%
Dunnington, Jason	D	88	78%
Echols, Jon	R	90	87%
Fugate, Andy	D	94	80%
Hill, Brian	R	47	84%
Kannady, Chris	R	91	78%
Kerbs, Dell	R	26	78%
Lowe, Jason	D	97	60%
Manger, Robert	R	101	84%
Martinez, Ryan	R	39	82%
McBride, Mark	R	53	82%
McCall, Charles	R	22	91%
McEntire, Marcus	R	50	71%
Miller, Nicole	R	82	91%
Mize, Gary	R	31	73%
Moore, Lewis	R	96	84%
Munson, Cyndi	D	85	69%
Ortega, Charles	R	52	87%
Osburn, Mike	R	81	91%

Perryman, David	D	56	56%
Pfeiffer, John	R	38	89%
Pittman, Ajay	D	99	64%
Ranson, Trish	D	34	69%
Roe, Cynthia	R	42	82%
Rosecrants, Jacob	D	46	69%
Russ, Todd	R	55	87%
Sanders, Mike	R	59	82%
Stark, Marilyn	R	100	87%
Steagall, Jay	R	43	89%
Sterling, Danny	R	27	87%
Stone, Shane	D	89	64%
Talley, John	R	33	69%
Vancuren, Mark	R	74	78%
Virgin, Emily	D	44	69%
Wallace, Kevin	R	32	76%
West, Tammy	R	84	91%
Wright, Harold	R	57	89%

Senator	Party	District	2019 RIED
Bice, Stephanie	R	22	87%
Boren, Mary	D	16	69%
Dugger, Tom	R	21	87%
Floyd, Kay	D	46	78%
Hall, Chuck	R	20	91%
Hicks, Carri	D	40	73%
Howard, Brent	R	38	80%
Jech, Darcy	R	26	87%
Kirt, Julia	D	30	78%
McCortney, Greg	R	13	73%
Paxton, Lonnie	R	23	91%
Pugh, Adam	R	41	71%
Scott, Paul	R	43	71%
Sharp, Ron	R	17	87%
Smalley, Jason	R	28	82%
Standridge, Rob	R	15	64%
Stanley, Brenda	R	42	87%
Treat, Greg	R	47	71%
Weaver, Darrell	R	24	82%
Young, George	D	48	73%

## Speak up for businesses this legislative session

During the 2020 legislative session, the Chamber will actively lobby on behalf of the business community to improve economic development and quality of life in Greater Oklahoma City—but the Chamber can't act on its own. The Chamber also relies on its members to engage with legislators and help move our economic development agenda forward.

In order to help you fully maximize your impact on the political process, the Chamber's advocacy website, [OKCBusinessAdvocate.com](http://OKCBusinessAdvocate.com), allows you to easily identify your elected officials and the most effective ways to communicate with them. The site also contains the Chamber's public policy priorities and updates on the progress of the Chamber's lobbying efforts at the State Capitol.

Throughout the legislative session, Chamber members can opt to receive "The Business Advocate" – an email newsletter featuring timely updates on the status of our priority legislative issues. The Chamber also encourages business leaders to act as a grassroots advocate for issues that are important to the economic stability and growth of the region.

- Contact your elected officials and leaders at the State Capitol by phone, email, letter or an in-person visit. You can find contact information for all elected officials at [OKCBusinessAdvocate.com](http://OKCBusinessAdvocate.com).
- Stay informed on the issues. Visit [OKCBusinessAdvocate.com](http://OKCBusinessAdvocate.com) to learn more about issues that impact Oklahoma City businesses and sign up for "The Business Advocate" newsletter at that link.
- Connect with the community. The Chamber's events throughout the year are the perfect way to stay informed on the issues facing Oklahoma City while meeting legislators and other business leaders.

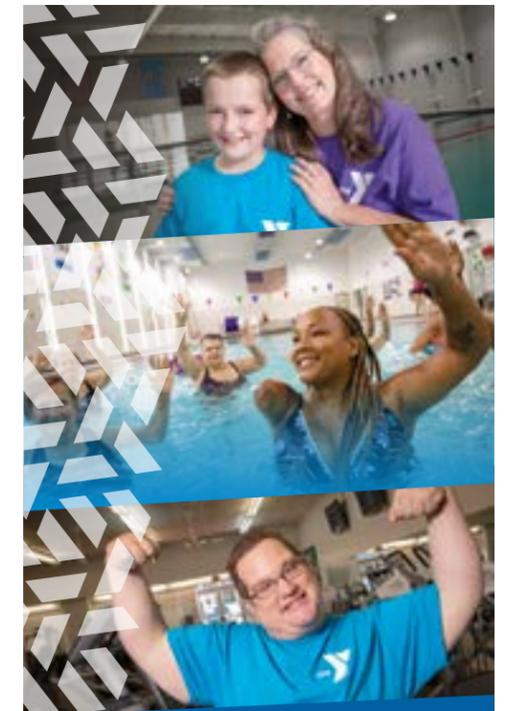
For more information about the Chamber's advocacy efforts or the Business Advocacy Center, contact Derek Sparks, government relations manager, at [dspark@okcchamber.com](mailto:dspark@okcchamber.com) or 297-8933.

## GETTING IS GOOD. GIVING IS BETTER.

We have an extraordinary opportunity to ensure a brighter future for our community. But we can't do it without your help.

Your donation powers critical programs outside of our walls and allows all of our neighbors the opportunity to have a Y experience.

**Donate today,  
for a better us tomorrow.**



[ymcaokc.org](http://ymcaokc.org)



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Businesses who join the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber are part of the largest coalition of businesses in the state and make the Chamber's work in the community possible. Each member level is identified on the listing below.

## SENIOR PARTNER++

**Verizon**  
*Telecommunications Services*  
Ms. Darlene Brugnoli ... (512) 676-9519  
701 Brazos St., Suite 600  
Austin, TX 78701  
www.verizon.com

## ADVISOR

**Hough Ear Institute**  
*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
Mr. Justin DeMoss..... 471-9109  
3400 NW 56th St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112-4463  
www.houghear.org

## ASSOCIATE

**Airport Express, Inc.**  
*Airport Transportation Services*  
Mrs. Katie Atwood-Batson .... 681-3311  
4225 SW 44th St.  
P.O. Box 950488  
Oklahoma City, OK 73195  
www.airportexpressokc.com

## ASSOCIATE

**Packard's New American Kitchen**  
*Restaurants*  
Mr. Nick Schaefer ..... 605-3771  
201 NW 10th St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
www.packardsokc.com

## CORE

**ACP Sheet Metal Co., Inc.**  
*Contractors - Sheet Metal*  
Mr. Nathan L. Dills..... 755-9780  
10521 N. Garnett St.  
P.O. Box 14709  
Oklahoma City, OK 73113-0709  
www.acpsheetmetal.com

## CORE

**Allstate Insurance**  
*Insurance Agents, Brokers and Service*  
Mr. Steve Morin ..... (480) 777-5446  
222 S. Mill Ave., Suite 601  
Tempe, AZ 85281  
www.allstate.com/agencyowner

## CORE

**Blue Circle Productions**  
*Audio-Visual Production Services*  
Mr. Brian Ferrell..... 216-3222  
3421 N. Walnut Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
www.bluecircleproductions.com

## CORE

**Chick-fil-A @ SSM Health St. Anthony**  
*Restaurants*  
Ms. Barbara Millwee..... 272-8434  
535 NW 9th St., Suite 103  
1008 East Drive  
Edmond, OK 73034

## CORE

**Evans & Davis, PLLC**  
*Attorneys / Lawyers*  
Ms. Shelby Hays ..... 286-2335  
211 N. Broadway Ave.  
Edmond, OK 73034-3776  
www.evansdavis.com

## CORE

**Hampton Inn Edmond**  
*Hotels & Motels*  
Ms. Kelly Harris ..... 844-3037  
300 Meline Dr.  
Edmond, OK 73034-7389  
www.hilton.com/en/hotels/okcedhx-hampton-oklahoma-city-edmond/

## CORE

**Herbology Dispensary**  
*Health Services*  
Mr. Ian Gibbs .....  
115 E. Reno Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104  
www.myherbology.com

## CORE

**Higher Grounds Coffee Shoppe & Bakery**  
*Restaurants*  
Ms. Christy Ausley ..... 603-6999  
5814 NW 63rd St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73132  
www.hgcoffeehoppe.com

## CORE

**The President's Club, LLC**  
*Consultants*  
Prashanth Nair ..... 550-4343  
10600 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 16530  
Oklahoma City, OK 73170-4256

## CORE

**Viability, Inc**  
*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
Ms. Robin A. Pokorny... (580) 234-5875  
2000 N. Classen Blvd., N160  
2309 N. 10th St., Suite A  
Enid, OK 73701-8709  
www.viability.org

## Members Upgrade Their Support of the Chamber

The following member companies increased their investment in the Chamber, demonstrating strong support of the Chamber's efforts to drive the region's economy. To increase your investment, contact the membership division of the Chamber at 405-297-8949 or membership@okcchamber.com.



## ADVISOR

**Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits**  
*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
Ms. Marnie Taylor 463-6886  
720 W. Wilshire Blvd., Suite 115  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116  
www.okcnp.org



## Get involved with the Chamber this year

### Maximize your Chamber membership

As a member of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, you have the opportunity to connect with an engaged audience of nearly 4,000 businesses in the Greater Oklahoma City area. Take advantage of your membership by marketing your business through the Chamber's digital portfolio and networking with like-minded business leaders.

### Become a Chamber Ambassador

By getting involved, you are not only expanding your circle of business contacts, but you are also becoming more familiar with the work of the Chamber. The Chamber's Ambassadors work to educate, enlist and involve Chamber members in committees and activities. They focus on welcoming new members, member retention and grand openings. Another important role of a Chamber ambassador is helping at Chamber events throughout the year. Contact Reagan Perry at (405) 297-8961 or rperry@okcchamber.com for more information.

### Update your directory information

The Chamber's online membership directory is a resource for community members looking for goods and services. Make sure that your information is always kept updated so you never miss out on a sales lead. Main representatives for each company can update the corresponding business profile, while any registered user can update his/her personal profile and email preferences from the member log in page.

### Build your customer base

Help your company stand out from the competition by posting discounts with your directory listing on the Chamber's website. Your company's main representative can post discounts alongside your company listing on www.okcchamber.com. To post, log in and click "Add/Edit a Discount."

### Share your news

Is your company expanding its operations? Hosting a grand opening? Did your company just receive an award? Share your company's news with the business community on www.okcchamber.com. To add a new story, log in to the Chamber website and click "Add a News Article."

### Welcome new businesses

Each year, dozens of Chamber members host grand openings and ribbon cuttings to celebrate their new businesses. The Grand Opening Committee members attend these events to offer congratulations on behalf of the Chamber. Committee members are notified of upcoming grand openings via email, and there are no monthly meetings to attend.

For more information on ways to engage through your Chamber membership, contact a member of the membership division at info@okcchamber.com.

# GRAND OPENINGS

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



**Razzoo's Cajun Café**  
1340 W Memorial Road  
Oklahoma City, OK 73114



**Profile by Sanford**  
12200 N MacArthur Blvd., Suite F  
Oklahoma City, OK 73162



**TTEC**  
7725 W Reno Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73127



**Communities Foundation of Oklahoma**  
801 NW 63rd St., Suite 200  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116



**Oklahoma City Beautiful**  
3535 N. Classen Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118  
For artwork on Classen and 8th St.

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Oklahoma City ranks fifth among best cities for veterans to live

## The Best Places for Veterans to Live

Rank	City	Cost of Living Index	Veteran Population (City Limits)
1	San Antonio	96.7	107,359
2	Lincoln	95.6	14,846
3	Arlington	108.9	19,153
4	Raleigh	111	20,888
<b>5</b>	<b>Oklahoma City</b>	<b>91.5</b>	<b>42,000</b>

Source: Veterans United, 2019

For comprehensive Economic Indicators and Regional Data, [www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators](http://www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators) or contact Eric Long, Research Economist – 297-8976; [elong@okcchamber.com](mailto:elong@okcchamber.com)

- Oklahoma City ranked fifth-best out of 100 most populated cities in the U.S. for veterans to live.
- Veterans United created this list to help our nation's military community to find a place to call home. They used four variables for their study: economic wellness, employment, availability of VA benefits and quality of life for veterans.
- Oklahoma City MSA currently has a veteran population of 94,500 residents, with 42,000 residing in Oklahoma City limits.
- Oklahoma City also ranks sixth in veteran unemployment rates.

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## LOOK INSIDE!

- 5 Chamber-assisted companies add jobs
- 11 Speak up for business this legislative session
- 6 Mayor Holt delivers State of the City address Feb. 26
- 13 Get involved with the Chamber this year

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