

# → VELOCITY

FEBRUARY 2022 • OKCCHAMBER.COM

GREATER  
OKLAHOMA CITY  
CHAMBER

## NEW CHAMBER BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED FOR 2022

The Chamber's board of directors has now been elected for 2022.

Elected to new three-year terms on the board of directors are Sanford C. Coats, Esq., The Boeing Company; Mark A. Helm, Dolese Bros. Co.; Joe Hodges, SSM Health Oklahoma; Bonnie Lopez-Crowe, Cox Communications; Xavier Neira, Logatore, LLC; and Claudia San Pedro, SONIC Drive-In.

The following individuals were appointed to serve one-year terms on the board: Mark Beffort, RobinsonPark; Dan Boren, First United Bank; Jim

Couch, JDC Consulting; Steve Dixon; Mohammad J. Farzaneh, Home Creations; Chris Fleming, Midtown Renaissance (A REHCO, LLC Company); Christian Kanady, Echo Investment Capital, LLC; Vincent Lombardo, Heartland; Andre McMillian, Pratt & Whitney; Tony Shinn, Bank of America; and Dr. Kent J. Smith, Jr., Langston University.

They will join returning members of the board: David Carpenter, American Fidelity Corporation; Bob Funk, Jr., Prodigal; Jim R. Gebhart, FACHE, Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City; David F. Griffin, Griffin Communications/NEWS 9; Nathaniel R. Harding, Cortado Ventures; David R. Harlow, BancFirst Corporation; John D. Higginbotham, Bank of Oklahoma; Ryan Kirk, JPMorganChase Bank, N.A.; Michael S. Laird, Crowe & Dunlevy; Michael F. Lauderdale, McAfee & Taft; David J. Morgan, MidFirst

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## CLARK JOINS ELEVATE KEYNOTE SPEAKER LINEUP

### APRIL 14 CHAMBER EVENT OFFERS CUSTOMIZABLE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

Nationally recognized human resources consultant Linda Clark will inspire audiences with her Elevate keynote session "Elevating the Ask: The Art of Transforming Perspective Through Inquiry." Clark will use her signature charismatic and engaging style to help attendees create behaviors driven by curiosity and environments that generate trust and innovation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7





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As an integrated academic health system, interested nurses can practice at OU Health and seek a faculty appointment at the OU Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing.



## LEADERSHIP NOTES

### SUPPORT OF FILM/TV PRODUCTION INDUSTRY IN OKC A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER DIVERSIFY ECONOMY

You may have heard several significant announcements surrounding Oklahoma City's film and TV production industry recently. You may know about the conversion of the former convention center to Prairie Surf Studios, and Green Pastures Studio's emergence from a former elementary school. Perhaps you've read a story about Oklahoma City Community College's production courses, or those offered at Metro Technology Centers, Francis Tuttle Technology Center, Mid-Del Technology Center or Moore Norman Technology Center, for example. You may have even heard that Oklahoma recently increased its incentive pool for film and television production.

What you may not know is that these assets and others have contributed to a new industry segment with real momentum, generating economic activity and jobs on a level that can no longer be referred to as simply "fledgling." And it's just the kind of cutting-edge creative industry that both benefits our workforce as well as our perception, and attracts new investment and attention in a way that helps us in more ways than simply economically.

According to the Oklahoma Film & Music Office, in fiscal year 2020, filmmakers hired 3,751 people for projects in Oklahoma. In FY 2021, that number was 11,004. Production expenditures increased from \$32.6 million to \$170.4 million, and wages paid went from \$17.89 million to \$107.1 million. And that kind of growth is just the beginning. A recent study on the impact of film industry incentives pointed out not only the direct spending and associated benefits of production activity, but the indirect effects as well, money that is spent in other local sectors like at hotels, dry cleaning, restaurants/catering and more.

A single movie or TV series can create hundreds of jobs and bring millions into our economy. The brave entrepreneurs and creatives behind these successes deserve our support to keep the momentum moving and put OKC on the production map. As a business community, we need to do all we can to assist their efforts to make sure these businesses, their workforce, suppliers and others grow in both the short and the long term. It's yet another example of the benefits and positive attention that purposeful industry diversification can bring.



Roy H. Williams, CCE  
President & CEO

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 "LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CANDIDATES IN THE UPCOMING OKC MAYORAL ELECTION"  
[VELOCITYOKC.COM/ROYSPICK](http://VELOCITYOKC.COM/ROYSPICK)

## 2022 OFFICERS

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Chair

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Continental Resources  
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Chamber's State Spotlight event to feature Gov. Stitt, Sec. Gatz

### CALENDAR

(Events are subject to change. Consult [okcchamber.com/events](http://okcchamber.com/events) for the most recent updates.)

#### FEBRUARY 16

Chamber Forum  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Vast  
333 W Sheridan Ave.  
[okcchamber.com/februaryforum](http://okcchamber.com/februaryforum)

#### FEBRUARY 17

Legislative Kickoff  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Embassy Suites by Hilton  
Oklahoma City Northwest  
3233 Northwest Expressway  
[okcchamber.com/legislativekickoff](http://okcchamber.com/legislativekickoff)

#### FEBRUARY 25

State of the Aerospace Industry  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
The Petroleum Club of Oklahoma City, Inc.  
100 N. Broadway, Suite 3400  
[okcchamber.com/soa](http://okcchamber.com/soa)

#### MARCH 3

State Spotlight  
8 to 9:30 a.m.  
Champion Convention Center  
803 S. Meridian Ave.  
[okcchamber.com/statespotlight](http://okcchamber.com/statespotlight)

#### MARCH 23

Chamber Forum  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Vast  
333 W Sheridan Ave.  
[okcchamber.com/marchforum](http://okcchamber.com/marchforum)

#### APRIL 14

Elevate  
8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Oklahoma City Convention Center  
100 Mick Cornett Dr.  
[okcelebrate.com](http://okcelebrate.com)

#### APRIL 20

Chamber Forum  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Vast  
333 W Sheridan Ave.  
[okcchamber.com/aprilforum](http://okcchamber.com/aprilforum)

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt will give an overview of his priorities for the coming year during the State Spotlight, a Greater Oklahoma City Chamber event scheduled for March 3 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the Champion Convention Center, 803 S. Meridian Ave. in Oklahoma City.

State Spotlight will also feature a conversation between Chamber Chair Sean Trauschke and Transportation Secretary Tim Gatz, where they will discuss the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's current work, the upcoming infrastructure program and the vision for transportation in central Oklahoma.

Individual tickets for State Spotlight are \$50 for Chamber members and \$75 for nonmembers. Sponsor tables of eight with additional recognition are available for \$1,000. To register, visit [okcchamber.com/statespotlight](http://okcchamber.com/statespotlight). Please contact Suzette Ellison Jordan at [sellison@okcchamber.com](mailto:sellison@okcchamber.com) for table sponsor inquiries.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor Cox Communications.

## OKC diversion programs making a difference focus of first Chamber Forum of 2022

The Chamber will hold its first Chamber Forum of 2022 on Feb. 16 at Vast from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., featuring a panel discussion about diversion programs in Oklahoma City that are making a difference.

During February's Chamber Forum, which was originally scheduled on Jan. 19, you will hear from representatives of diversion programs on the work they do within the justice system and how diversion helps low-level, nonviolent offenders return to productive lives within our community. Participating in the panel will be:

- Damon Britton, Executive Director, Diversion Hub
- Jaime Patterson, Director of Diversion Services, TEEM - The Education & Employment Ministry
- The Honorable Kenneth M. Stoner, District Judge, Oklahoma County
- Timothy Tardibono, Executive Director, Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Advisory Council

The cost to attend the February Chamber Forum is \$40 for Chamber members and \$50 for nonmembers. Discounted full-season (10 tickets) and half-season (five) packages can also be purchased for \$350 and \$175, respectively.

To register for the forum, visit [okcchamber.com/februaryforum](http://okcchamber.com/februaryforum). If you prefer to purchase either a full-season or half-season ticket package, you can do so by emailing [register@okcchamber.com](mailto:register@okcchamber.com) or calling 405-297-8921.

Diversifying OKC's economy through support of the film/creative industry will be the topic for the March Chamber Forum, which is set for March 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Vast. You can register early for that event by visiting [okcchamber.com/marchforum](http://okcchamber.com/marchforum).

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

## Annual Chamber event to focus on OKC's aerospace industry

The aerospace industry continues to soar in Oklahoma City, playing a key role in OKC's economy by providing thousands of jobs across the metro. To deepen your understanding of the aerospace industry and its impact in the Oklahoma City region, you are encouraged to attend the Chamber's annual State of the Aerospace Industry event Feb. 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Petroleum Club of Oklahoma City, Inc., Suite 3400.

Featured speakers for this event include John Bonsell, senior vice president of government affairs for Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC), and Capt. Cedrick L. Jessup, commodore for Strategic Communications Wing ONE and Task Group 114.2 commander at Tinker Air Force Base. Bonsell will discuss how leveraging partnerships can accelerate economic growth in the industry, while Capt. Jessup will discuss the past, present and future of the US Navy at Tinker AFB.

Individual tickets for the State of the Aerospace

Industry are \$40 for Chamber members and \$60 for nonmembers. To register or learn more, visit [okcchamber.com/soa](http://okcchamber.com/soa). Sponsor tables of eight with additional recognition are available for \$750. Please contact Suzette Ellison Jordan at [sellison@okcchamber.com](mailto:sellison@okcchamber.com) for table sponsor inquiries.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor The Boeing Company and Host Sponsor Oklahoma City Community College.



## Issues impacting businesses to be heard during Legislative Kickoff, rescheduled for Feb. 17

Even though the second regular session of the 58th Legislature will have already commenced, Chamber members will still get an opportunity to hear from a panel of key members of the Oklahoma Legislature as well as make their voices heard on issues impacting the business community during the Chamber's annual Legislative Kickoff event.

The kickoff event, which was rescheduled from Jan. 26, will be held Feb. 17 at the Embassy Suites By Hilton Oklahoma City Northwest, 3233 Northwest Expressway, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration and networking start at 11 a.m.



Legislators scheduled to participate in the panel include:

- Greg Treat, Senate President Pro Tempore
- Kay Floyd, Senate Democratic Leader
- Tammy West, House Majority Whip
- Cyndi Munson, House Democratic Minority Caucus Chair

Tickets for Legislative Kickoff are \$50 for Chamber members and \$75 for nonmembers. To register, visit [okcchamber.com/legislativekickoff](http://okcchamber.com/legislativekickoff). Sponsor tables of eight with additional recognition are available for \$1,000. Contact Suzette Ellison Jordan at [sellison@okcchamber.com](mailto:sellison@okcchamber.com) for table sponsor inquiries.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor The Boeing Company; Host Sponsor Cox Communications; Government Relations Benefactors The Chickasaw Nation, Cox Communications, Devon Energy Corporation and OG&E; and Government Relations Sponsor Google, Inc.

Bank; Harshil Patel, Champion Hotels & Development; Timothy T. Pehrson, INTEGRIS Health; Ford C. Price, Price Edwards & Company; Robert J. Ross, Inasmuch Foundation; William P. Schonacher, IBC Bank; Richard Tanenbaum, Gardner Tanenbaum Holdings; and Tony J. Tyler, Tyler Media.

The past chairmen and life members are Luke R. Corbett; Peter Delaney, Tequesta Capital Partners; William E. Durrett, American Fidelity Assurance Company; Carl E. Edwards, Price Edwards & Company; Robert A. Funk, Express Employment Professionals; Gerald L. Gamble, Gerald L. Gamble Co.; Fred J. Hall, Hall Capital; V. Burns Hargis, Oklahoma State University; Dan Hogan, Dan Hogan Properties; Stanley F. Hupfeld, FACHE; Percy Kirk, Cox Communications; David R. Lopez, DL Dynamics; Edmund O. Martin, Ackerman McQueen, Inc.; Frank A. McPherson; George Nigh; Lee Allan Smith, Oklahoma Events, LLC; and David L. Thompson, The Thompson Group, LLC.

Serving on the 2022 board as ex-officio members are Michelle Coppedge, Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center – FAA; Secretary Tricia Everest, State of Oklahoma; Craig Freeman, City of Oklahoma City; Mayor David Holt, City of Oklahoma City; Commissioner Brian Maughan, Oklahoma County; and Superintendent Sean McDaniel, Oklahoma City Public Schools.



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**ABOUT ELEVATE**

Elevate will take place on Thursday, April 14, at the Oklahoma City Convention Center, with registration for the event and continental breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. Chamber member exhibitors will be showcased throughout the day in high-traffic areas of the Convention Center for attendees to visit. Eight breakout session tracks will allow attendees to customize the Elevate experience to meet their professional development needs. After a welcome session, attendees will choose two breakout sessions before lunch and reconvene for a luncheon presentation from Clark. Two more afternoon breakout sessions will be followed by the finale keynote presentation from Lombardo. The day will conclude with a chance to unwind and network after a day of focused professional development with a closing reception.

The Elevate experience is open to everyone, but Chamber members get a discounted conference registration for \$250 per person or \$200 per person for groups of three or more within the same company. An all-day conference registration includes breakfast, lunch, all keynote speakers, four breakout sessions, morning and afternoon refreshments, and a drink ticket to the Elevate closing reception. Chamber members that are nonprofit organizations will also receive a discounted rate of \$200 per person or \$160 per person for groups of three or more within the same organization. To purchase tickets, view the schedule or additional information, visit [okcelebrate.com](http://okcelebrate.com).

Businesses can also elevate their workforce with several ticket package options, including the Boost Package for \$2,500 (10 tickets and sponsorship recognition), Uplift10 Sponsor package for \$3,000 (10 tickets plus additional sponsorship recognition) or the Uplift20 Sponsor package for \$4,000 (20 tickets and even more sponsorship recognition). Learn more by visiting [www.okchamber.com/elevate2022](http://www.okchamber.com/elevate2022) or email [register@okcchamber.com](mailto:register@okcchamber.com) to secure your organization's ticket package.

Special thanks to Aspiration Sponsor OG&E.

“We’ve spent so much time becoming subject matter experts and developing expertise and sometimes we start limiting ourselves,” Clark said. “The desire to fix overruns the joy of solving.”

According to Clark, successful people tend to embrace the unknown and ask the right questions.

“When we talk about growth mindset, resilience, and progress, the successful are asking questions,” Clark said. “A hearty ‘I don’t know, can you help me?’ can generate trust at work, at home, in your community. Trust softens failures and mistakes and allows another chance to try, and it prioritizes innovation and creativity over exhaustion and endurance. Trust can unlock the unspoken ideas that could be the next great moment for your organization.”

With over two decades of experience in strategic human resources and operations leadership, Clark combines peak performance, authenticity, and personal presence to maximize success for individuals and organizations. Clark brings an exceptional reputation of radical operational focus centering respect and empathy at all levels. Today, Linda is an in-demand professional speaker fluent in topics of group and team dynamics, feedback, and communication competency.

Clark will share the Elevate keynote stage with Dr. Elizabeth Lombardo, who will provide a closing keynote session on creating success in the new normal. Lombardo’s ability to help people unlock their own, unique personal happiness code has made her America’s most interviewed celebrity psychologist, with more than 100 TV and radio appearances on shows like Good Morning America, Dr. Oz, The TODAY Show, Steve Harvey, CNN, Fox Business News and others.

At Elevate, Lombardo will use her patented true success formula to help attendees discover the three essential ingredients that will help you create success in the new normal. While there are many factors in life that people can’t control, Lombardo’s presentation will offer immediate, actionable skills that will help attendees optimize their mindset to create success, both now and in the future. By the end of Elevate, attendees of Lombardo’s keynote will be able to formulate a personalized action

## CHAMBER SCORECARD REVEALS LEGISLATORS' VOTES ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO BUSINESS

To keep its members informed on relevant issues at the Oklahoma State Capitol, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber prepares a Legislative Scorecard every year. The scorecard includes information provided 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 Senate and House elected officials during the 2021 legislative session.

Issues identified by the Chamber and/or RIED for this year's scores, included, but were not limited to, elected officials' votes on these selected bills:

- Local Development Act, Ad Valorem Taxation (SB 609)
- Prohibiting Guns During Concerts at Scissortail Park (HB 2645)
- Oklahoma Quality Events Act Extension (HB 1121) Aerospace Engineering Tax Credit Modifications (SB 893)
- Regional Transportation Authority Liability Protections (SB 967)

### 2021 HOUSE SCORECARD

Representative	Party	District	2021 RIED	2021 OKC
Baker, Rhonda	R	60	94%	76%
Bashore, Steve	R	7	91%	90%
Bell, Merleyn	D	45	82%	76%
Bennett, Forrest	D	92	76%	83%
Blancett, Meloyde	D	78	88%	83%
Boatman, Jeff	R	67	94%	90%
Boles, Brad	R	51	88%	100%
Brewer, Denise	D	71	70%	76%
Burns, Ty	R	35	94%	97%
Bush, Carol	R	70	97%	90%
Caldwell, Chad	R	40	100%	100%

Representative	Party	District	2021 RIED	2021 OKC
Caldwell, Trey	R	63	97%	83%
Conley, Sherrie	R	20	88%	76%
Cornwell, Rusty	R	6	88%	76%
Crosswhite Hader, D.	R	41	85%	90%
Cruz, Jose	D	89	88%	90%
Culver, Bob	R	4	91%	90%
Davis, Dean	R	98	94%	69%
Dempsey, Eddy	R	1	97%	90%
Dills, Sheila	R	69	100%	90%
Dobrinski, Mike	R	59	97%	83%
Dollens, Mickey	D	93	82%	83%
Echols, Jon	R	90	94%	97%
Fetgatter, Scott	R	16	88%	76%
Ford, Ross	R	76	82%	83%
Frix, Avery	R	13	88%	90%
Fugate, Andy	D	94	91%	83%
Gann, Tom	R	8	42%	70%
Goodwin, Regina	D	73	64%	46%
Grego, Jim	R	17	91%	90%
Hardin, David	R	86	85%	83%
Hardin, Tommy	R	49	30%	60%
Hasenbeck, Toni	R	65	100%	76%
Hilbert, Kyle	R	29	97%	90%
Hill, Brian	R	47	100%	90%
Humphrey, Justin	R	19	97%	83%
Johns, Ronny	R	25	100%	97%
Kannady, Chris	R	91	79%	90%
Kendrix, Gerrid	R	52	85%	73%
Kerbs, Dell	R	26	91%	76%
Lawson, Mark	R	30	91%	76%
Lepak, Mark	R	9	88%	93%
Lowe, Dick	R	56	97%	90%
Lowe, Jason	D	97	76%	73%
Luttrell, Ken	R	37	94%	90%
Manger, Robert	R	101	97%	90%
Marti, T.J.	R	75	100%	76%
Martinez, Ryan	R	39	100%	76%
May, Stan	R	80	91%	100%
McBride, Mark	R	53	85%	83%
McCall, Charles	R	22	88%	97%
McDugle, Kevin	R	12	88%	90%
McEntire, Marcus	R	50	97%	90%
Miller, Nicole	R	82	97%	90%
Mize, Garry	R	31	61%	80%
Moore, Anthony	R	57	97%	90%
Munson, Cyndi	D	85	88%	90%
Newton, Carl	R	58	97%	83%
Nichols, Monroe	D	72	82%	76%

Representative	Party	District	2021 RIED	2021 OKC
Nollan, Jadine	R	66	88%	69%
O'Donnell, Terry	R	23	79%	90%
Olsen, Jim	R	2	55%	63%
Osburn, Mike	R	81	94%	93%
Pae, Daniel	R	62	91%	97%
Patzkowsky, Kenton	R	61	82%	86%
Pfeiffer, John	R	38	91%	80%
Phillips, Logan	R	24	85%	79%
Pittman, Ajay	D	99	70%	76%
Provenzano, Melissa	D	79	82%	90%
Randleman, Randy	R	15	100%	90%
Ranson, Trish	D	34	88%	90%
Roberts, Dustin	R	21	94%	100%
Roberts, Eric	R	83	91%	90%
Roberts, Sean	R	36	76%	76%
Roe, Cynthia	R	42	100%	83%
Rosecrants, Jacob	D	46	82%	83%
Russ, Todd	R	55	76%	76%
Sims, Lonnie	R	68	94%	90%
Smith, David	R	18	88%	80%
Sneed, Chris	R	14	82%	83%
Stark, Marilyn	R	100	100%	90%
Steagall, Jay	R	43	94%	90%
Stearman, Wendi	R	11	55%	80%
Sterling, Danny	R	27	85%	76%
Stinson, Preston	R	96	N/A	100%
Strom, Judd	R	10	91%	90%
Talley, John	R	33	97%	90%
Townley, Tammy	R	48	97%	90%
Turner, Mauree	D	88	82%	80%
Vancuren, Mark	R	74	88%	90%
Virgin, Emily	D	44	82%	83%
Waldron, John	D	77	88%	80%
Walke, Collin	D	87	85%	83%
Wallace, Kevin	R	32	88%	86%
West, Josh	R	5	91%	83%
West, Kevin	R	54	82%	93%
West, Rick	R	3	42%	70%
West, Tammy	R	84	100%	90%
Williams, Danny	R	28	88%	90%
Wolfey, Max	R	95	94%	90%
Worthen, Rande	R	64	88%	76%

### 2021 SENATE SCORECARD

Senator	Party	District	2021 RIED	2021 OKC
Allen, Mark	R	4	52%	76%
Bergstrom, Micheal	R	1	82%	100%
Boren, Mary	D	16	76%	56%
Brooks, Michael	D	44	85%	90%
Bullard, David	R	6	94%	100%
Burns, George	R	5	73%	90%
Coleman, Bill	R	10	100%	100%
Dahm, Nathan	R	33	39%	50%
Daniels, Julie	R	29	82%	100%
David, Kim	R	18	100%	100%
Dossett, JJ	D	34	88%	76%
Dossett, Jo Anna	D	35	88%	80%
Dugger, Tom	R	21	97%	100%
Floyd, Kay	D	46	88%	80%
Garvin, Jessica	R	43	91%	93%
Hall, Chuck	R	20	82%	93%
Hamilton, Warren	R	7	58%	70%
Haste, John	R	36	100%	100%
Hicks, Carri	D	40	88%	80%
Howard, Brent	R	38	67%	100%
Jech, Darcy	R	26	100%	100%
Jett, Shane	R	17	67%	80%
Kidd, Chris	R	31	100%	100%
Kirt, Julia	D	30	88%	73%
Leewright, James	R	12	94%	93%
Matthews, Kevin	D	11	82%	66%
McCortney, Greg	R	13	88%	100%
Merrick, Jake	R	22	60%	91%
Montgomery, John	R	32	100%	100%
Murdock, Casey	R	27	82%	80%
Newhouse, Joe	R	25	70%	76%
Paxton, Lonnie	R	23	88%	97%
Pederson, Roland	R	19	85%	79%
Pemberton, Dewayne	R	9	97%	100%
Pugh, Adam	R	41	94%	100%
Quinn, Marty	R	2	88%	100%
Rader, Dave	R	39	100%	100%
Rogers, Cody	R	37	88%	93%
Rosino, Paul	R	45	88%	100%
Simpson, Frank	R	14	100%	100%
Standridge, Rob	R	15	76%	90%
Stanley, Brenda	R	42	100%	100%
Stephens, Blake	R	3	100%	100%
Taylor, Zack	R	28	88%	93%
Thompson, Roger	R	8	91%	93%
Treat, Greg	R	47	91%	100%
Weaver, Darrell	R	24	100%	100%
Young, George	D	48	82%	70%

## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CANDIDATES IN THE UPCOMING OKC MAYORAL ELECTION

Registered voters who live in the City of Oklahoma City will have the opportunity to vote in an important election on Tuesday, Feb. 8. Four candidates filed to run in the Oklahoma City mayoral election, including the incumbent Mayor David Holt. Other candidates include Carol Hefner, Jimmy Lawson and Frank Urbanic.

The Chamber asked all four candidates to complete a survey that would ascertain their stance on the MAPS program, economic development programs, and more. All four candidates responded. Read on for a summary of their responses and for their responses when asked about their top priorities if elected Oklahoma City's mayor.

### MAYOR DAVID HOLT, MAYOR OF CITY OF OKLAHOMA CITY

#### Chamber: If elected as Oklahoma City mayor, what would be your top priorities?

**Holt:** As Mayor for the last four years, I have focused on improving core services, continuing our investments in quality of life, and including the diversity of our city in our decision-making. Success in these endeavors inevitably leads to economic development and strong population growth. Thanks in large part to the close partnership I have enjoyed with this Chamber and our city's business community, we have been incredibly successful in all these areas, even in the face of historic external challenges. Today, we have the lowest unemployment in city history, our population growth has soared, making us the 22nd-largest city in the United States, and we are continuing to make massive investments in our core services and quality of life. The latter would not be possible without the Chamber's support of "Better Streets, Safer City" in 2017 and MAPS 4 in 2019. In the next four years, we will continue our partnership, we will continue this work, and we will build upon our successes. Our community is being presented with remarkable opportunities every week that we would have only dreamed about twenty years ago. In the next four years, we'll implement "Better Streets, Safer City" and MAPS 4 as promised, we'll work together to meet challenges that face our city – such as the future of

public education and public transit – and we'll seize the many opportunities coming our way. And we'll do it all together, as One OKC.

I am grateful for the work this Chamber does, for the long partnership between this Chamber and City Hall, and the personal support this Chamber has given me in my service. I look forward to what the future holds for all of us. Even though we have come so far so fast, I firmly believe the best is yet to come.

Read Holt's full responses to the Chamber's survey by visiting [velocityokc.com/holt](http://velocityokc.com/holt).

### CAROL HEFNER, COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER

#### Chamber: If elected as Oklahoma City mayor, what would be your top priorities?

**Hefner:** Oklahoma City needs attention to a myriad of issues that have impacted our growth and economics negatively. It is time to remove red tape and roadblocks. Government's responsibility, at all levels, is to protect life, liberty and property.

- To that point, I fully support and will promote Law and Order. Our police and fire must be supported fully from city hall.
- Reducing the red tape that is hampering private enterprise and forward momentum.
- Encouraging and empowering the private sector and faith community to embrace social issues.

Read Hefner's full responses to the Chamber's survey by visiting [velocityokc.com/hefner](http://velocityokc.com/hefner).

### JIMMY LAWSON, PROFESSOR AT ROSE STATE COLLEGE

#### Chamber: If elected as Oklahoma City mayor, what would be your top priorities?

##### Lawson:

- Address the growing needs of the homeless. Provide more access to resources such as housing, mental health services, and employment opportunities.
- Criminal justice reform. Create opportunities at the municipal level to reduce incarceration and provide more diversion programs.
- Create new jobs for the OKC market. Diversify the type of industries in which can be accessible by the average citizen.
- Provide educational resources to our youth in OKC.

Give them access to mentors, financial literacy, and other life-changing resources.

Read Lawson's full responses to the Chamber's survey by visiting [velocityokc.com/lawson](http://velocityokc.com/lawson).

### FRANK URBANIC, ATTORNEY AT URBANIC LAW FIRM/AIR BATTLE MANAGER ON AWACS IN USAF-R

#### Chamber: If elected as Oklahoma City mayor, what would be your top priorities?

**Urbanic:** My top priority will be to represent all citizens of Oklahoma City. Many pay into the system who aren't seeing a return on their investment. Businesses need to be supported—not shut down. Money spent on empty streetcars should be spent on our streets, which are in terrible condition. The streetcars must go. There is more to our city than downtown. The Cleveland and Canadian County parts of OKC must be recognized and appreciated. Right now, those parts of OKC are suffering from "taxation without representation." That will change when I'm mayor.

If we want a city of, by, and for the people, we need a mayor who recognizes that shutting down small businesses and churches is clearly unlawful. I will eliminate the possibility of that ever happening again.

Unless we want to live in a city that resembles San Francisco, Seattle, or Portland, we need a mayor who knows that the principles of the citizens of Oklahoma City do not match the principles of those cities. One way to show that is to properly address the homelessness in our city. This lack of leadership has caused the problem to skyrocket. My plan is to take the best practices of cities that have been successful in reducing homelessness and apply them here. Eliminate incentives drawing the homeless here.

Law enforcement must be respected. With the cost of living increasing, wages should likewise go up. The proper funding of fire, police and the other hardworking employees of OKC is crucial.

OKC's Riot Control and Prevention Act must be amended to put a check on the mayor's power during an emergency. The mayor should not have unlimited authority to call whatever he wants a disaster. The City Council should have the authority to terminate an emergency declaration."

Read Urbanic's full responses to the Chamber's survey by visiting [velocityokc.com/urbanic](http://velocityokc.com/urbanic).

### ELECTION INFORMATION

If the winner of the Feb. 8 general election earns a majority of the votes, that candidate will be sworn in to a four-year term as mayor in April. If no candidate receives a majority, the two candidates with the most votes will stand in a decisive runoff election April 5.

All Oklahoma City voters are eligible to vote in the election. To find your polling location, look at your voter ID card or use the Oklahoma State Election Board website at [ok.gov/elections](http://ok.gov/elections).

If you have not yet registered to vote in the mayoral election, the deadline to do so was Jan. 14. In addition, the Jan. 24 deadline to request an absentee ballot has also passed. It is not too late, however, to participate in early voting for the general election. Early voting will be Feb. 3-4 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.





## NEW STARTUP ACCELERATORS, LOAN PROGRAM MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN FIRST YEAR

Helping to nurture small businesses and startups is one of the Chamber's priorities as some of these entities could one day grow to provide hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs in Oklahoma City, therefore ensuring Oklahoma City's continued economic trajectory well into the future.

Three programs the Chamber, along with other local partners, brought to Oklahoma City in 2021 to accelerate the growth of startup companies in OKC were gBETA, Idea Accelerator and Kiva Oklahoma City.

"Support for entrepreneurship is a key component of Forward OKC VI and likewise is imperative to OKC's continued economic success," said Jeff Seymour, Chamber executive vice president of economic development. "These three programs serve different niches of the startup ecosystem and will help better position our participants for growth. We appreciate our partners who helped bring them to OKC."

### gBETA OKLAHOMA CITY

Developed by nationally ranked startup accelerator gener8tor, gBETA helps startups gain early customer traction on their product or idea, and establish and execute on metrics that make them competitive applicants for full-time, equity-based accelerators or seed investment. A total of 35 entrepreneurs or startups applied to be one of five companies to be part of gBETA's inaugural cohort.

The five companies selected for this first program, which represented a diverse group of founders, industries and business types, were GetCaddie, Roop Living, Imperial Bioworks, FlasHOLR and Land Guest. The five cohort companies participated in seven weeks of intensive and individualized coaching and allowed access to gener8tor's national network of mentors, customers, corporate partners and investors. The program culminated with a "Pitch Night" at Yale Theater in the Capitol Hill district where the companies presented their work to an audience of more than 100 entrepreneur supporters.

Applications for the second cohort are now being accepted through March 10 for the Spring 2022 program dates of April 7 through May 27. Any application received after the deadline will be considered for the next cohort. To learn more about gBETA Oklahoma City or to apply for one of the upcoming cohorts, visit [gbetastartups.com/oklahoma-city](http://gbetastartups.com/oklahoma-city).

### IDEA ACCELERATOR

The Idea Accelerator was created by Builders + Backers in partnership with nonprofit Heartland Forward out of northwest Arkansas to fund what are referred to as "builders," essentially people who think they may have an idea to solve a certain problem but may not have the financial backing to test that idea. If an entrepreneur has already started a company based on that idea, he or she is ineligible for the program.

The Idea Accelerator launched last month and includes 10 builders or entrepreneurs from OKC who will learn an experimentation framework to test their ideas with the goal of eventually launching a business. Each of the builders selected for the program is supported by a \$5,000 Pebble Grant from Heartland Forward to test their ideas.

Participants from Oklahoma City joined other builders from Tulsa, Iowa City, Iowa, and Oxford, Miss., on Jan. 20 for the official kickoff of the three-month-long program. The OKC cohort includes several promising ideas, such as a digital shopping bag, a subscription-based service for Black hair products, a refillable candle, spherical drones to aid public safety, and many more.

### KIVA OKLAHOMA CITY

Officially launched by nonprofit Progress OKC with the Oklahoma City Economic Development Trust, Inasmuch Foundation and the Chamber serving as initial investors, Kiva Oklahoma City provides small businesses with micro-loans ranging from just \$1 all the way up to \$15,000. Between 60-70 businesses applied for the loans, 26 of which were fully funded in 2021 through the Kiva program and totaling nearly \$167,000. In addition, 92%

of those loan recipients are minority business enterprises and 60% are female. In order to receive these micro-loans, the small business owners are required to raise half of the requested funds through crowdfunding. Borrowers are charged 0% interest on the loans and can have up to three years to repay them.

Daisy Muñoz, Progress OKC's capital access manager, said one way an individual or organization can support entrepreneurs within their community is by serving as a Kiva trustee. In that role, trustees publicly vouch for entrepreneurs, adding credibility to a borrower by vouching for their character, business and social impact. Trustees are responsible for helping spread the word about Kiva, vouching for a borrower's credit worthiness and helping ensure that a borrower is successful.

"By becoming a trustee, you are collaborating with Kiva OKC and small businesses on making capital accessible to all," Muñoz said.

If you or your organization would like more information about how to become a trustee, what is involved and what are the benefits, please visit [kiva.org](http://kiva.org) or contact Munoz at 405-837-5180 or email [oklahomacity@local.kiva.org](mailto:oklahomacity@local.kiva.org).

## 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 [okcchamber.com/grandopenings](http://okcchamber.com/grandopenings).

**Beck Design 40th Anniversary**  
131 Dean A. McGee Ave., Suite 135  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

**Pepetools, Inc.**  
7601 SW 34th St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73179

**Club Car Wash**  
2932 SW 89th St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73159



# 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.

**ADVISOR**

**Bigger Better Movers**  
Movers  
Mr. Daniel White.....(405) 595-9589  
928 NW 94th St.  
3000 W. Memorial Road, Suite 123-116  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120  
www.biggerbettermovers.com

**ADVISOR**

**First Enterprise Bank**  
Banks  
Mr. Keith T. Kersten.....(405) 680-8101  
1000 W. Britton Road  
Oklahoma City, OK 73114  
www.febokc.com

**ADVISOR**

**180 Medical**  
Medical Equipment - Products & Supplies  
Ms. Angie Christopher.....(877) 688-2729  
8516 NW Expressway  
Oklahoma City, OK 73162-6010  
www.180medical.com

**ADVISOR**

**RFIP**  
Telecommunications Services  
Ms. Susan Leiding.....(918) 348-5272  
7720 N. Robinson Ave., Suite B3  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116  
www.rfip.com

**EMERGING LEADER**

**The Social Order**  
Restaurant Management  
Ms. Annie Tucker.....  
718 W. Sheridan Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
www.thesocialorder.com

**CORE**

**Arvest Bank**  
Banks  
Ms. Miriam Campos.....(405) 419-1859  
3120 S. Western Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73109  
www.arvest.com

**CORE**

**Julia Assef, Realtor**  
Real Estate  
Ms. Julia Assef.....(405) 824-7136  
204 N. Robinson Ave., Suite 1700  
1244 Glenbrook Terrace  
Nichols Hills, OK 73116-5702  
www.solasre.com

**CORE**

**Dave's Hot Chicken**  
Restaurants  
Ms. Annie Tucker.....  
208 Johnny Bench Drive, Suite B  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104  
www.daveshotchicken.com

**CORE**

**Fuzzy's Taco Shop**  
Restaurants  
Ms. Annie Tucker.....  
208 Johnny Bench Drive, Suite C  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104

**CORE**

**The Jones Assembly**  
Restaurants  
Ms. Annie Tucker.....  
901 W. Sheridan Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106  
www.thejonesassembly.com

**CORE**

**REAL Anywhere**  
Human Resource Services / Consulting  
Ms. Elizabeth Valerio.....(405) 252-1105  
16212 Sonoma Park Drive  
Edmond, OK 73013-2117  
www.realanywhere.com

**CORE**

**Safelink Systems, Inc.**  
Security Control Systems & Service  
Mr. Josh Fish.....(405) 509-5465  
9409 Forest Hollow Ct.  
P.O. Box 1635  
Edmond, OK 73083-1635  
www.securitysystemsokc.com

**CORE**

**Spark**  
Restaurants  
Ms. Annie Tucker.....  
300 Oklahoma City Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73109  
www.eatatspark.com

**CORE**

**Thick Descriptions**  
Nonprofit / Service Agencies  
Ms. Suzette Chang.....(405) 397-0584  
3810 N. Tulsa Ave., Suite B  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112  
www.thickdescriptions.org

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## OKLAHOMA RANKS NO. 11 FOR BEST STATES FOR MANUFACTURING

STATE	RANK	TOTAL INDEX	LABOR SCALABILITY	TARGET SKILL SETS	LABOR DEMAND	OPERATING COSTS	ACCESSIBILITY
SOUTH CAROLINA	1	132.83%	114.10%	145.22%	108.06%	121.34%	146.41%
UTAH	2	129.75%	118.83%	135.11%	115.11%	138.20%	99.27%
GEORGIA	3	125.18%	138.16%	148.76%	98.02%	124.24%	145.87%
ALABAMA	4	125.16%	80.03%	126.07%	136.26%	121.43%	145.70%
FLORIDA	5	124.76%	141.74%	115.20%	94.58%	131.80%	126.41%
NORTH CAROLINA	6	123.28%	133.56%	114.54%	92.95%	142.26%	131.76%
TENNESSEE	7	122.47%	107.27%	145.75%	103.03%	125.74%	129.11%
IDAHO	8	121.92%	116.93%	130.83%	142.47%	108.25%	97.83%
TEXAS	9	121.76%	136.45%	110.56%	83.62%	124.53%	100.50%
ARKANSAS	10	121.00%	97.18%	112.83%	156.41%	104.61%	112.78%
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>118.83%</b>	<b>85.12%</b>	<b>92.69%</b>	<b>105.31%</b>	<b>129.23%</b>	<b>100.47%</b>
SOUTH DAKOTA	12	117.77%	92.05%	115.18%	135.05%	140.38%	51.01%

Source: The Site Selection Group, 2021. A score of 100% in any one category represents the national average.

- Site Selection Group ranked Oklahoma in the Top 15 States for Manufacturing investment in 2021.
- The criteria included labor volume and demand, targeted skill sets, operating costs and accessibility
- Oklahoma scored especially strong in low operating costs.

For comprehensive Economic Indicators and regional data, please visit your Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Economic Development Division at [greateroklahomacity.com](http://greateroklahomacity.com) or contact Eric Long, Research Economist – 405-297-8976;

[elong@okcchamber.com](mailto:elong@okcchamber.com)

### DID YOU KNOW?

Get regional demographic data, consumer expenditure info, labor force data for the Greater OKC Region and more at [greateroklahomacity.com](http://greateroklahomacity.com)

## MEMBER UPGRADES

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](mailto:membership@okcchamber.com).



**ASSOCIATE**

**Guernsey**  
Engineers - Consulting  
Mr. Jared Stigge, J.D.....(405) 416-8100  
5555 N. Grand Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112-5507  
www.guernsey.us

**ASSOCIATE**

**INSURICA**  
Insurance Agents, Brokers and Service  
Mr. Michael F. Ross.....(405) 523-2100  
5100 N. Classen Blvd., Suite 300  
P.O. Box 25928  
Oklahoma City, OK 73125  
www.insurica.com

**EMERGING LEADER**

**Central Glass & Mirror, Inc.**  
Glass Companies  
Mr. Tim Lindsey.....(405) 840-1636  
232 W. Britton Road  
Oklahoma City, OK 73114  
www.centralglass.com

# → V E L O C I T Y ←

Periodicals  
**PAID**  
Oklahoma City, OK  
73102

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**G R E A T E R**  
O K L A H O M A C I T Y  
**C H A M B E R**



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