PONCA CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Education & Workforce

The Chamber supports legislation that will:

- Strengthen recruitment and retention of certified educators.
- Apply consistent accreditation, accountability, and performance standards to all taxpayer-supported education options.
- Promote remote work, rural talent recruitment, and relocation incentives.
- Expand employer-led apprenticeships and workforce training through targeted tax incentives.
- Increase access to affordable, quality childcare and address the childcare provider crisis to boost workforce participation.
- Modernize cosmetology licensing and regulation to enhance public safety and professional standards.

Healthcare

The Chamber supports legislation that will:

- Expand access to primary, specialty, and behavioral healthcare, with emphasis on rural communities.
- Strengthen healthcare workforce pipelines through education, training, loan repayment, and retention incentives.
- Implement data-driven scope-of-practice reforms that expand access while protecting patient safety.
- Prevent unfunded mandates and abrupt reimbursement changes that limit provider participation and patient access.

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Economic Impact

The Chamber supports legislation that will:

- Reduce regulatory and financial barriers to redevelopment of vacant and underutilized properties, especially downtown districts (SB 400; HB 2407 – Main Street Grant Program).
- Incentivize development of affordable and workforce-aligned housing.
- Provide flexible, regionally driven economic development funding to strengthen the quality of place and talent attraction.
- Offer relief to nonprofit organizations facing inflation-driven cost increases.
- Invest in rural public transit and passenger rail to support workforce mobility and long-term growth.
- Oppose state-level expansion of municipal sales tax exemptions that reduce municipal revenue.
- Oppose reductions to ad valorem (property) taxes on owner-occupied homesteads due to long-term harm to local government funding, education, and infrastructure (SQ 843).

Insurance Affordability

The Chamber supports legislation that will:

- Maintain competitive insurance markets with strong consumer and employer protections.
- Expand access to affordable insurance options for small businesses, nonprofits, and healthcare providers.
- Avoid regulatory actions that reduce market competition or limit broker and consumer choice.