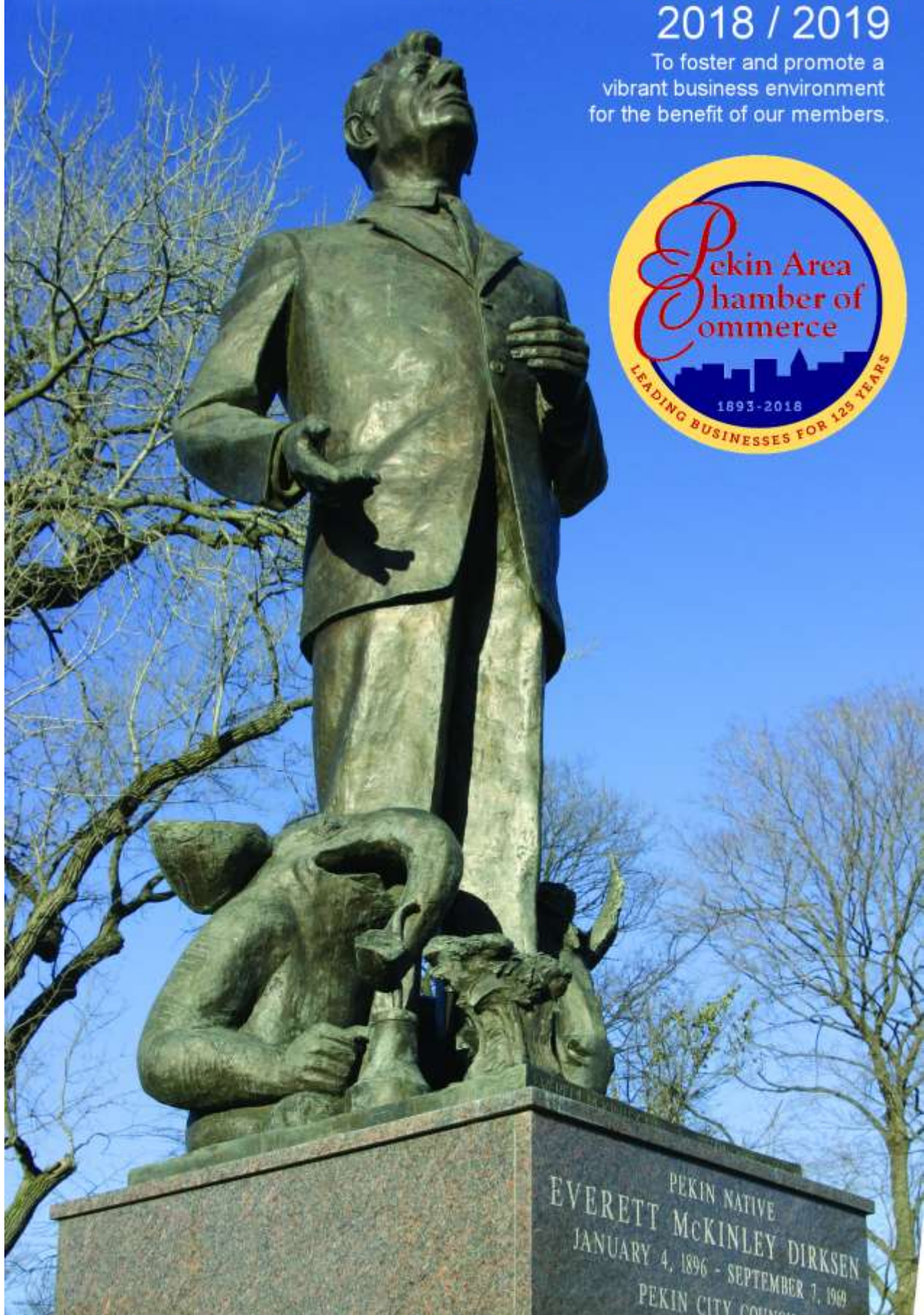


LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2018 / 2019

To foster and promote a
vibrant business environment
for the benefit of our members.





Introduction

The Mission of the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce is to foster and promote a vibrant business environment for the benefit of our members. We recognize that the legislative and regulatory actions of government at all levels - local, county, state and national - have a significant impact on the business environment in the Pekin area. Thus, one of the goals of our strategic plan is Business Advocacy – to be the voice of the Pekin business community.

This Legislative Agenda has been authored to provide our members with a policy platform based on current trends and feedback. It focuses on seven specific areas that have a direct impact on the vibrancy of our local business environment:

1. Taxes and Fees
2. Labor/Employment
3. Transportation
4. Infrastructure
5. Education and Workforce Development
6. Good Government
7. Economic Development

Leading businesses for 125 years – our Chamber’s brand is as strong as ever. We will leverage that brand as we advocate on behalf of our members.



Dan Pfeifer
President



Dennis Short
Vice President



Baylee Gambetti
Treasurer



Scott Kriegsman
Past President

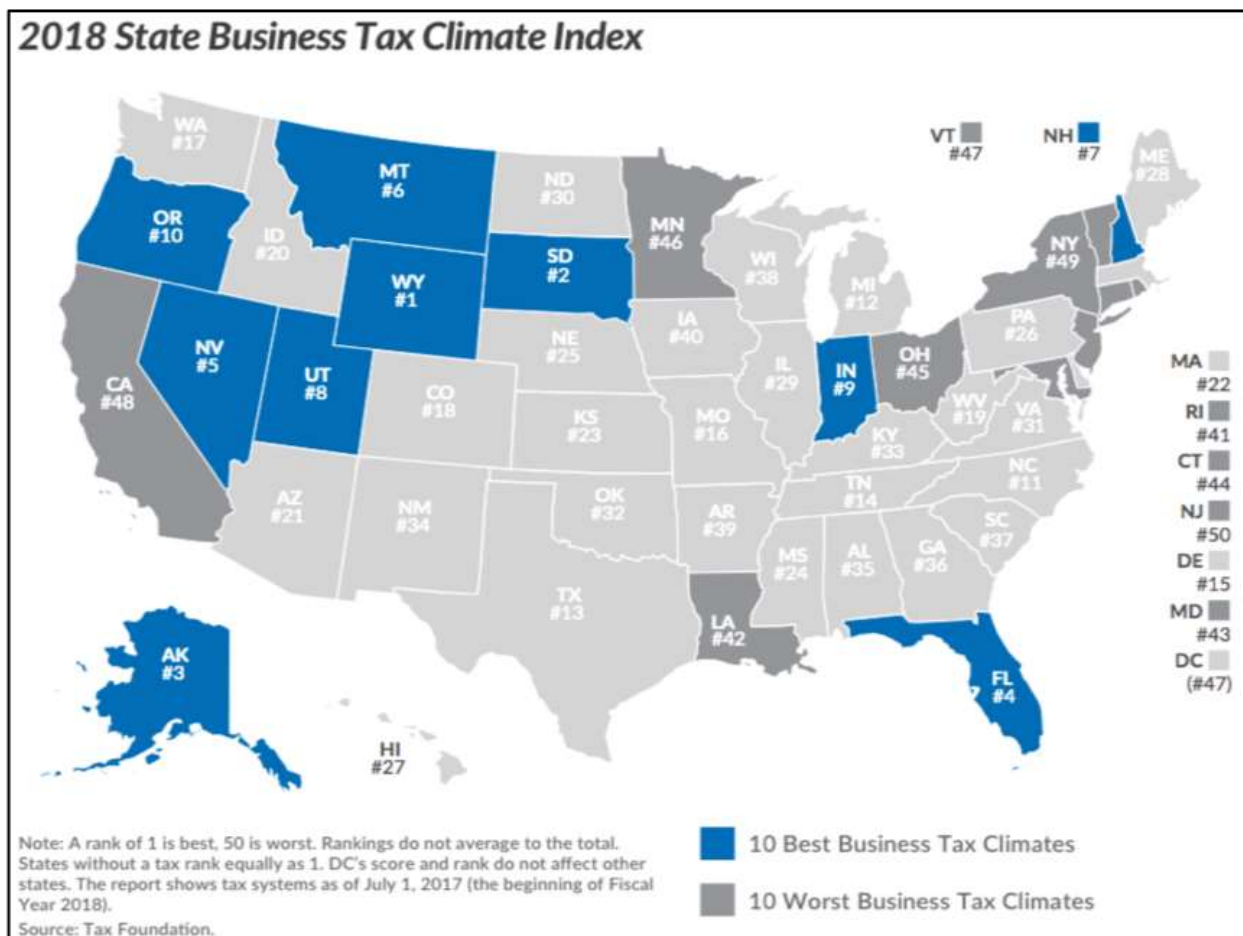


Bill Fleming
Executive Director

Taxes and Fees

The Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce supports a competitive and fair tax climate that promotes and fosters economic growth. The Chamber will:

- Advocate at all levels of government against excessive new taxes, fees, or regulatory burdens that interfere with the ability of companies to do business in the Pekin area.
- Advocate against taxes on services that would unfairly burden businesses in the Pekin area.
- Monitor conversations surrounding a graduated income tax in Illinois



Labor / Employment

The Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce supports legislation that emphasizes free enterprise. The Chamber believes the free market system is the most efficient and profitable way to conduct business. The Chamber will:

- Advocate against any attempts to impose mandatory employee sick leave legislation, which will disproportionately hurt small employers.
- Advocate against any attempts to raise the minimum wage, which will negatively affect the ability of many employers to do business in the Pekin area.
- Advocate for legislation that will reform the Worker's Compensation system in Illinois, by requiring the workplace to be the principle cause of a worker's compensation injury or disability.
- Monitor attempts at the state level to legalize recreational cannabis, and advocate for the rights of employers to maintain a drug free workplace.
- Monitor any attempts at the state or federal level to raise the salaried worker overtime threshold.



Transportation

The Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce believes quality transportation infrastructure (roadways, signals, mass transit services, air transport access, pedestrian, bicycle, and rail service) is one of the key factors in determining the economic vitality of a community. The Chamber believes the completion of Veterans Drive, including interchange access at Interstate 474, is the factor with the greatest potential impact on the growth of the Pekin area, and as such, should be the top priority of local governments and organizations. The Chamber will:

- Collaborate with the City of Pekin and other organizations on efforts to secure transportation and infrastructure funding for Pekin area transportation projects, including Veterans Drive.
- Advocate for upgrades to Court Street, Derby Street, and Front Street – all important transportation corridors for the economy of the Pekin area.
- Support the General Wayne A. Downing Peoria International Airport as a major economic driver in our region.

Infrastructure

The Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce believes a vibrant business environment requires adequate infrastructure (streets, sidewalks, public transportation, sewers, storm water controls, police and fire protection, parks and recreational facilities, medical facilities and services, libraries and educational facilities, waste disposal and recycling, utilities and communication systems) for use by the business community. Likewise the ability to attract new business and new residents is dependent upon the community's basic infrastructure.

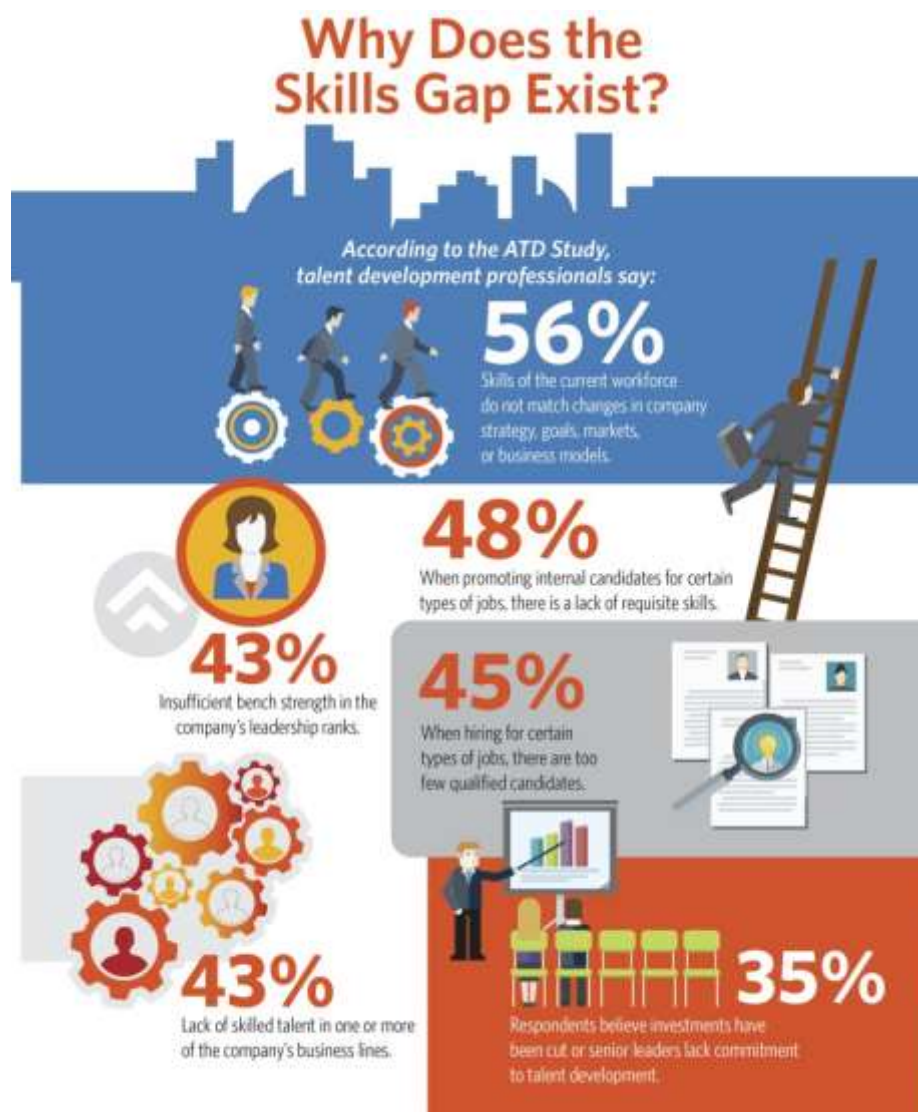
Local Roads (County Highways, Arterials and City Streets, and Township/Road District Roads) constitute 88% of the public road mileage carrying 40% of the traffic in Illinois but in 2014 they received only 21.5% of the highway user fee revenue collected. The Chamber will:

- Support efforts to ensure 40% of any new transportation revenues and investments are delivered to all Local Roads through the existing distribution formula.

Education and Workforce Development

The Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce supports investment in quality education. The future success of the Pekin area is dependent on the quality of education offered in our schools and colleges, and the preparedness of our workforce. The Chamber will:

- Support the efforts to promote the quality educational opportunities offered at Pekin Community High School.
- Support the workforce development programs at Illinois Central College, including the apprenticeship programs.
- Support the efforts of the Greater Peoria EDC to promote career development opportunities to area high schools and middle schools.



Good Government

The Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce expects government policies to be stable and equitable, and sensitive to the realities of a market-driven economy, so that businesses can manage a reasonable level of taxes, fees, laws and regulations. The Chamber believes the best and most effective regulator of business is the consumer and therefore, government regulation of, and interference with, the free enterprise system should be kept to a minimum. The Chamber will:

- Advocate for an updated comprehensive plan with the City of Pekin to ensure high-quality government services.
- Share with our members the legislative activities that could have an impact on local businesses and the local economy.
- Educate our members on the qualifications of candidates for local public offices.

Economic Development

The Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce believes the retention and expansion of existing businesses, the recruitment and relocation of businesses, and the start-up of new businesses is effectively achieved by a collaborative effort of local governments, organizations, and the business community. The Chamber will:

- Advocate for regular reviews and adjustments of long- and short-term strategic plans that promote high-quality economic growth in Pekin and the region.
- Advocate for the prioritization of economic development in the City of Pekin's annual budget.
- Support economic development incentives that include infrastructure investments, tax credits, tax abatements, grants, and low interest loan programs.

United States Legislators



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<http://durbin.senate.gov>
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Springfield: (217) 492-4062



Senator Tammy Duckworth
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Chicago: (312) 886-3506



Congresswoman Cheri Bustos
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Peoria: (309) 966-1813



Congressman Darin LaHood
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Illinois Legislators & Governor



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Senator William E. Brady (R-44)
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Rep. Keith Sommer (R-106)
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Rep. Tim Butler (R-87)
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Governor JB Pritzker
(217) 782-6830
www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov



Tazewell County



The Tazewell County Board meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Tazewell County Justice Center.
www.tazewell.com

David Zimmerman, County Board Chairman, 477-2272, dzimmerman@tazewell.com

DISTRICT 1

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John Redlingshafer, Parliamentarian, 696-2961, jredlingshafer@tazewell.com

Wendy Ferrill, County Administrator, 477-2272, wferrill@tazewell.com

Pekin City Council



The Pekin City Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays in the council chambers at City Hall. www.ci.pekin.il.us

Mark Luft, Mayor, 477-2300 / 264-5517, mluft@ci.pekin.il.us

John Abel, Council Member, 202-9565, jpabel@ci.pekin.il.us

Michael Garrison, Council Member, 303-6900, mdgarrison@ci.pekin.il.us

Rick Hilst, Council Member, rhilst@ci.pekin.il.us

Karen Hohimer, Council Member, khohimer@ci.pekin.il.us

Lloyd Orrick, Council Member, 620-4335, lerrick@ci.pekin.il.us

Dave Nutter, Council Member, dnutter@ci.pekin.il.us

Mark Rothert, City Manager, 477-2300, marothert@ci.pekin.il.us



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