



2024 KANSAS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The KCHBA's 2024 Kansas Legislative Agenda includes long-standing policy issues that contribute to the ability of the residential construction industry to deliver housing options that the home buying public is calling for. The Board of Directors will continue to monitor legislation and recommend policy positions as necessary.

TOP PRIORITIES

Housing Attainability: The HBA supports initiatives which encourage a diverse housing stock in the free-market system as well as action that would promote and encourage new development through regulatory review, elimination of burdensome fee structures and statutory barriers that would hurt affordability and Kansans' ability to acquire and retain homeownership.

Building Codes: The HBA has historically supported Home Rule authority that allowed municipalities to maintain control over their local building codes. Governing bodies should borrow from the model national codes as a baseline and allow for local amendments in consultation with industry expertise that reflects the needs of the local economy. The purpose of the building codes has continually been life safety. However, due to the influence of new special interest groups, recent versions of the model code have included requirements that result in much higher construction costs with minimal consumer benefit. Should municipalities abandon the local input processes and adopt construction standards that threaten housing attainability, we as an association may bring this topic to the state legislature on behalf of the home buying public.

Workforce Development: The HBA supports efforts to promote and enhance workforce education and training programs, and to identify funding opportunities to help the residential building industry recruit, train and retain its workers. Lawmakers should also pursue and support policies that complement ongoing vocational training efforts, like the Home Builders Institute (HBI) curriculum, and help fill labor gaps.

IMPORTANT PRIORITIES

Building & Development Permits: The HBA supports actions that promote consistency in the interpretation of development guidelines and standards as well as those that assist in improving the efficiency of the plan review and inspection processes in local municipalities. Administrative inconsistencies and delays on the part of local governments further burden the consumer.

Taxes: The HBA supports state tax policy that promotes economic growth and homeownership, including efforts that protect the mortgage interest and property tax deductions. Additionally, the HBA supports the current sales tax exemption on labor services such as framing, siding, roofing, digging, excavating, as well as professional and design services.

Infrastructure & Transportation: The HBA supports adequate funding and a regulatory framework that enhances the state's critical infrastructure system that will meet the state's workforce needs as well as community and economic development.

Workers' Compensation Insurance: The HBA supports the requirement that all on-site employees in the residential construction industry are covered by workers' compensation insurance.

Contractor Licensing: The HBA supports actions that allows local governing bodies to maintain authority over contractor licensure and education.