ACCELERATING OKLAHOMA’S PROGRESS

For far too long, Oklahoma has scored near the bottom of key national rankings essential to our state’s economic future.

Our state is primed for transformation. But different results won’t occur without different policies and approaches.

Understanding the need for change, the business community set out in 2017 to develop a comprehensive plan for elevating Oklahoma’s standing by the year 2030. After gathering input from across the state, we released the OK2030 vision plan, a set of reforms to dramatically improve our state’s economy, workforce, business climate and overall quality of life.

The visionary reforms in the OK2030 plan are designed to accelerate Oklahoma’s progress, improve performance and secure Oklahoma’s long-term competitive viability.

Since the policy landscape is constantly changing, we are providing this 2019 update to the plan.

This update reflects the legislative victories we’ve already achieved and additional input from the 2018 Regional Forums in Tulsa, Enid, Bartlesville, Chickasha, Ardmore and Oklahoma City. Together with the State Chamber, we continue to call for these long-overdue reforms to fix the stagnation, dysfunction and inefficiencies that are holding our state back.

Please join us in urging our state’s leadership to implement these essential, forward-thinking reforms. Learn more about the OK2030 strategic plan and follow our progress at www.OK2030.org.
BUSINESS CLIMATE & COMPETITIVENESS

Reform the way our state recruits and grows industry to boost and diversify Oklahoma’s economy
» Restructure statewide economic development efforts to include better engagement and partnerships with the private sector
» Align smart incentives with a strategic plan to recruit and grow industries

Lower the economic barriers to starting and maintaining a business in Oklahoma
» Ensure Oklahoma’s tax structure is fair, modern, efficient, stable and competitive

Expand Oklahoma’s existing skilled labor pipeline to meet businesses’ current workforce needs
» Reduce obstacles to licensure and employment for rehabilitated workers with criminal records
» Streamline and coordinate Oklahoma’s Workforce Investment Boards to maximize federal and local dollars and emphasize career path guidance and job training

FISCAL STABILITY & GOVERNANCE

Ensure the state budgeting process is stable and responsive to Oklahoma’s economy
» Reduce procedural barriers in the legislature that make it difficult to pass revenue-raising measures when necessary
» Establish a reliable budget stabilization fund to protect the budget in economic downturns

Support policies and structures that enable greater oversight of state agencies
» Pass line-item budgets for Oklahoma’s largest agencies to provide greater legislative control of taxpayer dollars
» Create an Office of Accountability to monitor agency spending and performance
» Enable an independent entity to evaluate and make recommendations on agency regulations identified as redundant, outdated or overly burdensome

Empower the executive branch to lead with greater collaboration, accountability and efficiency
» Grant the Governor direct appointment power over most state agency directors
» Expand the power of the Governor’s cabinet to coordinate activities between agencies
» Reform the state employee Merit Protection System to ensure Oklahoma recruits and promotes the best state workers
» Eliminate impediments to the privatization of state functions to promote a more efficient government
Promote bold vision and strong engagement in the electoral process
» Align state and local election dates to promote greater voter participation
» Extend term limits for state legislators to encourage better long-range planning for the state
» Promote shared goals and collaboration in the executive branch by allowing the Governor and Lieutenant Governor to run as a team
» Grant voters at the county level the authority to tailor the form and makeup of their county government to meet their local needs

Reform Oklahoma’s judicial system to better emphasize fairness and accountability
» Modernize the process by which Oklahoma’s judges are selected and retained to increase the number of quality judicial candidates

QUALITY OF LIFE

Increase access to health care for Oklahomans
» Expand the number of existing health care providers who can provide services through interstate licensure compacts and enhanced practice authority
» Deliver Medicaid benefits and services through public-private partnerships to improve outcomes and increase efficiency.
» Pursue all available funding for health care through public-private partnerships that increase health coverage for Oklahomans.

Improve public safety and lower costs in the criminal justice system
» Reform the criminal justice process to emphasize the treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders back into the workforce

Provide access to quality education options for all Oklahoma families
» Reduce community barriers to starting and maintaining public charter schools through a statewide authorizer and funding equity for charter school students
» Expand open transfer policies for public schools so students can attend the school that best meets their needs
» Create Education Savings Accounts to give parents the financial freedom to choose the right learning environment for their child
WORKFORCE & TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Develop and retain outstanding teachers and school leaders
» Enhance teacher pay by providing opportunities for additional pay based on performance or need
» Streamline teacher certification by expanding the entities that can recruit, train and certify teachers for the classroom
» Provide a state match for public-private partnerships that incentivizes teachers to serve in high-need areas
» Create separate paths for school leaders and administrators through a specialized pipeline program that focuses on leadership and management training

Foster innovation in Oklahoma’s education system
» Create a fund that allows schools to compete for grants awarded for innovative ideas in education
» Restructure Oklahoma classrooms to better utilize technology to meet students where they are with individualized education
» Build a longitudinal database to drive evidence-based decisions across all levels of education and into the workforce

Ensure existing education dollars are being used efficiently and effectively
» Create an independent commission to make data-based, non-partisan recommendations on school consolidation
» Reform the state’s school funding formula to be student-centered, incentivize improved outcomes and be equitable for all students
» Streamline the administrative organization and structure of the state’s public higher education system to implement cost savings and better prepare students for more rewarding careers

Create tools and incentives to promote quality schools
» Establish a statewide turnaround district to intervene and help habitually underperforming schools improve
» Eliminate bureaucratic barriers for schools showing results by moving to an expanded three-year recertification cycle for “A” and “B” rated schools

Promote completion of post-secondary training to meet future workforce needs
» Increase college and CareerTech completion through a statewide reverse transfer system
» Incentivize students to pursue STEM degrees and certificates in Oklahoma’s Promise scholarship program
» Prioritize concurrent enrollment and Advanced Placement funding for high school students in STEM courses