

# Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce

## 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### Illinois Agenda

1. Continue to build a coalition of support with a variety of organizations, agencies, and legislators to fund the completion of Veterans Drive.
2. Work with the General Assembly to continue to reform Illinois' **workers' compensation** system by including a "major contributing cause" standard.
3. Actively participate in the effort to pass the 2016 Illinois Independent Map Amendment, which will provide for an independent redistricting commission to draw the General Assembly districts.
4. Build a coalition of organizations and employers to actively oppose efforts to increase the State's minimum wage.

### Pekin Area State Legislators



Senator David Koehler (D-46)  
(217) 782-8250 Springfield  
(217) 782-2115 FAX  
(309) 677-0120 Peoria  
46illinois@gmail.com

Senator William E. Brady (R-44)  
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Representative Mike Unes (R-91)  
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Representative Tim Butler (R-87)  
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Representative Keith Sommer (R-106)  
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# BUSINESS ADVOCACY BELIEFS

The Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes that the legislative and regulatory actions of government at all levels - local, county, state and national - have a significant impact on the business community's ability to conduct business in the Pekin area, and to compete regionally and globally.

The Vision Statement of our current strategic plan (May 9, 2012) states we will "lead the effort to create a vibrant business environment in the Pekin area." Creating a vibrant business environment requires our participation in the legislative process. Our first object in our strategic plan is to promote a pro-business agenda through advocacy, collaboration, and information sharing.

Issues, and resulting legislation, do not always wait for organizations to form opinions. Therefore, it is advantageous for the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce to have "position statements" prepared in advance for general areas of governing. These statements can serve as guidelines for our timely involvement in the legislative process and the timely and efficient communication of our position.

This document is not meant to be an all-inclusive position statement on all issues, present or future, nor should a blanket assumption be made that all Pekin area businesses agree with every position taken in this document. It is meant to be the official position statement of the Board of Directors of the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce, and as such, a general representation of the positions of the membership of the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce on general areas of governing.

## Basic Infrastructure

We believe the Pekin area will continue to grow and that government should plan for adequate infrastructure maintenance and growth.

## Economic Development

We believe all levels of government and private business should be encouraged to enhance and/or create programs that stimulate the retention and expansion of existing businesses, the relocation of new businesses to the Pekin area, and the start-up of new businesses in the Pekin area.

## Education

We believe the vibrancy of the business environment is directly proportionate to the quality of the local educational system. We support programs and efforts at the local, state and national level that will improve the quality of the local educational system.

## Employee Relations

We believe a fair and rewarding employment environment is best created by the voluntary actions of the employer, as opposed to government intervention, legislation and regulation. Specifically, we support:

- An unemployment compensation system that does not unfairly burden or financially penalize employers.
- The administration of worker's compensation programs with speed, fairness and maximum efficiency so that the largest possible percentage of the premium dollar paid by the employer will be paid as benefit to the injured worker.
- A worker's compensation program that requires the workplace to be the principle cause of the injury or disability.



### Environment

We believe it is the responsibility of all citizens, including corporate citizens, to be good stewards of the environment.

### Finance and Taxation

We believe the fees and taxes exacted by the Pekin area governments must be competitive with other Central Illinois communities, and the fees and taxes exacted by the State of Illinois must be competitive with surrounding states.

### Good Government

We believe in the use of partnerships between the public and private sectors to accomplish public goals. We also believe the day-to-day operations and management of local governments should be entrusted to qualified professionals. And, we believe the best and most effective regulator of business is the consumer. Government regulation of, and interference with, the free-enterprise system should be kept to a minimum.

### Quality of Life

We believe quality of life events and opportunities in the Pekin area are an important part of our identity and the local economy. We believe a variety of diverse artistic and cultural experiences within the Pekin area improves the quality of life for the residents, and forms a more complete foundation for the future growth of the community.

### Tourism

We believe a successful tourism program requires adequate funding, a variety of lodging and meeting facilities, a broad range of attractions and events, and a professionally managed program. We also believe local hotel-motel taxes collected by the City of Pekin should be used exclusively to promote tourism opportunities in Pekin. And, we believe the promotion of tourism in the Pekin area is best accomplished by a collaborative effort between the City of Pekin, an advisory committee of citizens, representatives of the business community, and the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

### Transportation

We believe a vibrant business environment requires the development of transportation infrastructure that includes the highest level of safety, efficiency, and convenience. We also believe local businesses and local government should be involved in a collaborative and cooperative regional approach to transportation planning and development. And we believe the completion of Veterans Drive, including interchange access to 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.

### Work Force Development

We believe a vibrant business environment is directly related to the quantity and quality of the labor force. Therefore, programs that enhance the skills of the local work force are essential to preserving and improving our quality of life.

# Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce

## 2014 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### City of Pekin Contacts

City Hall, 477-2300, [www.ci.pekin.il.us](http://www.ci.pekin.il.us)  
Council meets 2nd & 4th Mondays at 5:30pm

John McCabe, Mayor  
477-2300, [jmccabe@ci.pekin.il.us](mailto:jmccabe@ci.pekin.il.us)

John Abel, Council Member  
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Rusty Dunn, Council Member  
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Tim Golden, Council Member  
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Mark Luft, Council Member  
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Lloyd Orrick, Council Member  
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Michael Ritchason, Council Member  
267-4813, [mritchason@ci.pekin.il.us](mailto:mritchason@ci.pekin.il.us)

Leigh Ann Brown, Economic Development  
477-2300, [lamatthews@ci.pekin.il.us](mailto:lamatthews@ci.pekin.il.us)

### Local Agenda

1. Continue to build a coalition of support with a variety of organizations, agencies, and legislators to fund the completion of Veterans Drive.
2. Educate chamber members and the public on the qualifications of candidates for the Pekin City Council, Pekin Park District Board, PCHS District 303 School Board and Pekin Public Schools District 108 Board.

### Tazewell County

County Board Office: 477-2272

**David Zimmerman** County Board Chairman  
(309) 477-2274 [dzimmerman@tazewell.com](mailto:dzimmerman@tazewell.com)

**Wendy Ferrill** County Administrator  
(309) 477-2272 [wferrill@tazewell.com](mailto:wferrill@tazewell.com)

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

### United States Legislators

**Senator Dick Durbin** [durbin.senate.gov](http://durbin.senate.gov)  
DC: (202) 224-2152 fax (202) 228-0400  
Springfield: (217) 492-4062

**Senator Mark Kirk** [kirk.senate.gov](http://kirk.senate.gov)  
DC: (202) 224-2854 fax (202) 228-4611  
Springfield: (217) 492-5089

**Congresswoman Cheri Bustos** [bustos.house.gov](http://bustos.house.gov)  
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Peoria: (309) 966-1813

**Congressman Darin LaHood** [lahood.house.gov](http://lahood.house.gov)  
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Peoria: (309) 671-7027