




**BARREN COUNTY
ECONOMIC AUTHORITY**





LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
2021


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT


We are committed to attracting, growing, and retaining business and industry for Barren County. We support legislation, funding, and programs that provide a competitive environment for economic development success.

 Urge the continuation of the Rural Development Agency Assistance Program (RDAAP) for economic development investment

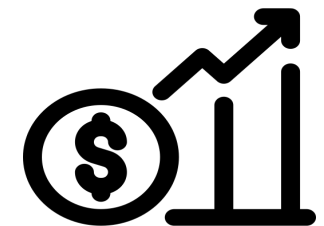
 Support legislation and programs that fund site, road, and utility construction for industrial parks

 Support state-level leadership and funding for economic development, including full support for business recruitment, retention and expansion programs that includes provisions for work-from-home employees.

 Pass legislation that would protect employers from frivolous lawsuits related to Covid-19, legislation should provide a stable and predictable legal environment as the pandemic could create a surge in civil litigation targeting businesses working to comply with new requirements.


 Call for unemployment insurance system reforms that do not discourage workforce participation and creates a drag on Kentucky's overall competitiveness. Reforms are needed to bring us closer in line with our neighboring states, and lower costs for employers. Reforms should focus on getting unemployed Kentuckians back to work as quickly as possible and reducing rates paid by businesses. Changes should be made to the structure for calculating the maximum weekly benefit and determining the length of benefit durations.


 Agriculture is a key sector of Barren County's economy. Local and State policy should recognize the importance this industry plays in the Commonwealth. Ensuring strong infrastructure including access to high-quality broadband and improving rural roads is vital to supporting Kentucky's farmers and existing agriculture businesses.





WORKFORCE / EDUCATION

Our agenda on workforce will ensure our homegrown talent pipeline has the skills necessary to meet the needs of our employers for the jobs available in Barren County.

 Continual investment in technical education pathways in high-growth, high-demand sectors in both K-12 and postsecondary education.

 Provide resources for schools to have a dedicated career coach/liaison that works directly with business and industry on their workplace needs and work with students that can meet those needs.


 Support for WKU & SKYCTC: Maintain the Commonwealth's commitment to performance funding for postsecondary education including equitable distribution of funds among Kentucky's public universities. Specifically support Western Kentucky University and Southcentral Community & Technical College.


 Employee health status has a significant impact on the business community, increasing employers' health care costs and hindering their ability to hire a healthy and productive workforce. Therefore, we support legislation to provide tax and other incentives for the creation of wellness programs enabling businesses to educate and encourage their employees to engage in healthy lifestyles and obtain preventive care.




TRANSPORTATION / INFRASTRUCTURE

Barren County is a leader in manufacturing, tourism, and agriculture, we need safe, robust, and reliable transportation infrastructure to support these key sectors of our economy. We support legislation, programs and funding that will position Barren County to meet the needs of businesses and consumers.

 Support efforts to upgrade the existing Louie B. Nunn Cumberland Parkway to and I-65 spur, I-69


 Support legislators in their efforts to change the name of the Cumberland Parkway to the Cumberland Expressway


 Support legislation at the state and federal levels that provides consistent long-term funding for maintenance and improvements of transportation infrastructure. We also encourage the administration to take advantage of the state's Public Private Partnership (P3) legislation to encourage private investment in the construction and maintenance of our infrastructure.





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thriving downtowns and business districts are essential to long-term economic health of Barren County. We support policies and funding that promote the continued revitalization of our downtown and business districts.

 Support community development projects that enhance the quality of place for residents, encourages visitors and stimulates consumer spending.

 Support improving the availability of capital from conventional and unconventional sources to attract investment in housing, retail, businesses expansion, mixed-use and other downtown projects in the county.


 Encourage professional single-housing development, making quality, yet affordable homes available to newcomers in the community as well as multi-tenant housing options with amenities that will help to attract young professionals to the area.


 Support local regulations and enforcement for property maintenance, cleaning up areas of blight that diminish the appearance of the community.





SMALL BUSINESS


The joint effort of the Glasgow-Barren County Chamber of Commerce and the BCEA is to promote small business and community growth to expand the income potential of all businesses within our trade area.


 Support local and state level leadership and legislation that encourage small business and retail creation, retention and expansion through various programs, incentives, and a streamlined legal environment and processes.

 Encourage and support the continued funding efforts to fund small business and retail creation and expansion through programs similar, but not limited, to the Revolving Loan Fund.

 Continue to research, support and fund legislation that assists employers maintain a drug-free workforce through education, prevention, and treatment, while supporting a recovery-friendly culture to promote workforce participation.

 Support local and state level leadership that foster the creation of and support of existing agri-business and our local farming community.

 Continue to support Barren County's regional healthcare network and the creation and growth of supporting small businesses, in their collaborative efforts to provide acute care, preventative testing and treatment, community outreach and partnerships to our community.

 Baby boomer business owners are retiring in record numbers and are fueling a dramatic paradigm shift on local economies. Support programs that assist in the transition of Baby Boomer Business regarding building enterprise value, navigating through challenging decision-making process, business growth and scale and, succession and exit planning.

 Encourage state and local policy that supports infrastructure for small business.



Maureen Carpenter, EDP IOM
Executive Director

Kelsi Cline
Economic Development Coordinator



(270)651-6314



Maureen@barrencoea.com



P.O. Box 1703
Glasgow, KY 42142