



KENTUCKY CHAMBER *‘All In’ on Tort Reform*

Uncertainty and unlimited liability are the hallmark features of Kentucky’s “wild west” legal liability environment. While it may make for good movies, it does not make for a good business climate. That’s why we need tort reform.

For most Kentucky businesses and health care providers, it isn’t a question of *if* they will face a lawsuit from the powerful trial attorney bar, but *when*.

The U.S. Chamber ranks Kentucky’s legal liability climate at 42nd, one of the worst in the nation, driving many businesses to operate elsewhere to avoid our sky-high insurance costs and unlimited risks.

Make no mistake — the legal liability climate is an economic growth and development issue.

The current system creates challenges for Kentucky businesses and acts as a barrier to economic development, limiting the Commonwealth’s ability to attract and foster the next generation of employers, health care providers, and innovators.

Governor Bevin acknowledged that this is a major issue for Kentucky during his address at our recent Kentucky Chamber Day event, saying, “Kentucky should not be a playground for trial attorneys.”

The Kentucky Chamber wholeheartedly agrees. The Chamber is pushing for commonsense legal liability reforms during the 2018 session to remove some of these barriers for growth.

▪ **Senate Bill 2** is a bill to allow a constitutional amendment to give voters, via their elected representatives, the ability to limit jury awards. Filed by state Sen. Ralph Alvarado, it would allow the General Assembly to establish such limits. Currently, there is no limit, and awards can run into the millions of dollars. Often it’s not an outrageous jury award that threatens Kentucky employers; it’s the risk that drives employers and insurance companies to pay expensive settlements.

▪ **Senate Bill 20**, also sponsored by Sen. Ralph Alvarado, is an omnibus bill including reforms such as requiring an affidavit of merit to reduce the number of frivolous claims, providing peer review protections, establishing caps on attorney’s contingency fees to ensure the injured party receives the majority of the money in a settlement, and adding “statement of sympathy” language that allows medical providers to show compassion in the event of a patient’s death without the fear of a lawsuit claiming they are at fault. Alvarado has pointed to Delaware’s standing as the top-ranking state for legal liability many years in a row and said his bill will mirror the policies Delaware has in place in order to improve Kentucky’s climate.

▪ **House Bill 4**, sponsored by Rep. Addia Wuchner, would allow medical professionals the ability to discuss and compare best practices in their fields without the fear of litigation.

▪ **House Bill 198**, sponsored by Rep. Jason Nemes, would create transparency, set reasonable limits on contingency fees, and codify recent case law requirements to ensure the state remains in control of any litigation involving contingency fee counsel. It is time for Kentucky to join the more than 20 other states which have instituted these responsible good government reforms, putting public good above private profit.

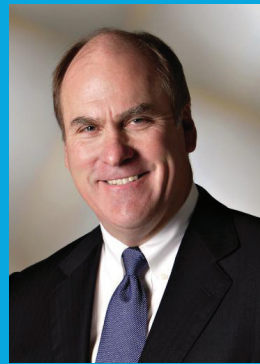
▪ **House Bill 293**, sponsored by Rep. Joe Fischer, is legislation seeking to bring changes to the way asbestos-related lawsuits are handled in the state.

The bills described above are critical to ensure 2018 represents an opportunity to encourage businesses to locate here, rather than driving them away.

“Kentucky **should not** be a playground for trial attorneys.”
— **Matt Bevin**, Governor”

CHAIRMAN CRAFT PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR *Leadership Institute for School Principals*

Following a report about the Leadership Institute for School Principals to the Chamber’s Board of Directors in early January, Kentucky Chamber Board Chairman Joe Craft, president of Alliance Resources, made a generous offer to match any donation made to support principals in eastern Kentucky. Mr. Craft has been a longtime supporter of the Leadership Institute and this is the second year he has matched contributions for eastern Kentucky.



JOE CRAFT
2018 BOARD CHAIR
*Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO,
Alliance Resource Partners LP*

The Chamber Foundation is currently accepting pledges from the business community to match Joe’s generous offer. Contact **Kelly Wolf** at kwolf@kychamber.com or at (502)848-8725 to help reach 100% of Joe Craft’s pledge!



**Leadership Institute
for School Principals**

LEARN MORE

If you are interested in learning more about the program, please visit us online at principalsleadky.com.

READ MORE

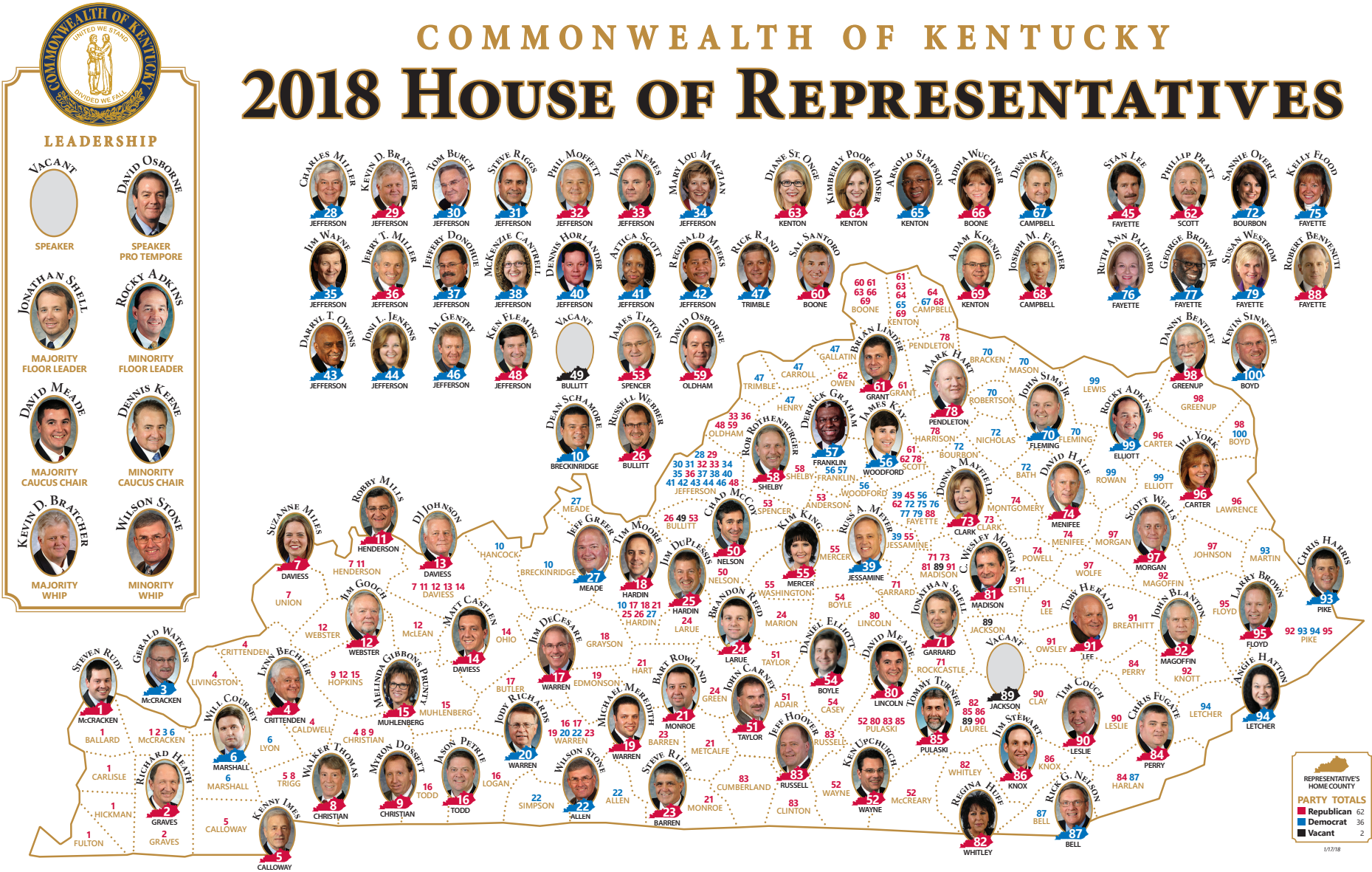
For more information, visit the Chamber’s news website, kychamberbottomline.com.

KNOW YOUR *Legislators*

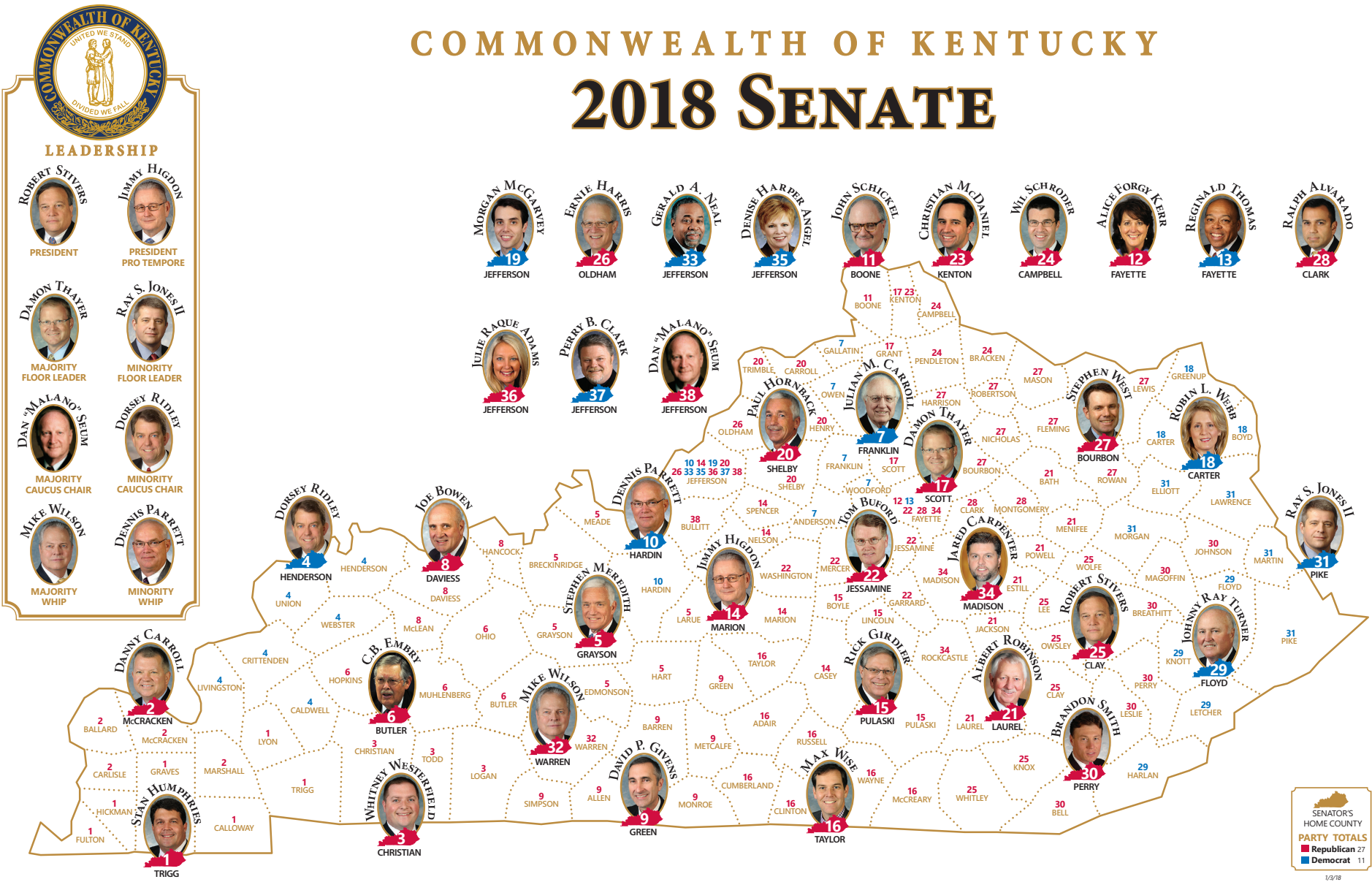
With many significant pieces of legislation moving through the Kentucky General Assembly, your elected officials need to hear from **YOU** on key issues to help improve the state's business climate. Watch for Action Alerts from the Kentucky Chamber throughout session and call your legislators at **1-800-372-7181** to express your support for priority bills important to the business community.



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY 2018 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY 2018 SENATE





And the winners are...

100 COMPANIES NAMED *Best Places to Work in Kentucky*

The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and the Kentucky Society for Human Resource Management (KYSHRM) have announced the 100 companies (in alphabetical order) that made the 14th Annual Best Places to Work in Kentucky list.

The winner rankings will be announced at an awards dinner **Tuesday, April 17, 2018**, at Heritage Hall in the Lexington Convention Center. The selection process is based on an assessment of the company's employee policies and procedures and the results of an internal employee survey.

And the winners are...

FOR MORE DETAILS

For more details about **Best Places to Work in Kentucky**, visit bestplacestoworkky.com.

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EXPERIENCE,
NOW
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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
& HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

SMALL COMPANIES

Companies of 15-149 U.S. Employees

- **Advanced Payroll Systems**
- Alpha Business Acquisitions
- **AMR Management Services**
- **Apex Engineering, PLLC**
- **ARGI Financial Group**
- **Associations International**
- Bim Group*
- **Blue Grass Airport**
- Budget For The People
- Composable Systems
- **Connected Nation, Inc.**
- **Delta Dental of Kentucky**
- Diversified Automation Inc
- **Edwards Moving & Rigging**
- Extell Financial Services, Inc.
- Fahe
- Fooji
- **Integrity IT**
- Kingdom Trust
- **Lexington Habitat for Humanity, Inc.**
- Marine Solutions, Inc.
- **Massage Envy—Lexington**
- **McGregor & Associates, Inc.**
- **Medical Center Jewish Southwest**
- Metro United Way
- Middleton Reutlinger
- **NetGain Technologies Inc.**
- **Peel & Holland**
- **People Plus, Inc**
- **SIS, LLC**
- STOBER Drives, Inc.
- Strategic Marketing Services
- **Town & Country Bank and Trust Co.**
- **Tri-Arrows Aluminum Inc.**
- **Unified Trust Company**
- Venminder, Inc.
- Verbal Behavior Consulting Inc
- **Ward, Hocker & Thornton, PLLC**
- Wolf Steel USA

MEDIUM COMPANIES

Companies of 150-499 U.S. Employees

- **Air Hydro Power**
- Associates in Pediatric Therapy LLC
- **Balluff, Inc.**
- **Blue & Co., LLC**
- Bottom Line Systems
- **Bourbon Community Hospital**
- **Brooksource**
- **Columbia Gas of Kentucky**
- **Dean Dorton**
- **Flaget Memorial Hospital,**
KentuckyOne Health
- **Forcht Bank**
- **Harrison Memorial Hospital**
- **Harshaw Trane**
- **Heritage Bank USA, Inc.**
- **Houchens Insurance Group**
- **Independence Bank**
- ISCO Industries, Inc.
- Kentucky Bank
- **L&N Federal Credit Union**
- **Limestone Bank**
- Louisville Tile Distributors
- **MCM CPAs & Advisors LLP**
- Musselman Hotels
- **Park Community Credit Union**
- **Plumbers Supply Co.**
- University of Kentucky Federal Credit Union
- US WorldMeds
- **WDRB Media**
- **Winterwood, Inc**

LARGE COMPANIES

Companies of 500 or More U.S. Employees

- Aerotek
- Appriss
- **AssuredPartners**
- Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.
- **Central Bank & Trust Co.**
- Comcast Cable
- **Corning Incorporated**
- **Crowe Horwath LLP**
- **CSI**
- Edward Jones
- Envoy Mortgage, Ltd
- **Farm Credit Mid-America**
- **Frankfort Regional Medical Center**
- **Galen College of Nursing**
- **Genentech**
- **Hilliard Lyons**
- Hosparus Health
- Jack Henry & Associates, Inc.®
- **KORT**
- **Long John Silver's, LLC**
- **Neustar**
- **Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital**
- **Our Lady of Peace, KentuckyOne Health**
- Papa John's Corporate
- **Republic Bank**
- **Rockcastle Regional Hospital and Respiratory Care Center**
- Senture, LLC
- **Stock Yards Bank and Trust Co.**
- **The Sullivan University System**
- Total Quality Logistics
- **Valvoline Inc.**
- **WellCare of Kentucky, Inc.**

**Kentucky Chamber members noted in bold

NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE STATE
BUDGET AND PENSION REFORMS
KEY THEMES OF

Leadership at
2018 Chamber Day

Gov. Matt Bevin and legislative leaders from the House and Senate took the stage at the 23rd Annual Chamber Day to discuss priorities of the coming year with pension reforms and the struggle to find a way to craft a sustainable state budget being a key theme among all speakers.

Gov. Bevin said the next two-year state budget that must be crafted this session will be “brutal” because “for the first time, we are going to pay our bills and pay pension obligations.”

The governor noted pension costs currently take up 20 percent of the state’s budget and stated nothing else can be funded if the issue is not addressed. Because of that, Gov. Bevin said a pension reform bill must pass, “and it will.”

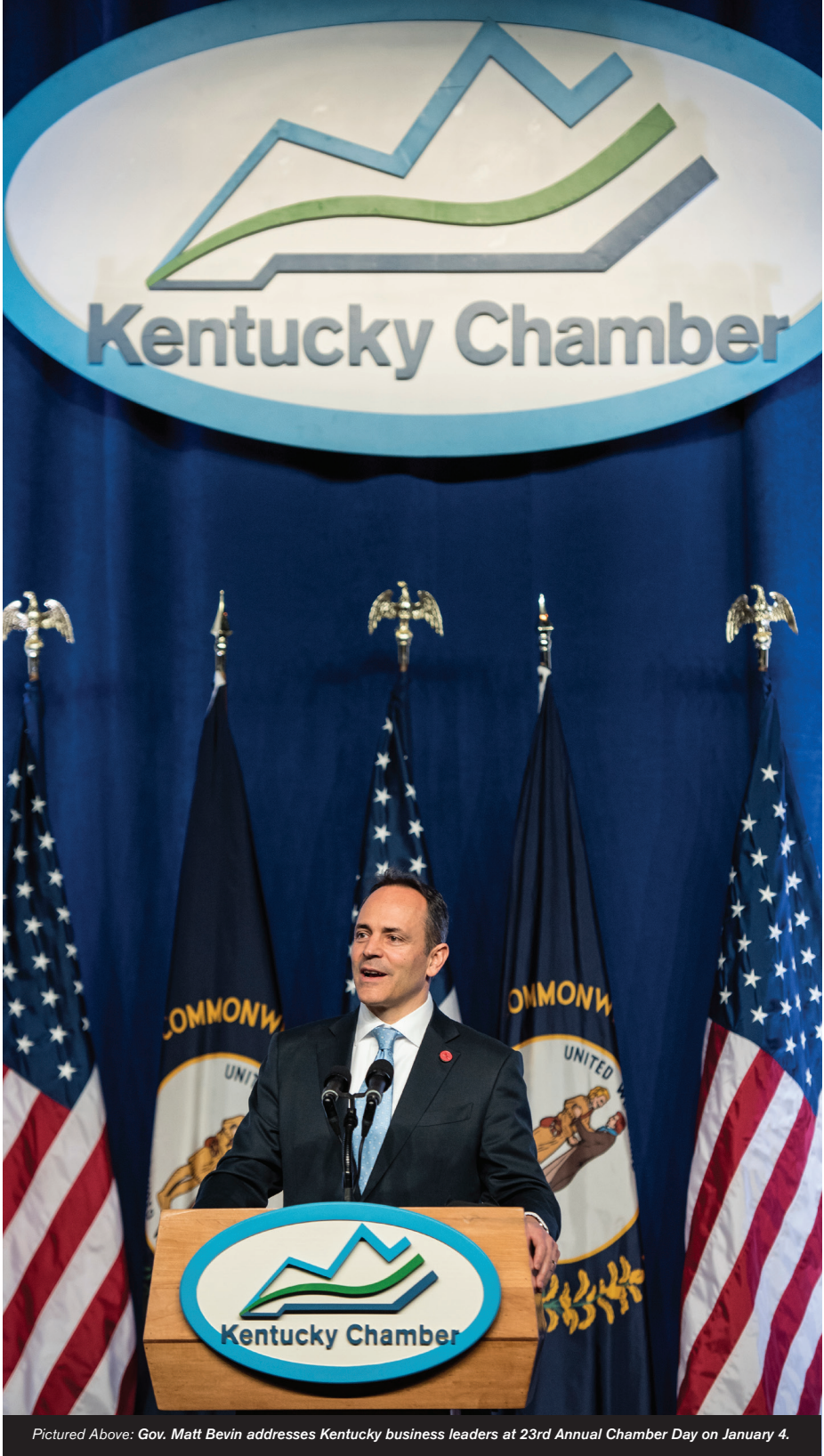
In his first speech at Kentucky Chamber Day, House Speaker Pro Tem David Osborne said the legislature is facing many choices no one wants to make, but stressed changes to pensions, taxes, and the budget must be made. Osborne also thanked the work of the business community on such issues over the years.

The Republican leaders echoed many of the Chamber’s legislative priorities with Osborne stating the House will focus on essential skills, workers’ compensation system reforms, criminal justice improvements, tort reform, and others as top priorities of the state House. He also focused on a balanced and sustainable budget as well as a top-notch workforce in Kentucky.

Senate President Robert Stivers told the crowd funding needs for pensions, education, and infrastructure will be top priorities in 2018. He also stressed the successes of 2017 session with new laws like right to work, repeal of the prevailing wage, and others that have helped create jobs in Kentucky.

Senate Minority Leader Ray Jones said issues like pension and tax reform must be addressed across party lines for Kentucky to move forward.

And House Minority Leader Rocky Adkins stressed the importance of education funding and low-cost energy while highlighting the need to produce a budget and pension reform in 2018.



Pictured Above: Gov. Matt Bevin addresses Kentucky business leaders at 23rd Annual Chamber Day on January 4.

NEW MEMBER SAVINGS PROGRAM

A happy employee is a powerful resource.
Invest in your employees smiles today.



All across the state, employees miss work due to dental issues. Delta Dental and The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce are excited to announce a new partnership to help you protect your employees smiles.

Delta Dental offers small group dental plans that will **improve your employees productivity and enhance their overall health and wellness**. These plans have been specifically designed for small business employers and are available at a *discounted rate* for members of the Kentucky Chamber.



Contact **Tammy Chapman** to receive more information and enroll today!
KYChamberDental@deltadentalky.com 502-736-4667



2018 Chamber Day Photos



Pictured Above: Kentucky Chamber Board Chairman Joe Craft addresses the crowd of more than 1,600 at 23rd Annual Chamber Day



Pictured from left to right: Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson, Gov. Matt Bevin, Canadian Minister of Public Safety Ralph Goodale, U.S. Ambassador to Canada Kelly Craft and Chairman Joe Craft



Pictured Above: Kentucky Chamber Board member Ray Daniels, Tierra Kavanaugh Wayne, and Kentucky Labor Cabinet Secretary Derrick Ramsey



Pictured Above: Senate Minority Leader Ray Jones



Pictured from left to right: House Majority Leader Jonathan Shell, Senator Jared Carpenter, and Jeff Harper of Kentucky Farm Bureau



Pictured Above: Chamber Board member Chuck Sessions and Betsy Clemons of Hazard-Perry Chamber of Commerce



Pictured Above: Past Chamber Chairman Bill Lear speaks with Senate President Robert Stivers



Pictured Above: House Minority Leader Rocky Adkins



Pictured Above: House Speaker Pro-Tempore David Osborne



Pictured Above: Senate President Robert Stivers



Pictured Above: Former Board Chairs Elizabeth McCoy of Planters Bank and Jude Thompson of Delta Dental



Pictured from left to right: Howard Shape, Ben Orris, Bill Jones, and Brandon Lau, WellCare

Workforce Summit Highlights

PROBLEMS AND PROGRESS IN KENTUCKY’S WORKFORCE

As Kentucky's employers are searching for innovative solutions to their workforce needs, the Kentucky Chamber hosted the 3rd Annual Workforce Summit where employers got an inside look into the strategies being used by other companies, organizations and government entities to turn around the Commonwealth's workforce crisis.

Kentucky's Workforce and Progress Challenges, a report serving as an update to the Kentucky Chamber's 2015 Workforce Report, made its debut at the summit.



To kick off the summit, a Global Futurist, Jack Uldrich, offered a look into the future of industries, saying he cannot think of an industry that will not see exponential changes. Uldrich shared this statistic: "65% of students starting elementary school today will eventually work in jobs that don't exist yet."

Workforce and Education Cabinet Secretary Hal Heiner said one of the Cabinet's main focuses is finding the link between people, training and jobs, citing Kentucky as 47th in the nation for adult workforce participation. Secretary Heiner encouraged employers to become more engaged in K-12 because students' academics excel when they can visualize themselves in a career. Derek Redelman of Strada Education Network broke down Kentucky-specific survey results, showing need for change in the education system so students feel more confident about their career path.

Jason Tyszko from the U.S. Chamber Foundation said Talent Pipeline Management (TPM) was created because the current system is not working for employers, stating workforce is the reason 40% of employers cannot take on new business. Kim Menke of Toyota pointed out public-private partnerships are important to successful TPM systems, a more streamlined transition from education to workforce.

Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet Secretary Terry Gill delivered the keynote address, focusing on the role of workforce development in economic success. Secretary Gill said workforce is always in the top-three qualifications for



Pictured from left to right: Kim Menke of Toyota, Education and Workforce Cabinet Secretary Hal Heiner, Dan Thomas of UPS, and Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson

companies who submit project requests. He stated, "99% of jobs added to the economy in the past 5 years are held by workers with some level of education training after high school," highlighting the need for Kentuckians to seek a form of postsecondary training to fill the 70,000 positions Kentucky needs by 2020.

Addiction and incarceration were noted as two of the top reasons for Kentucky's low workforce participation rate, and Tim Robinson of Addiction Recovery Care thanked the Chamber and Governor Bevin for seeing the economic importance of addiction treatment and second chances for Kentuckians.

The Workforce Summit showed business leaders the need for innovation to engage the available workforce and to attract talent earlier in the education process.

MORE INFO

More information about the Workforce Center and a link to join the network can be found at kychamber.com/workforcecenter or by contacting workforcecenter@kychamber.com.

A black and white close-up photograph of a young child's face, looking directly at the camera. The child has curly hair and is wearing a light-colored shirt.

GIVE KIDS A CHANCE.

SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Kentucky's children need your help. Funding, fighting for, and voting for early childhood education and development is not just the right thing to do to ensure kids' future success: It is critical to the future and success of all Kentuckians.

Learn more at KentuckyAllSTARS.ky.gov.

The Kentucky All Stars logo, featuring a stylized figure of a person with arms raised, surrounded by stars, with the text "Kentucky ALL STARS" below it.



Pictured Above: Kentucky employers from many sectors attended the 3rd Annual Workforce Summit on January 30



Pictured Above: Derek Redelman of Strada Education Network



Pictured Above: Economic Development Cabinet Secretary Terry Gill



Pictured Above: Global Futurist Jack Uldrich

Thank you for your investment.

The following is a list of new members of the Kentucky Chamber. Please help us thank these companies for investing in the Chamber's mission by giving them your business.

COMMONWEALTH PARTNER

BB&T

CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

Aetna, Inc.

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Nationwide Insurance
Valvoline

TRUSTEE

Novolex

EQUITY PARTNER

Camco Chemical Co., Inc.
LYNX Services
Paducah & Louisville Railway, Inc.

CORNERSTONE

Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP)
Louisville City FC
Siemer Milling Co

STAKEHOLDERS

Advanced Payroll Systems, Inc.
Aerotek
Bluegrass Hathaway
Bluegrass Integrated Communications
Brighton Center, Inc.
Brown Hotel
Connemara Golf Course
D. C. Trimble, Inc.
Dialysis Clinic Inc.
Frankfort Cemetery
Independence Television
KEENStart
Kentucky Cancer Foundation
Legacy Financial Advisors, Inc.
Somerset Recycling Services
Teknor Apex Co
Trinsoft LLC



Harper Smith
MANAGER,
WORKFORCE CENTER
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Staff Announcement:

Harper Smith has been named Workforce Center Manager at the Kentucky Chamber. Smith comes to the role after serving in the membership and marketing coordinator at the Chamber since January 2016.



Christy Morrison
DIRECTOR,
MEMBERSHIP
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Staff Announcement:

Christy Morrison has been promoted to Director of Membership at the Kentucky Chamber. Morrison has been serving on the Chamber's membership team since September and has previously worked at the Kentucky Chamber in the member services manager position.

Kentucky Chamber Key Investors

Commonwealth Partners



Chairman's Circle



Presidential Advisors



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Deloitte & Touche
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Galt House Hotel & Suites
Gray Construction
Hyster-Yale Group Inc.
Kentucky Community and Technical College System
Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance
Kentucky League of Cities, Inc.
Kentucky State Fair Board
Kosair Charities
L'Oreal USA
Laurel Grocery Company
LexiDan Foods dba Waffle House

Logan Aluminum, Inc
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Park Community Credit Union
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Republic Bank
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Keep in mind that investing involves risk. The value of your investment will fluctuate over time and you may gain or lose money.

Guidance provided is educational.

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KENTUCKY CHAMBER “ALL IN” ON TORT REFORM

