

2025 LOCAL AGENDA





SARAH DAVASHER-WISDOM
President & CEO

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Investor,

As the regional chamber of commerce, Greater Louisville Inc. is the voice for the business community at all levels of government. Each year our staff works with businesses to identify issues hindering economic growth and then advocates with the Mayor and Louisville Metro Council to make policy changes that will allow Greater Louisville to more effectively compete for business and talent. The 2025 local agenda combines many of GLI's long-term priorities with timely issues that are pertinent to our region.

As a regional economic development organization, we work every day with businesses, site selectors, and developers. We know that Louisville's current land development code is a major hindrance to business attraction, expansion, and retention. Our staff continues to work closely with local officials to ensure that changes made to the Land Development Code position Louisville to be competitive with our peer cities and ease strain on businesses looking to expand or relocate. We will continue advocating for changes that create a more streamlined process for investors in all areas of Greater Louisville.

Downtown revitalization continues to be a top priority. Downtown Louisville is the economic heartbeat of our region and like all downtowns across the U.S., it has faced unique challenges in the last four years. GLI is proud to work with partners like the Louisville Downtown Partnership to advocate for more funding and resources toward revitalization efforts and incentives to repurpose vacant office space. As we move into this next phase of downtown development, Louisville should be innovative in how we tackle these challenges to support sustained and long-term growth.

Economic growth and public safety are inextricably linked. Public safety is also one of the issues we hear most about from the business community. GLI is working with LMPD and other stakeholders on the implementation of surveillance equipment throughout downtown Louisville. In addition to investment in city owned equipment, we are also working to educate businesses on partnerships with law enforcement where businesses can share the location of their existing surveillance equipment with law enforcement to create a map of available surveillance in the area. These investments will pay dividends toward safety and security throughout the downtown area and provide visitors peace of mind when enjoying all the city has to offer.

The 2025 Local Agenda represents our business community's top priorities. After months of collaboration with our six public policy committees, Public Policy Council, and the GLI Board of Directors, our staff is excited to continue the work of advancing pro-business policies that improve our regional economy. Your investment and your voice are critical for us to be your advocate on local issues. I hope you will reach out to us anytime we can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

GLI ADVOCACY

GLI relies on hundreds of volunteers from the Greater Louisville business community to develop legislative priorities and set positions on key public policy issues that affect economic growth and workforce development. With the support of GLI's Board of Directors, GLI's Public Policy Council advises on all advocacy positions with the assistance of six Issue Advisory Committees. The dedicated volunteers that lead the Public Policy Council and GLI's Issue Advisory Committees and the hundreds of members who give their time are the key to GLI's success in advocating for the business community's priorities:

PUBLIC POLICY COUNCIL

Chair – Les Fugate, Brown-Forman

BI-STATE ISSUES

Chair – Stephen Lukinovich, Cherry Bekaert

BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

Chair – Jim Dahlem, Dahlem Company

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Chair – DeVone Holt, Muhammad Ali Center

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Chair – Jennifer Cave, Stites & Harbison

HEALTH CARE

Chair – Lourdes Baez, Baptist Health

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Chair – David Beck, Kentucky Venues

GLI GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



SARAH DAVASHER-WISDOM
President & CEO



SHELBY SOMERVELL
Senior Vice President,
Government Affairs and
External Relations



OLIVIA OLSON
Senior Director,
Communications & PR



HELEN HACKER
Director, Government
Affairs & Policy

BUSINESS REGULATIONS

A predictable and flexible regulatory environment allows businesses to grow and thrive. Business regulations at the local level should adhere strictly to state or federal standards, be continuously reviewed for efficacy and impact, and come with clear and accessible guidelines.

- Local ordinances, regulations, and permitting processes should be viewed from the perspective of growing the regional economy.
- The intentional and systematic review of local ordinances, regulations, and permitting processes is strongly recommended as the regional business community continues to evolve.

BUSINESSES OWNED BY MINORITIES & UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS

GLI recognizes that economic inclusion is critical to economic growth and has placed an emphasis on this in our strategic plan. Local governments should prioritize strengthening the growth of businesses owned by underrepresented groups as part of their economic development strategies.

- Local governments should proactively establish partnerships with underrepresented business owners to increase access to public contracts, procurement opportunities, and other business opportunities with governments and corporate agencies.
- Access to capital is one of the greatest barriers that minority- and women-owned small businesses face. Local governments should close the gap in access to capital by working with partners to deploy investment and financial assistance, including targeted microloans and grants as well as access to public contracts and procurement opportunities.
- Strategies should be developed to increase access to government information, business supports, and funding opportunities for business owners whose first language is not English. This should include a coordinated system that focuses on inclusive outreach, navigation, and access to legal services.
- Business resources and mentorship programs to support startups and other enterprises owned by underrepresented groups should be developed and funded.
- Lenders and investors that help provide economic opportunity and financial stability to underrepresented areas should be supported and incentivized.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

GLI encourages local and state investment in public infrastructure improvements that support and attract new private investment. As downtown continues to serve as a hub of vibrant activity for our city's residents and tourists, GLI supports new tax incentives that would make residential development more attractive and encourages downtown employers to consider hybrid schedules rather than fully remote schedules when possible.

In these efforts, it is imperative that safety and security of downtown visitors be at the forefront of discussions. Downtown is the center of our city and should be a place residents and visitors are excited to be. Further investments in safety will help continue to bring business and commerce back downtown.

GLI supports the work of the Louisville Downtown Partnership in their efforts to revitalize downtown. Funding and resources should be provided toward their efforts including funding for their Downtown Ambassadors and finding new ways to utilize office space and abandoned lots to achieve other necessary improvements to our city.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Louisville should support local and regional economic development efforts to ensure the economy realizes its full potential. Companies considering business expansion or relocation decisions often look beyond jurisdictional boundaries when making location decisions.

As such, communities that maintain strong local and regional economic development organizations stand better positioned to achieve economic growth.

Economic Development Incentives

Growing businesses and attracting high-wage jobs require a complementary mix of business-friendly tax structures, targeted support from government organizations, and unencumbered access to capital. For the Greater Louisville region to grow and prosper, partners at every level of government should prioritize business-friendly policies to remain globally competitive, including robust economic development incentives. GLI supports the use of local government tax incentives as economic development tools to encourage the region's expansion and retention of businesses and high-wage jobs.

- For projects that span multiple jurisdictional boundaries or layers – including across state lines – local governments should collaborate to offer competitive incentive packages.
- Policymakers should continue to explore new incentives and innovative strategies to help businesses grow and succeed.

- Policymakers should structure incentives that encourage businesses to actively participate in and support workforce programs and remove barriers to employment such as contributions for child care vouchers and workforce training programs.
 - Awarded and proposed incentive packages should always protect private information of businesses and ensure confidentiality during the exploration and approval process.
- Small Businesses, Start-Ups, and Entrepreneurs**
- Creating an environment where small businesses, start-ups, and entrepreneurs of all backgrounds thrive is key to the future of Greater Louisville's economy. GLI encourages the city to continue to support these types of businesses and employers by investing in entrepreneurial programming and fostering an environment where small businesses and start-up entrepreneurs have access to institutional knowledge and resources. GLI encourages local leaders to look into changes such as expanding the charter of the Metco Loan Board to make equity investments in local companies, venture capital, and private equity funds, alongside organizations like Keyhorse Capital.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

GLI respects the important work carried out by the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) to implement the Clean Air Act (CAA). The regulated community looks forward to continuing to work closely with the APCD to improve air quality, attain National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), and address environmental justice concerns. Environmental policy at the local level should embrace the following concepts to simultaneously support both APCD's implementation of the CAA and foster economic growth.

- Expediently review environmental permitting and plan submittals for clean energy demonstration projects that build safe and responsible carbon capture through the design, construction, and operation of innovative technologies funded by local businesses and federal agencies.
 - Promulgate clear, accessible, and timely guidance for all APCD regulations, policies, and procedures.
 - Attract and retain a robust staff of environmental professionals to provide permittees and the public with regulatory certainty.
 - Continuously review local environmental regulations for efficacy, applicability, and identify opportunities to streamline and simplify.
- Safe, affordable housing is an important part of the overall solution to homelessness but must be paired with supportive services targeted to those with the greatest needs in all areas of the community.
 - Louisville Metro must work with community partners and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive approach that efficiently leverages public and private funding along with community organizations to significantly reduce homelessness in our community.
 - Employment and job training opportunities, along with support to make it possible for those experiencing homelessness to succeed, should be further developed and tailored to the unique needs of the homeless population. Innovative and direct outreach programs like Goodwill's Another Way program should be explored to provide points of contact for people experiencing homelessness to engage with partners and connect with services.
 - Louisville Metro should expand, support, and invest in clean and safe shelters paired with accessible wraparound support services that help move people into housing and employment opportunities so that no individuals or families are turned away from safe shelter due to wait lists.
 - Land use policies and incentives should support increased density, the growth of housing stock for all income levels, and be in proximity to employers. Creating flexibility in the land development code allows developers to create certain types of affordable housing or include affordable housing in developments, and should be implemented by right.
 - Louisville Metro, in conjunction with developers, should prioritize building middle housing and offering those homes at an affordable rate. As the discussion of the housing shortage continues, it is imperative that the city prioritize putting residents on the path to homeownership – not relying exclusively on rental options – and help those citizens establish roots in the community.
 - Louisville's homeless population should have wide access to social workers, housing navigators, mental health services, and evidence-based substance abuse disorder treatment.
 - Louisville Metro should invest in eviction prevention funding as a tool to prevent homelessness and promote family stability.
 - Louisville Metro should work with hospitals and homeless care providers to create medical respite facilities for people in need of medical care or long-term care.

HOUSING STABILITY

GLI supports efforts to address homelessness through close collaboration between community organizations and government partners. GLI urges local officials to work with state and federal governments to provide increased funding to support a comprehensive approach to ending homelessness.

The Louisville region currently has a housing shortage of 40,000 units.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Continued investment in the maintenance of local infrastructure, such as roads, broadband, and water, remains essential for the economic growth and stability of communities. Local government policies should ensure that sufficient access to formula funds and competitive grants are available to public and quasi-governmental agencies responsible for infrastructure development and maintenance, while also providing for a pro-growth regulatory environment. Furthermore, GLI encourages local governments to take a transformative and long-term approach to capturing these federal dollars by working with partner agencies and departments to ensure efficiency.

- **Local Roads:** GLI was thrilled to see historic investments by Metro Council in the paving and maintenance of our roads in the most recent budget cycle. Louisville Metro and other local governments must continue to strategically invest in road maintenance and development projects through data analysis, public input, and cost-benefit analyses. GLI supports efforts to continuously review road plans and designs of major thoroughfares in the region with the goal of optimizing existing roads and improving mobility. In addition, local officials should work closely with GLI to advocate for road-aid modernization and increased funding for local roads.
- **Technology Infrastructure:** GLI encourages a flexible regulatory environment that supports the development of infrastructure for advanced communications technologies. Reliable, available, and robust internet and cellular technologies are important to growing our economy, attracting top talent, and addressing the digital divide. Increased connectivity is also key to healthcare access and education. Public policies should encourage and support, not impede, the development of these critical infrastructure assets by technology and communications providers.
- **River:** Louisville's riverfront areas and communities need sustained investment to maintain flood protections, which should include increased support for the important work of the Metropolitan Sewer District and funding for updates to our aging flood protection system. Louisville must also work proactively to ensure we are fully leveraging our ports through investment and planning in support of our manufacturing and logistics sectors.
- **Water, Wastewater, & Stormwater/Inland Drainage:** Local water, wastewater, and stormwater/drainage agencies need adequate access to funding and capital to maintain and upgrade outdated infrastructure. Continued replacement and maintenance of these systems throughout our city are critical to maintaining service to residents and to business continuity.

LAND DEVELOPMENT

Land development and redevelopment help to grow jobs, create more housing and urban density, revitalize and spur investment in underdeveloped areas, create new opportunities, and improve quality of life. Louisville must have in place policies and structures that support

and facilitate the important work of our professional land developers and redevelopers. As Louisville continues to grow and attract talent, our land use policies must evolve to support the development and replenishment of housing stock at all income levels.

Providing flexibility and incentivizing development allows the markets to better meet the housing needs of the community. GLI encourages Louisville Metro to review and revise the current Land Development Code to provide more flexibility. With the establishment of the Ad Hoc Land Use Committee in 2024, it is clear that land development is on the minds of Metro Council. With the state implemented pause on local land development code changes, it is imperative that our city does not lose momentum in these efforts. GLI encourages Metro Council to continue working toward these updates and planning for changes to the code that achieve the following goals:



- Allow greater variation in density by increasing zones where multiplex dwelling units are permitted, revising density maximums and lot size minimums, and decreasing parking requirements. These moderate relaxations of regulations would significantly impact the availability of Louisville's housing stock.
- Implement changes that allow for flexible maximum building heights in areas where mid-rise development would be appropriate based on context and form.
- Prioritize development incentives for development types detailed in the Louisville Metro's Comprehensive Plan 2040.
- Establish density bonuses for developers who agree to designate a portion of housing units within a development as affordable housing based on income requirements.
- Maintain local neighborhood and business association input on the initial establishment of quality of place standards to preserve the diverse character of Louisville's many unique neighborhoods.

- Continue support for brownfield remediation and redevelopment programs to reduce the prevalence of blight and hazardous properties in Greater Louisville. GLI supports programs aimed at assisting businesses and developers with brownfield remediation and redevelopment through assessment services and funding opportunities.
- Propose changes to the existing tree canopy requirements that include discussions with stakeholders to avoid burdensome and costly conditions for developers. GLI supports the need to preserve Louisville's tree canopy to reduce the urban heat island effect and improve quality of life for residents across the community. Louisville Metro's land development code should include incentives for developers to preserve additional tree canopy.

Investment in historically underserved areas is important to ensure that residents have ample opportunities for safe and affordable housing and equitable development. While quality developments can help improve quality of life in these neighborhoods, efforts should be made to ensure that long-term residents and historical populations are not displaced. Direct support for residents and homeowners through rental assistance, low-interest home repair loans, and property tax moratoriums for target areas should be prioritized. Furthermore, Louisville Metro should amend the land development code to encourage housing development and allow for density bonuses for affordable housing development.

Streamlining the application and review process would create predictability and encourage positive investment in our community.

- GLI encourages Louisville Metro to coordinate initial agency reviews to identify problems from the outset and streamline the agency review process.
- Supportive changes should be made to the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Adjustment with the goal of increasing efficiency of their operations and making service on the Commission more attractive.
- Imposing development moratoriums as a means to delay or deter developments creates immense uncertainty for the development community and can be an impediment to the positive progress of development to meet community needs. GLI discourages local governments from using moratoriums as a means to enact land development policy.
- GLI encourages increased, dedicated resources to support the important work of Louisville Metro Planning & Design staff and increase staff capacity.

LOCAL TAXES

While Louisville Metro and other local governments in the region need to generate the necessary revenues to provide key services and invest in our community's future, local tax structures must be conducive to business growth and allow Greater Louisville to aggressively compete for jobs and talent. This should include minimizing production-based taxes, easing compliance, and increasing uniformity across different local taxing jurisdictions.



- Local governments should work proactively and continuously to make compliance and payment as simple as possible for businesses and entrepreneurs. This should include the adoption of e-filing systems across all local taxing jurisdictions.
- GLI encourages Louisville Metro to continue to allow small businesses and entrepreneurs to file one occupational license form for all of their related business entities. This would provide compliance uniformity with other municipalities across Kentucky and reduce the administrative tax compliance burden on small business owners.
- GLI encourages increased uniformity and alignment among taxing jurisdictions wherever possible, including penalties for late payments, voluntary disclosure processes, and rules for calculating taxable income.
- For businesses based in our region that utilize remote workforces, rules for withholdings should be clear and accessible for business owners.
- Local governments in Kentucky should allow businesses to carry forward net operating losses indefinitely in determining net profits subject to local occupational licensing taxes.
- GLI supports robust and accessible processes for businesses to appeal local property tax assessments.
- Anti-competitive taxes such as local occupational licensing tax or local insurance premium tax must be kept to a minimum, and rates should not be increased.
- GLI encourages local governments in Kentucky to continue advocating for state-level reforms to local government taxing authority.

Following reforms at the state level, GLI encourages local governments to leverage local tax options that provide flexibility for regions to offer additional incentives to attract economic development projects, including policies that incentivize the establishment or relocation of technology businesses in the Greater Louisville region.

MOBILITY

To facilitate the movement of consumers, workers, business owners, and tourists, GLI supports local initiatives to diversify and enhance regional mobility options.

- As TARC looks to the future of connectivity for workforce, tourists, and students with a fast, frequent, and reliable transit network, the need to increase local funding is more important than ever. As cuts to TARC service loom, the city should explore options within the organization to ensure that it continues to offer mobility resources to its residents. TARC needs local and state support to leverage federal funds.
- The region should continue strong support for Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport and dedicate advocacy efforts for more direct flights to and from Louisville.
- Louisville Metro should strategically improve pedestrian and biking infrastructure to support talent attraction and retention efforts and provide for safer connectivity within and between workforce centers. It is important these efforts consider the traffic flow in each area.
- Connectivity between East and West Louisville, major tourist hubs and the airport, and Louisville and Southern Indiana should be continuously evaluated and improved based on demographic and economic trends and forecasts.
- GLI supports the establishment of the Louisville Metro Department of Transportation as it begins its implementation. We look forward to working with the city to help identify points of improvement that would make the region more marketable as we seek to attract new businesses.



PARKS AND RECREATIONAL SPACES

When discussing talent attraction, a city should be a place where workers want to live and play when the work day is done. This means investing in spaces throughout Louisville that build community and allow citizens to connect with their surroundings. Louisville Metro should invest adequate funds to maintain the existing parks throughout the city and invest in the furtherance of the work of Parks and Recreation to ensure that greenspaces throughout the city are well cared for and reflect well on the community.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

GLI supports the work and mission of both Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) and the work of private and parochial schools. Ensuring a quality education for every student is critical. We specifically applaud their efforts to increase school choice, increase student attendance rates, and prepare students for college and careers through transition readiness and the opportunity for apprenticeships. The state and region must focus on accelerating student achievement in order to remain globally and regionally competitive.

Student achievement is crucial to the future success of our local economy, developing our workforce, and expanding economic opportunity. GLI supports the following measures and initiatives to improve student achievement:

- The JCPS Racial Educational Equity Plan which directly addresses student achievement gaps.
- Implementing an accountability system that emphasizes student growth and reduces the weight of English language learners in overall accountability, a measure that disproportionately affects JCPS where more than 15% of their student population is learning English as a second language.
- The Academies of Louisville, SummerWorks, and other programs aimed at student engagement in the regional workforce.
- Innovation around talent attraction to JCPS to establish a representative staff that mirrors the student population and encourages additional incentives and compensation to teachers working in schools which require additional support.
- Differentiated compensation, incentives, and ancillary benefits for teachers and administrators based on responsibilities, qualifications, effectiveness, and service location.
- Increased local investment to support facility construction and maintenance, resources for the district's highest-need schools, support for racial equity initiatives, and additional student instruction time.

School choice, giving parents, guardians, and students more options in selecting educational pathways, is key to a successful public education system. With the approval of a new student assignment plan emphasizing neighborhood schools and investment in choice zone schools, JCPS has an opportunity to make progress toward providing families with more educational choices, which is valuable for current students and potential future residents. In light of the new assignment plan, GLI supports the following measures and initiatives to ensure choice and diversity in schools:

- The enactment of policies that empower parents by providing all available educational choices, including but not limited to traditional, magnet, neighborhood schools, and charter schools.
- The implementation of equitable policies for magnet school exits that work with students and families to assess student achievement and performance prior to exit.
- Support and funding for charter schools, specifically for schools that support underserved student populations.

Early childhood education is essential for learning and brain development, laying the foundation for individual student success and the success of a community workforce. GLI was pleased to see the establishment of the mayor's Thrive by 5 Louisville that will set the path to establish universal pre-K in Jefferson County. This innovative investment will initially focus on strengthening existing early learning facilities, with support to recruit and retain the early learning workforce. Enhancing wages and focusing on recruitment and retention of educators is critical to the early childhood education sector, which is currently one of the lowest paid professionals in our region and throughout the country. These professionals are necessary to raise and educate the future workforce of our region. It is imperative that any program funding addressing early childhood education prioritizes wage disparities and enables child care providers to offer competitive wages to their employees.

Only 44% of students in Kentucky entering Kindergarten each year are considered Kindergarten ready.

(Metro United Way)



PUBLIC HEALTH

Local public health departments play a key role in supporting health outcomes and improving the health of our workforce.

- GLI encourages Louisville Metro to allocate more resources to support the work of the Department of Health and Wellness to reduce nicotine and vaping usage and help address the substance use disorder crisis.
- GLI encourages Louisville Metro to prioritize spending using social determinants of health as a focus to improve equity and outcomes in our community.
- As Greater Louisville experienced during the pandemic, close collaboration between local health departments, local health systems, and community organizations is essential to addressing the health challenges that our community may face. GLI encourages the continued collaboration and partnerships between these groups to ensure that responses to future challenges remain robust, efficient, and effective.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Over the past several years, Metro Louisville has faced a myriad of public safety challenges including grappling with a history of racial injustice, a substantial increase in violent crimes and homicides, a Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation into the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD), and a shortage of law enforcement officers. These conditions have a direct impact on economic development, talent attraction and retention, and quality of life.

To address these problems, we will need a community-wide commitment to a long-term, data-driven approach and continued investment focusing on violence prevention, programming to engage disconnected youth, support for law enforcement, and strengthening trust between public safety officials and the residents they serve.

Violence Reduction

Louisville has faced an alarming increase in homicide rates and violent crimes. LMPD must implement an intelligence-led policing approach combining problem-solving, enhanced intelligent operations using technology, and information-sharing to effectively prevent crime in our community. Adequate staffing is essential to fully implement intelligence-led policing and must be addressed as a priority. Engaging the community through efforts like the Community Policing Councils is key to rebuilding trust between law enforcement and residents.

Initiatives focused on reducing gun violence, like the Group Violence Intervention program, must be prioritized and receive continued support and participation from local government and community groups. Programming that utilizes a public health approach and seeks to intervene with at-risk populations is also critical to decreasing recidivism and reducing crime.

Security Enhancement Downtown

As crime in the city continues to impact businesses and shape the perception of downtown, it is imperative that the investments are made to address crime quickly and effectively. Metro government should make investments in surveillance equipment throughout downtown as well as encourage businesses with surveillance already in place to register their equipment in Fusus Connect to create a network of surveillance in the area. This will ensure that if a crime is committed, law enforcement have access to accurate footage of the event to properly address the situation. This will not only supplement LMPD's work but will act as deterrent for perpetrators and give downtown visitors peace of mind while enjoying all that downtown has to offer. If successful, these types of investments could benefit the whole city.

Criminal Justice Reform

A history of misguided policies has made Louisville a highly segregated city, which is an underlying cause of racial disparities in health, education, job access, and more. These disparities have led to higher incarceration rates for people of color in both Louisville and throughout the state. Criminal justice reform is needed at all levels of government to reverse these inequities. Some of GLI's policy suggestions include:

- A greater emphasis should be placed on alternative sentencing and restorative justice – especially for juveniles and for non-violent offenses such as vandalism and criminal mischief.
- Individuals who interact with the criminal justice system should have wide access to mental health services and substance use disorder treatment as well as training and education opportunities.
- Further investment in the work of the Opportunity Network as they develop reentry tools and training materials for those who are justice-involved.
- Programs that emphasize substance use disorder treatment as an alternative to incarceration, such as the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion programs, should be revitalized and strengthened.



- Louisville's 911 Diversion program, which expanded city-wide in 2023, should continue to be funded to divert duties away from LMPD and instead to trained mental health professionals as appropriate. This program has already proven to reduce the burden on law enforcement to address non-public safety issues and ensures that community members experiencing mental health crises receive appropriate support.

Youth Programming

While increased crime rates are an unfortunately common trend across major American cities today, the increased rate of homicides involving youth is unique to Louisville. There are approximately 12,000 disconnected youth, defined as young people aged 16 to 24 who are out of work and out of school, in our community. GLI supports investment in initiatives like The Spot, a youth opportunity campus that assists disconnected youth with education, employment, housing, and more. Continued support for innovative programs that reconnect this population with opportunities for meaningful involvement in society is critical for long-term violence reduction in Louisville.

Law Enforcement

LMPD is facing several challenges including a shortage of nearly three hundred officers. Attracting quality officers and ensuring accountability in policing will be key to building trust between the community and the officers who serve them, improving department morale, and making Louisville a safe, vibrant city.

LMPD has already taken action to implement many of the recommended measures included in the DOJ report aimed at improving accountability. Further reforms will be needed and GLI encourages officials to focus on changes in training, supervision, and hiring that will ensure equitable policing for all Louisvillians. GLI supports LMPD's efforts to recruit diverse officers and encourages lawmakers to continue to raise officer wages to make a career in the department more attractive and to recruit quality candidates.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

As Louisville Metro pushes into the next phase of energy production and hopes to maintain a competitive advantage against our peer cities, all parties must work together to ensure industry success. GLI encourages Louisville Metro to support renewable energy and solar share projects that enter the region to simplify the process and allow for collaboration between all interested parties.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Greater Louisville's economic prosperity is dependent on regional collaboration across local governments, community organizations, and the private sector. Close coordination and unified branding throughout the region and within Jefferson County are key to growth and business attraction.

- Local governments should not only coordinate economic development efforts with the private sector and community partners but with other local governments within our region as well. This should include cooperation across and within county lines, especially in Jefferson County, which is home to more than eighty independent cities and Louisville Metro.
- GLI encourages local governments in our region to proactively collaborate with and support the Greater Louisville Regional Economic Development Partnership.
- Local government should continue funding collaborative efforts amplifying regional branding to help Greater Louisville speak with one voice to prospective employers and talent.
- GLI supports the continued economic development of Southern Indiana through the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) and the Our Southern Indiana Development Authority. This multi-county partnership, which was awarded \$50 million in READI 1.0 and \$45 million in READI 2.0 this year, will allow the Greater Louisville region to leverage competitive state grant funding for economic development and quality of place projects.

TALENT ATTRACTION & RETENTION

Talent attraction and retention are vital to Louisville's future. Local governments must prioritize talent attraction and retention through bold and innovative efforts and continue to foster diversity and inclusion within our community.

- Increased resources should be dedicated to supporting key attraction efforts through the development of civic assets, including but not limited to, open communal space and cultural and sporting events.
- Louisville Metro should continue to strengthen its support of GLI's Live in Lou initiative.
- Louisville Metro should implement tax-based incentives to attract and retain talent, including relocation of regular and remote workers through cash incentives or tax rebate incentives.

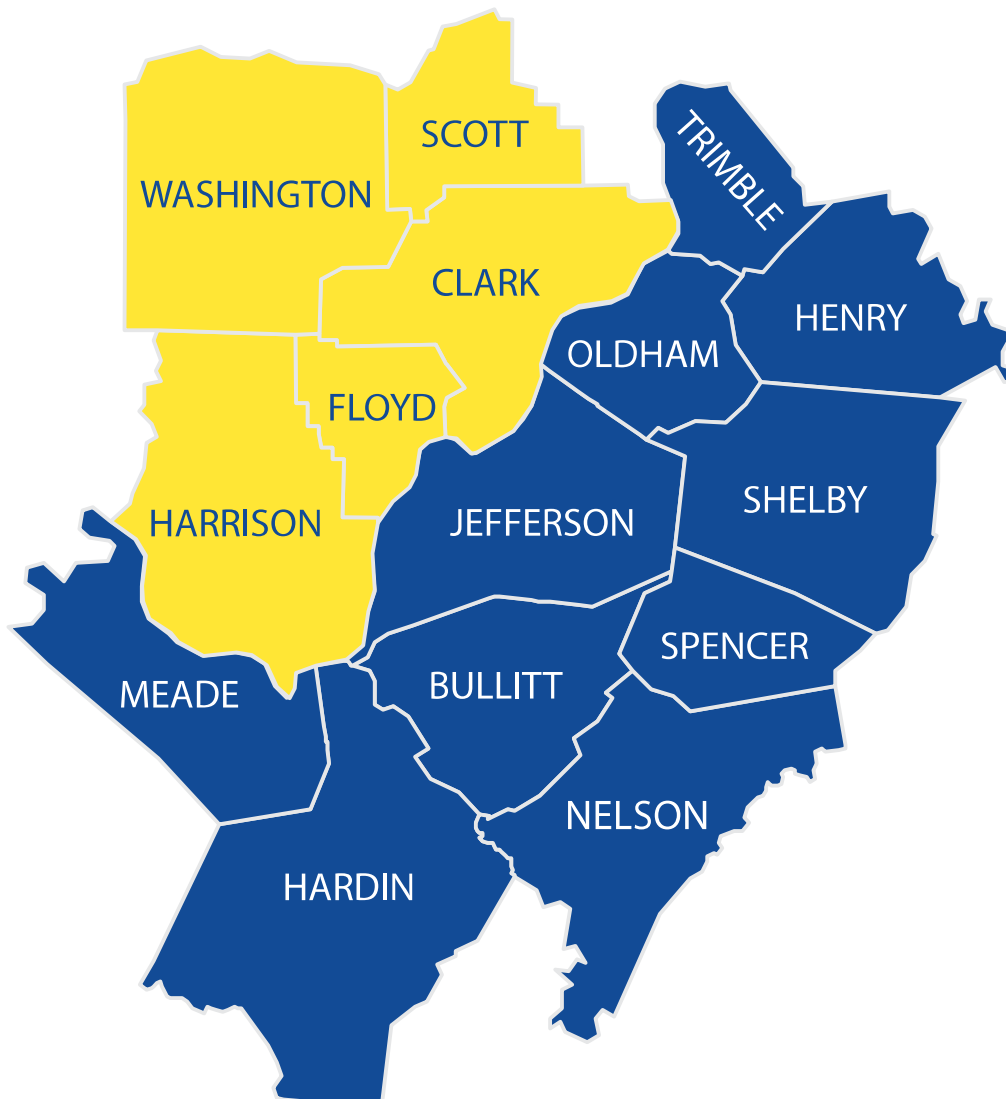
- Efforts to develop our high-skill workforce and foster a competitive tech sector in Louisville should continue to be prioritized.
- The work of the Louisville Metro Office of Globalization and regional refugee resettlement agencies should be amplified and continue to receive support.
- Louisville Metro should continue partnerships with primary and secondary education institutions to ensure their efforts around talent retention are aligned and complimentary.
- More work must be done to transition veterans into our regional workforce as they leave our regional partners at Fort Knox and Fort Campbell.
- Marketing campaigns to expand regional brand awareness outside of Louisville should be funded and supported by local governments.



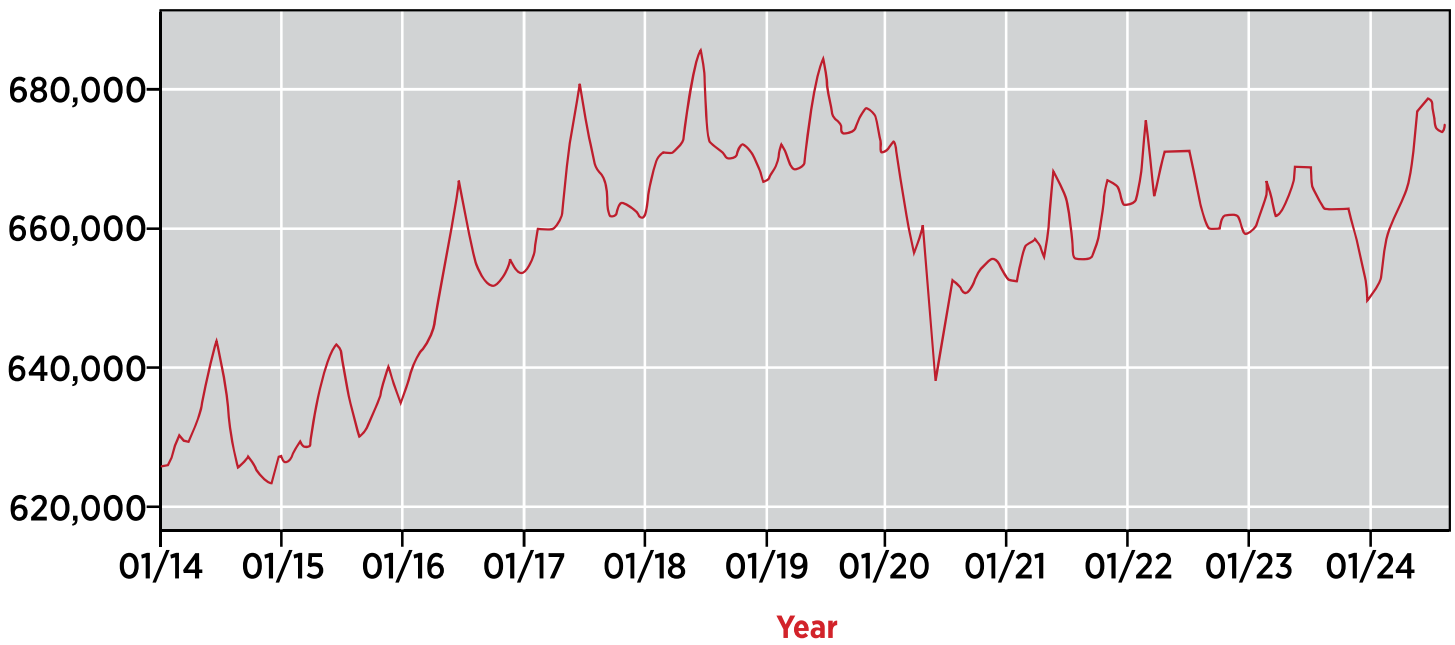
TOURISM

Tourism in Louisville – driven by authentic culture such as bourbon, iconic museums, festivals, and events, the culinary scene, horse racing, and the arts, in addition to conventions and tradeshow – is a multibillion-dollar industry, responsible for creating thousands of jobs and generating millions in state and local revenues every year. Local governments must remain committed to supporting and protecting our vital tourism industry.

- Louisville should promote policies to help cultivate perceptions of the area as a welcoming place and partner with GLI to oppose legislation that could create misperceptions of the region as unwelcoming.
 - Local governments must collaborate closely in support of major tourism attraction events and industries, including the Kentucky Derby, bourbon, craft beer, food events, river cruises, and Louisville’s emerging music festival scene.
 - GLI generally discourages increases to local fees and additional government surcharges on ticketed events in Louisville because of the potentially negative impacts on tourism and major attractions.
- Waterfront Park is the gateway to the Commonwealth and an essential component of downtown vibrancy, contributing more than \$40 million in annual economic impact. The expansion of the park into west Louisville will connect downtown with more neighborhoods, improving the waterfront and providing additional opportunities for tourism, recreation, and community-gathering. Given the importance to our state and local economies, GLI supports increasing operational funding for Waterfront Park from both the state and Louisville Metro.
 - GLI encourages lawmakers to continue their support for Kentucky Venues, the operator of the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center and Kentucky International Convention Center. Kentucky Venues generates over \$360 million in economic impact each year and 69% of the hotel occupancy in the Greater Louisville region comes from the 300-350 events that Kentucky Venues hosts each year. GLI is proud to support Kentucky Venues as a major tourism driver for the region.
 - The Louisville Zoo serves as a regional and national tourism attraction and continues to expand its offerings. GLI supports local funding for programs that increase inclusivity and accessibility, ensuring this community asset can be utilized by the entire community.



Labor Force Participation Rate in Louisville



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

To compete with peer cities for jobs and support the growth of businesses, Greater Louisville must be home to a competitive workforce. While state and federal governments drive many workforce programs, local governments play a key role in supporting workforce development and training and retraining initiatives through innovative programming and targeted investment.

- Louisville Metro must continue investing in the vital work of KentuckianaWorks to develop, train, and retrain our regional workforce. GLI also supports the partnership between KentuckianaWorks and Southern Indiana Works that has been recognized by the Department of Labor as the first bi-state region under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
- Local workforce development programs should receive continued support, including innovative programs that provide wraparound services for job seekers and students who face barriers to employment and education, including SummerWorks, Code Louisville, The Spot, and the KentuckianaWorks College Access Center.
- GLI encourages Louisville Metro and Jefferson County Public Schools to continue their support and collaboration with Evolve502 to remove persistent barriers to higher education for individuals in our community.
- The highly successful JCPD Academies of Louisville must be continually supported and championed by local governments through increased partnerships, resources, and funding.

**40% of all
working age
adults in the
region are not
participating in
the workforce.**

(Bureau of Labor Statistics)



[GLI]