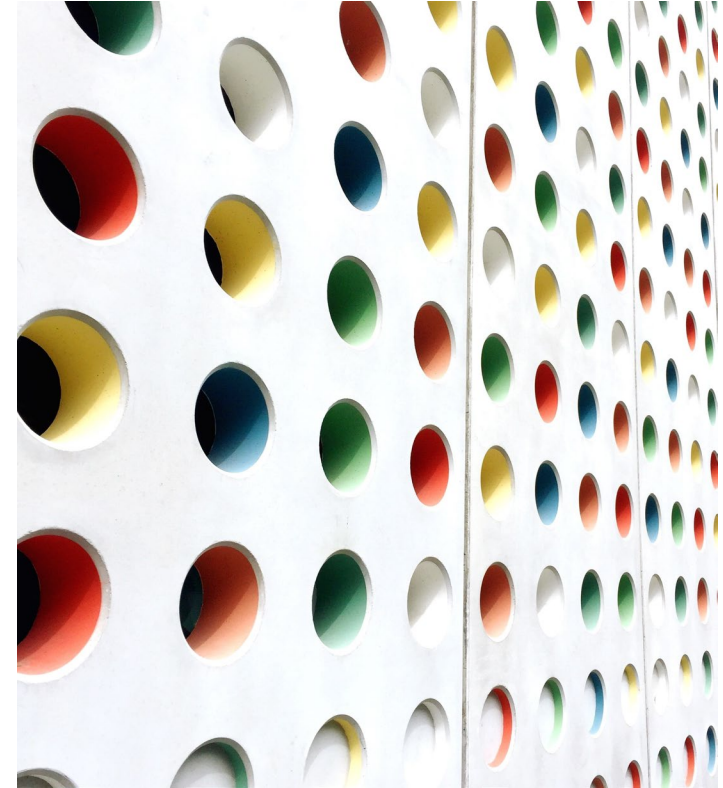


Proposed 2026 state policy agendas

MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2025



2026 STATE POLICY ISSUES

For review

- ❖ Federal funds through state agencies
- ❖ State funds to address needs
- ❖ Local government authority
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Economy & Housing
- ❖ Environment
- ❖ Safety & Security
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Early Learning
- ❖ Aging

Board discussion

The policy agenda comes together through committee and community discussion.

The policy agenda identifies important federal funding that flows through the states to local communities and MARC.

- Are there additions important to cities and counties?

The agenda identifies needs that would benefit from increased state resources.

- Are there needs where additional state funds would be important to cities and counties?

Transportation & Environment

Transportation

- ❖ Safety
- ❖ Funding for multi-modal systems
- ❖ Planning and strong relationships with state agencies

Environment

- ❖ Solid waste and recycling
- ❖ Air and water quality, extreme weather

Economy & Housing

- ❖ Support for **local economic development projects**

- ❖ Provide resources to help **match** federal grants

- ❖ **Attainable and workforce housing**

- ❖ Support **local housing development tools**

- ❖ Support **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program**

- ❖ Provide resources for **household expense relief**

Safety & Security

- ❖ Support local investments in a **quality regional 911 system**
- ❖ Support investments in **quality pre-hospital emergency care (EMS)** through reimbursement and community paramedicine

Health

❖ Strengthen **public health infrastructure**

❖ **Sustain access to health care**
(Medicaid) and behavioral health

❖ Consider roles for metro areas in new **Rural Health Transformation Grant.**

- Use of technology
- Community Care Hubs
- Community Health Workers

Early Learning

- ❖ Support robust **early childcare system**
- ❖ Support investments for a **quality workforce**
- ❖ Provide resources to offer **strong family support** systems

Aging

- ❖ Additional support for **Area Agencies on Aging** to meet growing needs.
- ❖ Support for **Community Care Hubs** to enable residents with chronic health needs to receive community resources through coordinated mechanisms.
- ❖ Support strong **statewide congregate and home-delivered meal infrastructure**.
- ❖ Support **long-term care ombudsman program** to protect vulnerable older adults in facilities.