

OKLAHOMA

**BUSINESS
LEADERS
POLL**

2026

ABOUT THE BUSINESS LEADERS POLL

The Business Leaders Poll is Oklahoma's annual pulse check of the business community. A collaborative project of The State Chamber, the Oklahoma Business Roundtable, and The State Chamber Research Foundation, the poll measures the views of business owners and executives on the issues affecting Oklahoma's economy.

The State Chamber of Oklahoma commissioned AlphaROC to conduct a survey of 401 Oklahoma business leaders on the Occam platform between March 17 and April 4, 2026. All interviews were conducted online. The survey carries a margin of error of ± 4.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The survey focused on economic conditions, workforce, infrastructure, innovation, and the policy priorities business leaders believe matter most for Oklahoma's competitiveness.

This report presents what business leaders told us and what those findings mean for Oklahoma's ability to grow, attract investment, and compete.

"We have to focus on what businesses actually need to invest or expand here – and act accordingly, even if it doesn't score political points."

- Survey Participant

Oklahoma has momentum. The next step is turning that momentum into measurable progress.

- **Workforce is the dominant concern:** 74% of respondents identified workforce as one of the two most important issues facing business growth.
- **Education and talent pipelines are not keeping pace with employer demand:** 30% say the current workforce meets their needs.
- **Infrastructure gaps are beginning to affect investment decisions:** 40% say infrastructure gaps have delayed business investment or expansion
- **Innovation and technology adoption remain uneven:** five in six business leaders see innovation economy as something less than strong.
- **Business leaders want practical, ROI-driven solutions:** 89% of business leaders think the state needs to prioritize funding and resources for improved education outcomes.

WORKFORCE & EDUCATION:

THE DEFINING CONSTRAINT ON GROWTH

WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION BARRIERS

Policy	Overall
Childcare Access	77%
Benefits Cliff Reform	39%
Immigration / Visa Pathways	34%
Transportation	34%
Workforce Housing	30%

CHILDCARE ACCESS IS IN A CATEGORY OF ITS OWN.

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View the full
results:

