



Kate Shanks
Senior Vice President of Public Affairs
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Kate Shanks is Senior Vice President of Public Affairs for the Kentucky Chamber, the state's largest business association. She oversees the Chamber's advocacy work, including developing and advocating for the business community's state and federal legislative agendas, policy research and design, member engagement, voter engagement, and candidate training.

Since stepping into the role, the Chamber's advocacy success has led to more than \$1 billion in savings each year. She has led the Chamber's work on child care investment, tax reform including reducing the personal income tax, data privacy regulation, federal alignment of labor and employment laws, and civil litigation reform.

Kate is a lifelong resident of Kentucky and earned a bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Conservation and Management and a Master of Public Administration from the Martin School for Public Policy and Administration at the University of Kentucky, where she serves on the Board of Visitors. In 2024 she received the Martin School Distinguished Alumni Award. She is a member of the 2017 Leadership Kentucky class and a recipient of the Kentucky Gazette's 2022 Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government award. Before joining the Chamber, Kate spent over a decade working for state agencies in communications, policy analysis, and legislative affairs, predominately in the energy and environment field.

As the daughter of a small business owner, she understands the importance of small business in Kentucky and started Small Business Day at the Capitol to connect business leaders and local chambers of commerce with policymakers. She lives in Frankfort with her husband, Greg, and two sons, Tyler and Brendan.