



2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The mission of the Allen Fairview Chamber of Commerce is to advocate, educate and build relationships that enable our communities and members to prosper.

The mission of the Business Advocacy Committee is to inform, educate, engage, and advocate for the business community regarding relevant public policy.

The Allen Fairview Chamber of Commerce acts as the voice of and advocate for business.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The government shall do no harm to the Allen Fairview area business community or economy.
2. The government should limit taxes and government regulation except when doing so would constrain business growth.
3. The government should focus on issues and priorities that foster a favorable business community and job growth in the region including streamlining processes.
4. The government should maintain local control by keeping as many decisions and regulations as possible at the governance level closest to the people.
5. The Allen Fairview Chamber of Commerce will advocate for legislation that promotes or maintains a fair and competitive business environment.

Business

Business Regulation

- Promote legislation that reduces red tape and supports business growth.
- Promote legislation that encourages competition locally and globally.
- Promote legislation that limits tax requirements that stifle business growth at all levels.
- Support initiatives that increase trade opportunities for businesses.
- Oppose legislation that limits the ability of the business community to engage in electoral and policy-making arenas.
- Oppose unfunded mandates that will fall on local business owners.
- Oppose legislation that would damage Texas' reputation as a "business-friendly" and welcoming state.

Economic Development

- Support legislation that supports and encourages local job growth and a business-friendly climate.
- Support continued funding for economic development programs such as the Texas Enterprise Fund, Texas Tourism, and the Texas Film Commission.

- Support legislation that encourages capital investment in Texas by protecting the Texas Economic Development Act (Chapter 313).
- Oppose attempts to reduce a municipality's ability to use any currently available development tools.

Public Education

- Support legislation to continue the funding promises made in the 86th legislative session through HB3.
- Support legislation to allow school districts to count as present for the purposes of Average Daily Attendance (ADA) students participating in virtual learning programs including locally developed and approved online courses.
- Support investments in technology to ensure greater connectivity and access for students across Texas.

Higher Education & Workforce

- Promote education development to allow Collin College and the University of North Texas (UNT) to create appropriate studies programming to meet the growing job needs across the region.
- Support programming and course development that provides resources for workforce skills development including certification in careers such as nursing, automotive, building and other areas that do not require a degree.

Health Care

- Support policies supporting market-based healthcare solutions that increase access and choice of healthcare programs.
- Work to minimize costs and cost increases for employees and employers caused by state and federally mandated benefits.
- Promote legislation that supports IT initiatives (such as telemedicine) where possible to reduce costs and enhance care.
- Support adequate, predictable, and stable funding for Texas health care providers, including trauma care providers, maternal health services, and community health services.
- Support the expansion of behavioral health services that address the full continuum of care, including the expansion of inpatient facilities and additional outpatient programs at all levels.

Infrastructure

Transportation

- Promote legislation and funding for new construction for improved mobility along with appropriate funding for maintaining and rehabilitating existing and aging infrastructure.
- Promote innovative solutions to provide for 21st-century transportation needs.
- Support continuing the policy of no diversions from the Highway Trust Fund.
- Continuing to fund Propositions 1 and 7 with no interruptions, reductions, or diversions.
- Oppose efforts that would increase the cost or slow delivery of materials needed for public or critical infrastructure.

Water

- Promote legislation that supports funding for building, maintenance, and rehabilitation of new and aging infrastructure.
- Promote responsible policies and projects that increase the quantity and quality of water for the City of Allen Fairview and the region to further economic growth.
- Protect the use of eminent domain authority for water providers, to ensure the ability to provide a reliable and cost-effective water supply for the North Texas region.

Energy

- Support legislation and regulatory actions that promote necessary and well-planned energy infrastructure development.
- Support legislation ensuring that electrical transmission planning is coordinated with local residential and commercial growth.

Telecommunications

- Support the development of plans and compiling resources needed for greater broadband connectivity to enhance access to public education, healthcare, employment, news, and information.

Governance

Local Control

- Support policies that allow the local government to improve the local business community.
- Oppose attempts to limit or prohibit municipalities from using public funds to communicate with legislators and state agencies, as well as pay membership dues to organizations that hire lobbyists.
- Support amendments to HB 2439 to allow cities the ability to regulate building materials and methods.
- Support amendments to HB 3267 to create a more equitable process for both municipalities and developers.
- Oppose unfunded mandates placed on local municipalities.
- Oppose legislation that would impose revenue caps inhibiting growth and economic stability for political subdivisions.

Effective Date: January 1, 2023