



Legislative priorities 2019

Public Education & Workforce

- Promote legislation that creates a more equitable and transparent public school finance system that remedies the unequal recapture rate and adequately addresses Texas public school financing including appropriate funding of high-growth school districts.
- Explore opportunities for additional funding dedicated to public education that can be tied to specific programs and outcomes.
- Support increased funding for workforce development education programs to cultivate a skilled workforce.
- Support community colleges in training students for completion of industry certificates, associate degrees, Bachelor programs and continuous upskilling opportunities.
- Support community colleges by maximizing the use of dual credit courses and other creative partnerships with high schools and four-year universities.
- Support legislation and regulatory reforms that accelerate and advance the seamless transition of our Texas veterans into the Texas workforce.
- Support programs that provide increased access to post-secondary degrees and certificates.

Transportation

- Support legislation and funding that maintains and rehabilitates existing and aging infrastructure
- Promote innovative solutions to provide for 21st century transportation needs.
- Further increase Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) funding and advocate for proper allocation of transportation funding in fast growth communities.
- Reinforce regional decision-making authority to prioritize and identify funding for transportation projects in North Texas.

Economic Development

- Maintain R & D tax credit to incentivize new investments in Texas.
- Promote legislation and programs such as the EDC, Tax-Increment funding (TIF) and other economic development tools that retain and attract new and existing businesses.
- Promote continued funding for economic development programs such as the Texas Enterprise Fund and 4A/4B funding for state and local economic growth.
- Promote legislation that supports and encourages local job growth and a business-friendly climate.

Business Regulations

- Promote legislation that reduces red tape and constricts business growth.
- Evaluate opportunities to create equitable, effective tax(es) on a broad basis from the business sector.
- Manage property taxes with local tax structures and processes that are fair and equitable for business.

Local Control

- Support decision-making at the city and county levels rather than the state and federal levels.
- Oppose legislation that creates unfunded mandates at the city and county levels.

Healthcare

- Promote stable and adequate funding for health care providers in Texas, including maximizing opportunities for additional or matching federal funding; and eliminate state and federal mandated benefits that significantly increase cost to employers and employees.
- Support the expansion of access to healthcare and promote patient safety for individuals disproportionately impacted by the social determinants of health.
- Provide adequate funding for mental health services that allow individuals with severe and persistent mental illness to access services that are clinically appropriate, costs effective and improve health outcomes.

Water and Environment

- Create effective water management strategies that include incentives for increased conservation efforts, recycling and reuse projects.
- Support efforts and legislation that would allocate state funding to increase water supply within the state through development of additional reservoirs, extension of pipelines/pumping systems to transport available water to and within the region; and development of non-conventional water supply resources such as desalination, water reuse, etc.