



DALLAS REGIONAL CHAMBER'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Through the Dallas Regional Chamber's work in economic development and public policy, Dallas has become a shining example to the country for economic expansion through business opportunities, corporate relocations, and job growth.

The DRC's Agenda for the 85th Texas Legislative Session builds on the progress of recent years, while committing to address long-term challenges. The DRC will continue to lead economic development and growth to strengthen our business climate, drive improvements in education from early childhood through higher education, attract and retain the best and brightest workers from around the world, and advocate for public policies that strategically manage our region's growth to ensure a high quality of life for all.

Here are the DRC's legislative priorities:

Economic Development

- Maintain the state's "deal closing" fund, the Texas Enterprise Fund, at a level that enables Texas to compete with other states for multiple and major corporate recruitment and expansion opportunities that project a high rate of return to Texas on funds invested
- Maintain the Texas Economic Development Act incentive program, "Chapter 313," to attract large capital investment to Texas
- Enhance and continue to streamline for companies, colleges and universities, and job seekers the process and funds available, such as Skills Development Funds, to train Texans to fill good jobs created by new and expanding companies

Transportation

- Support continued policy of no diversions from the State Highway Fund and full appropriation of Prop 1 and Prop 7 revenues to fund transportation
- Affirm local control of prioritization and funding of transportation projects by regional Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Support project delivery tools for mitigating congestion such as toll roads, tolled managed lanes, design build and concessions
- Support Texas high-speed rail and oppose legislation that would inhibit successful delivery of a Dallas – Houston service by the private sector

Public Education and Early Childhood

- Provide effective, accessible, and quality early childhood and out of school time programs
- Improve the public school finance system that prepares all students, including Pre-K, for post-secondary attainment and supports Dallas regional public school districts
- Ensure students graduate with demonstrated college and career readiness and relevant workforce skills, including a focus on educator quality and sustained high quality Pre-K for all eligible children

Higher Education and Workforce

- Achieve the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's 60x30TX goals for public higher education institutions through initiatives such as system-wide collaboration on transfer and articulation agreement reform and effective advising aimed at improving student degree completion, and state maintenance of financial investment in higher education
- Support state research initiatives for higher education and health-related institutions, including emerging Tier One research universities
- Increase career pathway opportunities and attainment throughout the education and workforce pipeline, including expanded Career and Technical Education (CTE) and industry-specific certification programs aligned to meet workforce needs

Health Care

- Support the long-term extension of the State's Medicaid 1115 Transformation Waiver and efforts to increase the number of Texans with comprehensive health insurance
- Preserve and protect trauma care funding in Texas to help mitigate the burden of uncompensated emergency care
- Support expansion of telemedicine and virtual health initiatives to expand access to primary and specialty health care across the region

Water

- Conduct appropriate oversight on SWIFT applications made to the State to ensure the distribution of funds are based on need
- Support the use of eminent domain authority for water providers to ensure a reliable water supply to growing communities
- Oppose legislation that would unreasonably prevent the State or water providers from exercising their ability to follow water management strategies in the State Water Plan

Energy

- Support a consistent statewide regulatory framework, reinforcing the States' ability to ensure the implementation of a consistent and sound energy policy statewide
- Ensure Texas' competitive energy market is sustainable and delivers electric reliability and affordability that supports economic growth

**For questions or comments please contact our Senior Vice President of Public Policy,
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