
DALLAS REGIONAL CHAMBER®

Dallas Regional Chamber Agenda for the 86th Texas Legislative Session

Prioritization of State Funds

- Encourage legislators to appropriately fund the State's obligations in the biennial budget
 - *establishing a sustainable and effective pre-K–12 public school funding system*
 - *maximizing federal matching funds for the state's Medicaid program*
- Appropriate sufficient funding to maintain the Texas Enterprise Fund to attract high-value companies to Texas
- Adopt clearer standards to apply the resources accrued in the Texas Economic Stabilization Fund for capital and non-recurring projects in order to provide relief to the operating budget

Preserve Texas' Economic Development Success

- Reauthorize Chapter 312 of the Texas State Tax Code to continue allowing local property taxing entities to enter into tax abatement agreements to encourage private investment
- Maintain the Texas Economic Development Act incentive program, Chapter 313 of the Texas State Tax Code, to attract large capital investment to Texas
- Support and promote policies ensuring Texas remains the premier place to live, work and grow a business without discrimination in any form
- Improve property tax administration in ways that increase transparency, do not shift tax burdens between taxpayers, and maintain effective local responsibility for services
- Ensure the regulation of compensation and wages, including paid time off, remain at the state and federal level

Invest in Texas' Workforce

Public Education

- Establish a sustainable and effective pre-K–12 public school funding system that:
 - requires that all locally collected education tax dollars sent to the state be used for public education
 - restores the state share of public education funding to reduce pressure on local property taxes
 - provides financial transparency and taxpayer accountability for education funds
 - explores additional revenue sources with incentives for improved outcomes and efficiencies
 - ensures students graduate fully prepared for college, career, and military success
- Require high levels of academic rigor and accountability, demonstrated by measurable outcomes
- Promote educator attraction and preparation with effective strategic compensation and career pathways to promote and retain the best
- Expand quality, effective, and accessible early childhood education and out-of-school time offerings

For questions or comments please contact
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Higher Education

- Prioritize the Higher Education Coordinating Board's *60x30TX* goals through:
 - full formula funding with additional outcomes-based incentives to improve degree completion
 - new interventions and funding for diverse student populations aligned with success measures
 - improved pathways for credential completion to meet regional industry needs
 - streamlined college credit transfer processes, including dual credit and early college high schools, to improve completion and reduce student debt
 - sustain student financial aid programs, including fully funding TEXAS and Tuition Equalization Grants
- Support state research initiatives including core research funding and full funding of the backlog of qualified and promised matches for local gifts to the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP)

Academic Health Centers

- Provide full funding for existing resident slots supported by the Graduate Medical Education Formula and additional budget incentives for expanded slots, working with area hospitals
- Consideration of a UT Southwestern-specific performance-driven biomedical research formula, using the institution's own hold harmless base appropriation, with metrics developed in partnership with the Legislature.

Workforce Development

- Meet industry workforce needs through alignment and expansion of:
 - Career and Technical Education (CTE) and industry-specific certifications;
 - trade and technical skills training, apprenticeships, internships, and work-based learning opportunities; and
 - effective financial incentives for students, institutions, and employers to participate in career aligned work experience programs
- Coordinate system-wide appropriate data sharing to create efficiency and informed decision-making
- Increase access for and remove barriers to non-traditional workforce populations

Sustain and Invest in North Texas' Infrastructure

Transportation

- Establish clear and stable standards to invite private sector investment and expertise into the development of public infrastructure projects, where appropriate and valuable
- Protect the local prioritization of policies and funding for improved transportation, including toll roads, managed lanes, design build, concessions and additional transit options.

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- Restore the ability to use comprehensive development agreements to meet current and future transportation needs
- Support new project delivery tools to allow for innovative infrastructure financing that would not further obligate state funds
- Support Texas high speed rail and oppose legislation that would inhibit successful delivery of a Dallas – Houston service by the private sector
- Expand initiatives and opportunities that safely improve mobility for the state and local communities

Water

- Conduct appropriate oversight on SWIFT applications made to the State to ensure the distribution of funds are based on need

Energy

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

Eminent Domain

- Maintain the equitable use of eminent domain authority to ensure the delivery of needed infrastructure improvements for growing communities

Supporting a Healthy Workforce

- Support public policies that will lead to healthy families and a healthy workforce for Texas businesses, including:
 - expanding telemedicine and virtual health initiatives that will increase access to primary and specialty health care across the region;
 - funding for behavioral outpatient care programs and construction and expansion of inpatient facilities for the growing mental health crisis in Texas; and
 - growing and implementing opioid and pain management programs to combat the growing overuse, addiction, and death caused by opioid abuse
- Promote stable, adequate, and predictable funding for health care providers in Texas, including:
 - trauma care funding to mitigate the burden of uncompensated emergency care
 - renewal of the Local Provider Participation Funds (LPPF) for both Dallas and Tarrant Counties to ensure federal matching funds are maximized for vital Medicaid supplemental payment programs

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