

---

# DALLAS REGIONAL CHAMBER®

---

## Dallas Regional Chamber Agenda for the 86<sup>th</sup> 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  
our Senior Vice President of Public Policy, Priscilla Camacho at (210) 326-3751 or at  
[pcamacho@dallaschamber.org](mailto:pcamacho@dallaschamber.org)

---

# DALLAS REGIONAL CHAMBER®

---

## *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.

**For questions or comments please contact  
our Senior Vice President of Public Policy, Priscilla Camacho at (210) 326-3751 or at  
pcamacho@dallaschamber.org**

---

# DALLAS REGIONAL CHAMBER®

---

- 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

**For questions or comments please contact  
our Senior Vice President of Public Policy, Priscilla Camacho at (210) 326-3751 or at  
pcamacho@dallaschamber.org**