



Metro 8 Legislative Agenda: 86th Texas Legislative Session

Preserve Texas' Global Competitiveness

Metro 8 represents the business sectors of Texas' eight largest metropolitan areas: Arlington, Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio. Collectively, the Metro 8 chambers serve more than **20,000** Texas companies and employ a large portion of the Texas workforce.

While each Metro 8 organization operates separately, we also work cooperatively to support pro-growth policies that keep Texas competitive, and serve the interests of our unique constituents. Since its creation, the Metro 8 has focused largely on economic development, mobility, and workforce policies that will benefit state and local economies.

Protect Texas' Economic Development Success

In partnership with state and local governments, the Metro 8 Chambers support tools that help drive economic development across the entire state. Thus, the Metro 8 supports the following:

- Reauthorize Chapter 312 of the Texas State Tax Code.
- Replenish the Texas Enterprise Fund to ensure at or above \$200M in the fund.
- Continued funding for the Texas Military Preparedness Commission's grant programs, including the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant Program (DEAAG).

Invest in Texas' Workforce

The Metro 8 Chambers are invested in improving educational outcomes for Texas' students to create better career options for them and secure a sustainable, highly-trained workforce for Texas in the future. The Metro 8 Chambers advocate the following:

- Establish a sustainable and effective pre-K-12 school finance system.
- Advance the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's *60x30TX* goals by:
 - Fully funding TEXAS grants; and
 - Maintaining existing higher education funding.

Continue Policies Supporting Talent Attraction

Texas continues to be the premiere place to live, work and grow a business. Maintaining the state's ability to compete in the global marketplace is crucial for businesses to attract the talent and private investment needed to grow and prosper.

- Oppose any law, statute, ordinance or rule that discriminates against any individual or group of individuals.
- Ensure the regulation of compensation and wages, including paid time off, remain at the state and federal level.

Sustain and Invest in Texas' Infrastructure

Sustaining and improving the efficient movement of people and goods is critical to fostering continued economic growth and quality of life for this state. Thus, the Metro 8 supports the following:

- Protect local prioritization of policies and funding for infrastructure projects.
- Clear and stable standards to invite private investment in public projects.
- Preserve the billions of dollars in road and highway funding added by Proposition 1 and Proposition 7.