



# 2023 Austin Fly-In Advocacy Prep

Feb. 15, 2023

# PUBLIC POLICY TEAM



**Matt Garcia**  
Senior Vice President



**Zoe Halfmann**  
Vice President



**Morgan Christian**  
Director



**Isabelle Scott**  
Coordinator

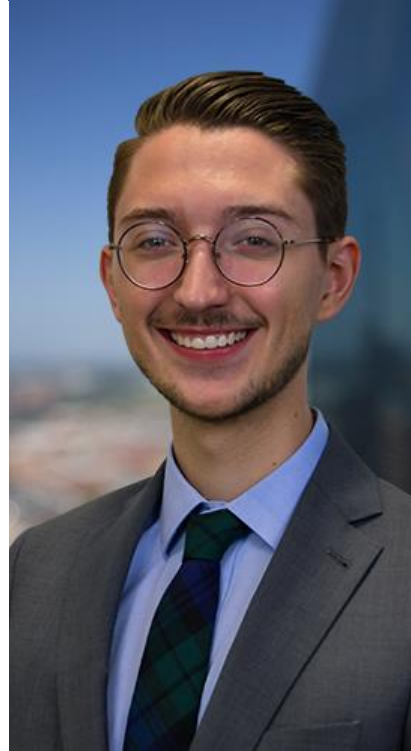
# EDUCATION & WORKFORCE TEAM



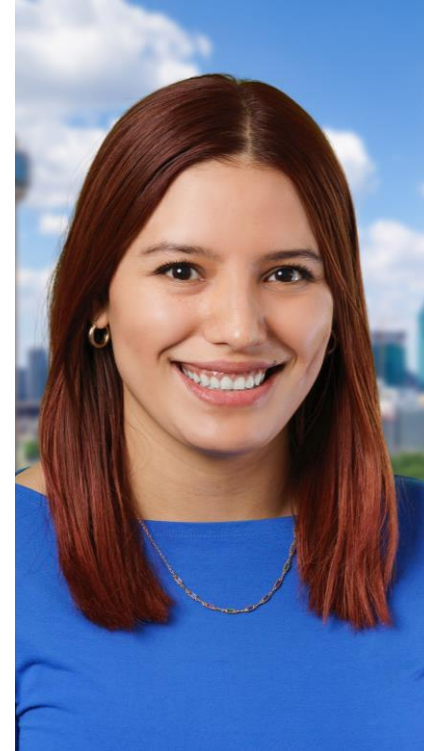
**Jarrad Toussant**  
Senior Vice President



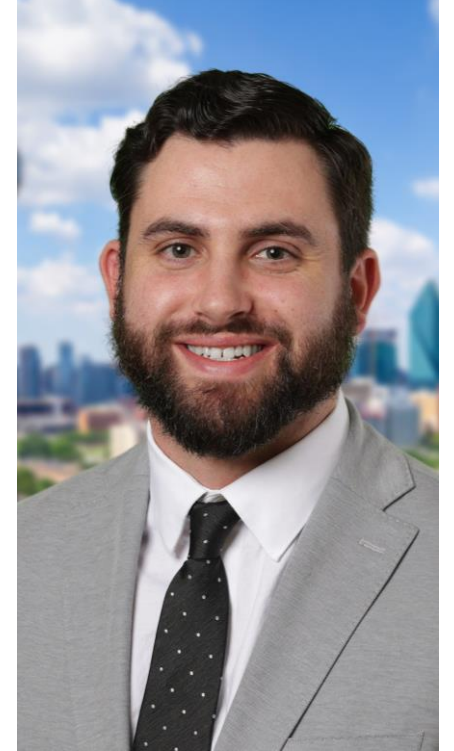
**Elizabeth Caudill  
McClain**  
Vice President



**Michael Wood**  
Managing Director



**Sara Medina**  
Manager



**Tyler Files**  
Manager



# LEADERSHIP, COMMS, & EVENTS



**Olympia Newman**  
Director, Leadership

**Dana Jennings**  
Vice President  
Communications



**Raizelle Edwards**  
Manager, Events

# OVERVIEW

- We are looking forward to convening with you all next week to represent the Dallas Region's business community at the State Capitol!
- Our goal as we are meeting with lawmakers is to effectively advocate for pro-business, pro-growth policies that ensure the continued prosperity of our region while maintaining a high quality of life for all.
- **To guide our conversations, we will use the DRC's agenda for the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session, which outlines our region's needs in economic development, education and workforce, health care, and quality of life.**
- The agenda is the result of several months of working group meetings engaging our member companies and community partners and was approved by the DRC's Public Policy Advisory Council and Executive Committee.

# 88<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION AGENDA

January 10 – May 29, 2023



## PRESERVING TEXANS' ECONOMIC SUCCESS

- Preserve Texas' friendly business climate through support for policies and robust incentive programs that promote investment and job creation for Texans.
- Ensure that Texas' diverse energy market, water supply, and housing and transportation options are affordable, reliable, sustainable, and secure for all Texans.
- Utilize accessible and sustainable funding streams to support the Broadband Development Office's efforts to increase broadband access for all Texans.
- Support a tax system that stimulates economic growth by balancing the interests of all Texans and by providing transparent rules and processes.
- Support policies that promote diverse investment in technology, biotechnology, and early-stage entrepreneurs across the region to create the jobs of the future for Texans.



## INVESTING IN TEXAS' WORKFORCE

- Preserve the competitiveness of Texas' higher education institutions, including through improved state investment in the community college finance system and increased assistance for research initiatives and academic facilities.
- Provide systemic supports for Texas' child care infrastructure to expand access to quality, affordable options that allow more parents to join the workforce.
- Ensure an equitable and rigorous public education system through evidence-based state funding investments and a sustained commitment to academic accountability.
- Strengthen Texas' workforce development pipeline through investments in reskilling programs in high-demand fields and improved coordination between state agencies

# 88<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION AGENDA

January 10 – May 29, 2023



## SUPPORTING A HEALTHY TALENT POOL

- Support innovative approaches to addressing current health care labor shortages and creating a robust pipeline for future health care talent.
- Support policies that increase access to quality care options and promote the health and well-being of Texas businesses and their workers.
- Provide adequate, predictable, and stable funding for Texas health care providers, including trauma care providers, maternal health services, and community health services.
- Fund the expansion of behavioral health services that address the full continuum of care, including the expansion of inpatient facilities and additional outpatient programs at all levels.



## PROMOTING A HIGH QUALITY LIFE FOR ALL

- Protect businesses' rights to manage their organizations and employees according to their unique needs.
- Ensure Texas remains a welcoming state for all, and the premier state in the United States for all people to live, work, and do business.
- Promote initiatives tied to public safety that build greater trust between communities and those serving in law enforcement.
- Support the establishment and expansion of data-driven offender re-entry programs and funding initiatives for public safety technology investments that build an inclusive community where everyone has the opportunity to contribute and thrive.

# OVERVIEW

- **~70 attendees** total, divided into **5 meeting tracks**: 1 for each DRC agenda area + Young Professionals
- **~30 lawmakers** confirmed for meetings, selected for membership in the Dallas Regional Delegation, expertise in DRC priority issues, and committee leadership/membership
- The day will begin at **9:00 a.m. at the Capitol**, where we will divide into our separate track groups.
  - *The Economic Development track will meet at 8:30 a.m. due to an early meeting.*
- Morning meetings will generally run from **9:30 – 11:45 a.m.**, and afternoon meetings will generally run from **1:30 – 4:15 p.m.**, with breaks depending on scheduled meeting times.
- We will reconvene for lunch and a fireside chat with Joe Straus, Former Speaker of the Texas House, from **12:00 – 1:00 p.m. at the Texas Association of Business**.
- From **4:30 – 6:30 p.m.**, we'll gather at the **Driskill Hotel's Citadel Room** for a celebratory reception hosted with the City of Dallas.



# ADVOCACY GUIDELINES

## When you arrive:

- Introduce yourself as a representative from the Dallas Regional Chamber, in Austin for the DRC's 2023 Austin Fly-In.
- Sign the guest book, if there is one.
- Mention whether your company has a location in the lawmaker's district.
- Address the lawmaker as "Senator" or "Representative" (or "Chairman" or "Chairwoman" if applicable).
- Remember that lawmakers often have last-minute scheduling conflicts, and if they aren't available, meeting with staff is just as valuable – and often more valuable!

# ADVOCACY GUIDELINES

## During the meeting:

- Divide up talking points among your group members to effectively share the DRC's message for your track.
- Focus the discussion on the key issues outlined in your track materials.
  - If the lawmaker/staffer asks for more information than you can provide, defer to the DRC staffer leading your group, who can arrange follow-up.
- Take notes for future thank-you and follow-up by the DRC team.
- Be appreciative, respectful, responsive, and prepared. Avoid discussion of election campaigns.

## Wrapping up:

- Remind both lawmakers and staff about the reception at the Driskill from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- Leave behind the provided folder and DRC items for review.



# BREAKOUT ROOMS

1. Economic Development
2. Education & Workforce
3. Health Care
4. Quality of Life
5. Young Professionals

# NEXT STEPS

- Secure your hotel accommodations and transportation bookings, if you haven't already.
  - *We recommend the Hyatt Centric, Aloft Austin, or Omni Austin.*
- Review [maps](#) of the Capitol Complex for parking, transit, and accessibility information.
  - *[tspb.texas.gov/plan/maps/maps.html](https://tspb.texas.gov/plan/maps/maps.html)*
- **Keep an eye out for a “Know Before You Go” briefing email with additional information and a link to our Fly-In website, where you will be able to access the meeting agendas and materials covered today.**
- Be ready to share your experience with us! **#DRCinATX**



@dallasregionalchamber



@DRC



Dallas Regional Chamber



@dallasregionalchamber





# REMAINING QUESTIONS & OPEN DISCUSSION



**See you at the Capitol!**  
**Wednesday, Feb. 22 | 9:00 a.m.\***

**\*Economic Development track attendees should arrive by 8:30 a.m. and no later than 8:45 a.m.**