



# KEY DRC MESSAGES

## QUALITY OF LIFE

*For your reference as an attendee – not to leave behind with lawmakers/staff*

### About the Dallas Region and the Dallas Regional Chamber's Legislative Priorities

- The Dallas Regional Chamber serves as the voice of the business community in our region. We represent over **700 member companies employing more than 600,000 Texans**, and we were named the National Chamber of the Year last summer.
- The strength of Texas' economy is driven by the strength of the Dallas Region's economy. **222 companies have moved their headquarters to the Dallas Region since 2010, and 1.3 million new jobs have been created in the region.** That's more than one new company a month every month for 12 years.
- The Dallas Region's economy is the most diverse of any large market in the U.S. **Of the last 10 Fortune 500 companies to move to the region, eight have come from different sectors.**
- The Dallas Region is the fourth-largest market in the U.S. with a population of 7.8 million, and we're projected to pass Chicago in about 10 years. **It will be vital this legislative session to make the commitments we need to keep our region and state an attractive place to live, work, and do business.**
- The DRC's legislative priorities focus on pro-business, pro-growth policies that ensure continued prosperity while maintaining a high quality of life for all. **Our agenda for this session outlines our region's needs in economic development, education and workforce, health care, and quality of life.** It is the result of several months of engagement with our member companies and community partners across a variety of industries.
- The agenda is very focused on workforce development. With labor shortages and job market competition, the business community prioritizes policies that will help develop the talent pipeline for the jobs of both today and the future.

### Issue Area #1: Law Enforcement Training Center

***DRC agenda language:** 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.*

### Lead Introduction

- As the premier state in the United States for all people to live, work, and do business, it's important that Texas is welcoming to all and is open to opportunity.
- Texas is home to some of the greatest neighborhoods and communities in the nation, and ensuring that we have the highest quality of life to offer is important to companies looking to move employees from their homes.



# KEY DRC MESSAGES

- The strength of Texas' economy depends on the strength of its communities, and strong communities require a fair, transparent, and trusted public safety system. More and more, public safety is a key component in a company's decision to relocate or grow in its local community.
- The Dallas Police Department has been working diligently to decrease violent crime and is bucking the national trend in most major cities where violent crime is rapidly rising.

## Request

- Continuing to recruit more officers will continue to help crime rates decrease in Dallas. The Dallas Police Academy was built in 1990 as a temporary facility but still remains in use today.
- Funding for a new state-of-the-art academy at UNT Dallas will help address the need to recruit and train skilled police officers.

## Talking Points

- Having the most updated training and technology will help improve law enforcement hiring and will greatly impact the quality of officers being trained in Dallas.
- With nearly 2 years of consecutive decreases in violent crime, DPD is becoming a national model in data driven policing that prioritizes community engagement.

## Issue Area #2: Re-Entry

**DRC agenda language:** *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.*

## Lead Introduction

- Workforce policy also helps contribute to safe communities.
- Formerly incarcerated people have a 27% unemployment rate, and people with criminal records are five times more likely to be out of a job.

## Request

- Data-driven, responsible pathways to re-entry will help address labor shortages and promote sustainable, equitable economic growth that increases public safety.

## Talking Points

- Last session, lawmakers passed the Bonton Farms Act (named after the Dallas nonprofit), which lowers barriers to employment for the formerly incarcerated.