



KEY DRC MESSAGES

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: Preserving Texans' Economic Success

- A top priority of the DRC this session will be preserving Texans' economic success.
- Keeping the Texas miracle alive is top of mind this session and preparing for the continued growth of the region is an important piece of remaining one of the most attractive places for a business to relocate to.
- The DRC will support policies and robust incentive programs that promote investment and job creation so that Texas, and the Dallas region, remain the best place in the United States to do business.
- To keep pace with this population growth, investments in infrastructure, grid reliability, water supply, housing options, and broadband are necessary.



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Issue Area #2: Investing in Texas' Workforce

- Another top priority of the DRC is investing in Texas' workforce.
- Last session, the Legislature established a Commission on Community College Finance to make recommendations for sufficient funding levels to offer robust community college options throughout the state.
- Community colleges are uniquely positioned to address educational attainment and workforce training gaps through a dual focus on academic programs that prepare students for future postsecondary success as well as workforce training in high-demand, high-paying careers.
- Advocating for an outcomes-based community college system that helps fill the needs of the business community is a priority this session and the potential investment in the region is something the business community has been proactively engaging on.
- We are excited that \$650 million has been included in both base budgets to fund this important effort.

Issue Area #3: Supporting a Health Talent Pool

- Another top priority of the DRC is supporting a healthy talent pool.
- Everyone knows about the challenges that COVID 19 has presented to healthcare workers. Innovative approaches to filling medical jobs – aside from just nurse and doctor shortages – will support a healthy talent pool in our region and across Texas.
- Having health care coverage does not always mean having access to quality health care options, and ensuring that the Dallas Region has the skilled workers to fill vacant positions improves health care access throughout the community.
- Additionally, making long-term, sustainable investments in Texas' broadband infrastructure will allow for greater access to more flexible telehealth and telemedicine options.
- Last session, the DRC led a coalition of more than 30 organizations from across the region to help secure funding for a 200-bed state behavioral health hospital serving our region, operated by UT Southwestern.
- Due to increased labor and material costs, the coalition will be seeking additional funding so that this community asset can be built to address the increasing mental health needs of the region.

Issue Area #4: Promoting a High Quality of Life for All

- Another top priority of the DRC is promoting a high quality of life for all Texans.
- More and more, public safety is a component in a company's decision to relocate or grow its local community.
- The Dallas Police Department has been working diligently to decrease violent crime and is bucking the national trend we are seeing in most major cities where violent crime is rapidly rising.



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- To build upon this important work, the DRC's Public Policy and Inclusion and Community Engagement Teams have teamed up with member companies to advocate for public safety strategies that build trust in the community and keep communities safe.
- Investing in law enforcement training and advancing responsible re-entry initiatives can help fill workforce gaps, as well as create more inclusive communities.