



DALLAS-FORT WORTH FEDERAL PRIORITIES

The Dallas Regional Chamber and Fort Worth Chamber represent the business community of one of the nation's most prosperous metropolitan areas and most important economic engines—but we need to work together to ensure that prosperity can continue.

Our education and workforce, infrastructure, and future technology priorities represent opportunities to invest in the economic future of Dallas-Fort Worth and a high quality of life for all people in our region.

Infrastructure

Texas' prosperity and quality of life depend on modern infrastructure. We need a durable strategy to modernize roads, bridges, transit, rail, water, energy, and broadband access. Addressing these critical needs without raising taxes on business will create jobs and make our communities safer.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization

- **Active legislation:** S1939, FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, funds the FAA through 2028 and introduces several reforms to provide significant safety improvements. *(Passed out of committee, placed on Senate Legislative Calendar Feb. 29, 2024)*
- **Why it matters:** FAA reauthorization is critical for Dallas-Fort Worth as it ensures funding for airport infrastructure projects, promotes air traffic efficiency, and supports economic growth. Without it, North Texas' position as a major transportation hub could be jeopardized, impacting regional businesses, employment, and connectivity.

Federal Aid Highway Program

- **Active legislation:** S345, Highway Formula Fairness Act, modernizes the formula used by the Department of Transportation to allocate federal highway funds among the states. *(Referred to Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Feb. 9, 2023)*
- **Why it matters:** Despite Texas' perennial position as the country's largest donor to the Highway Trust Fund, the state continually receives proportionally less funding than any other state due to outdated allocation formulas. As the fastest-growing region in the country, North Texas urgently needs to receive a commensurate allocation of federal highway funds to address our pressing infrastructure demands.

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Education & Workforce

Our region's economic success hinges on a strong talent pipeline, from early education to career. Workforce development initiatives like apprenticeships, training programs, and child care improve Dallas-Fort Worth's talent pool and future prosperity.

Expanding Pell Grants to Workforce / Short-Term Programs

- **Why it matters:** Pell Grants aid low- to moderate-income students in accessing higher education. In Texas, 54% of jobs are 'middle-skill,' needing post-high school training but not a four-year degree. Yet, only 45% of Texans are trained for these jobs, creating a skills gap of around 1.4 million workers. Expanding Pell Grant eligibility to students enrolled in quality workforce programs can bridge this gap and bolster the economy.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

- **Active legislation:** H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act, reauthorizes WIOA with an emphasis on upskilling, accountability, program quality, and skills-based hiring. *(Passed House, referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions April 10, 2024)*
- **Why it matters:** WIOA is the main driver of workforce policy in America, but it has not been reauthorized to address an evolving education and workforce landscape since its initial passage in 2014. Reauthorization is especially critical in a post-COVID environment and vital to realizing the potential of other federal programs, such as the CHIPS and Science Act.

Future Technology

Technology and digital innovation are vital to competing in an increasingly complex and digital world. Tech-based industries such as biotech, space, fintech, and artificial intelligence enhance health care, solve problems, and advance society. They also empower businesses with tools for growth, connectivity, and competing on a global stage.

Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)

- ARPA-H was established to make pivotal investments in breakthrough technologies, resources, and solutions that transform important areas of health and medicine to benefit all patients in ways that cannot be accomplished through traditional research or commercial means.
- **Why it matters:** Dallas' designation as an ARPA-H hub established North Texas as a national biotech research and development center. Continued federal investment in this industry is critical to driving scientific discovery, stimulating economic growth, creating job opportunities, and advancing health care solutions.

Research and Development (R&D) Tax Relief

- **Active legislation:** HR7024, Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024, restores R&D expensing, among other relief and benefits for working families and communities.
- **Why it matters:** Current R&D amortization policy reduces economic growth, penalizes corporate investment in R&D-intensive industries, disproportionately impacting smaller manufacturing and technology companies and putting American businesses at a competitive disadvantage.