



## Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Agenda

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**SUPPORT:** Continued appropriations to the Texas Enterprise Fund enabling Texas to remain competitive with other states.

**SUPPORT:** Increased funding to the Moving Image Industry Incentive Program.

**SUPPORT:** Continued authorization of Chapter 312 and Chapter 313 tax code enabling Texas to remain competitive with other states.

**SUPPORT:** Continued appropriations for existing economic development programs.

**SUPPORT:** Policies that promote Texas' reputation as a business-friendly state.

**OPPOSE:** Legislation which weakens the effectiveness of existing economic development statutes.

### WATER

**SUPPORT:** Proper oversight on all SWIFT applications made to the State of Texas.

**SUPPORT:** Preserving reuse as a water management strategy when taking any action in protecting environmental flows.

**OPPOSE:** Legislation that would unreasonably prevent the State or water providers from exercising their ability to follow water management strategies in the State Water Plan.

### TRANSPORTATION

**SUPPORT:** Continued policy of ending diversions of transportation resources (excludes education diversion).

**SUPPORT:** Preserve regional ability, where practical, to use Comprehensive Development Agreements (CDAs) as a means of providing an alternate funding source for road and rail infrastructure to sustain previous investments and provide additional capacity for projected population and economic growth.

**SUPPORT:** Continue policy laid out by the legislature in the 83<sup>rd</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session and approved by voters which provides a reliable revenue stream for transportation infrastructure.

**SUPPORT:** Protect the various "tools" for mitigating congestion, including toll roads and managed lanes.

**SUPPORT:** Index the motor fuel sales tax to the Highway Cost Index, or some other agreed upon index that mirrors the transportation industry as well as preserve the current state of roadways as much as possible by thwarting any attempt to increase truck size and weight limits or create additional heavy weight permits or corridors in Texas.

## EMINENT DOMAIN

**SUPPORT:** Maintain existing laws relating to eminent domain authority to allow planning and development of new and/or expanded infrastructure for services including food, water, fuel, power, utilities, ports, flood control and communications.

**SUPPORT:** Continued use of eminent domain authority for water providers in order to ensure a reliable water supply to growing communities.

**SUPPORT:** Continued use of eminent domain authority and related tools to allow planning and development of new and/or expanded transportation corridors including high speed rail, commuter rail, freight rail and highways.

## LOCAL DECISION MAKING

**SUPPORT:** Local responsibility for property taxation decision and appraisals.

## EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

**SUPPORT:** Restore public education funding to at least FY10 per pupil funding levels for each school district. Provide funding to support student achievement as defined by the THECB and TEA in the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards.

**SUPPORT:** Funding to be allocated locally by ISDs specifically but not exclusively to prepare students to meet college/career readiness standards and better guide and counsel them on appropriate courses and pathways more closely aligned with Texas' mid- and high- wage career opportunities.

**SUPPORT:** Adjust long-term formula deficiencies: update the Cost of Education Index, funding for students learning English, and include formula funding for quality full-day pre-K (pre-K program must utilize developmentally appropriate assessments, leverage available resources, coordinate with other early childhood providers, and offer teachers professional development).



**SUPPORT:** District of Innovation (HB 1842-84R) which allows campuses to develop local initiatives to improve education outcomes. Allows permanent authority to accredited school organizations to operate with limited state intervention in organizational and managerial affairs, human capital and financial resource management.

**SUPPORT:** The work of the Texas High Performance Schools Consortium to develop innovative, next-generation learning standards, assessment and accountability systems.

**SUPPORT:** Teacher Merit Pay

**SUPPORT:** School Safety

**SUPPORT:** Allow the Skills Development Funds to be more flexible in meeting industry needs in order to support their growth and development of a needed workforce.

**SUPPORT:** Current K-12 and higher education funding for dual credit courses.

**SUPPORT:** Maximize flexibility in educator contracts for qualified CTE instructors coming from industry.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

**SUPPORT:** Measures that are recommended in the 60x30TX Plan which would progressively increase the percentage of Texans with a certificate or degree to 60% by 2030.

**SUPPORT:** Authorization of additional Tuition Revenue Bonds or their equivalent for capital improvements to address public higher education institutions capacity needs.

**SUPPORT:** Continue funding current and emerging Tier-One institutions, the Core Research Support Fund, the Texas Comprehensive Research Fund, the Texas Research University Fund and the Texas Research Incentive Program for emerging research universities at internationally competitive levels, and preserve options for universities to adjust tuition as necessary.

**SUPPORT:** Protect college access and increase graduation rates for those students who are academically prepared and are in need of financial assistance, the Legislature must enhance TEXAS Grant appropriation to cover 100% of eligible students.

**SUPPORT:** Protect and enhance Texas Equalization Grants for private higher education institutions.

**SUPPORT:** Texas should primarily fund the state higher education formulas to support increased enrollment and to continue to help hold tuitions costs down for students and their families.



**SUPPORT:** Texas should simplify the process of applying for and enrolling in post-secondary education, to include eliminating duplicative paperwork, adoption of a common course numbering system, integration of state and federal college applications and state and federal electronic financial aid forms.

## HEALTH CARE

**SUPPORT:** Efforts to increase the number of Texans with comprehensive health insurance and maximize federal matching funds for the state's Medicaid program to offset healthcare costs for the indigent and uninsured working poor in Texas.

**SUPPORT:** Establishment of an adequate, stable source of state funding to support and enhance the statewide trauma and emergency health care system.

**SUPPORT:** Necessary state funding to ensure timely and appropriate access to inpatient, outpatient and community-based behavioral health services.

**SUPPORT:** Medicaid reimbursement rates for providers that more accurately reflect the cost of delivering care.

**SUPPORT:** Continued appropriations to address the state's critical shortage of physicians, nurses, allied health and behavioral health care professionals, including increased funding for the Professional Nursing Shortage Reduction Fund, the state's graduate medical education programs and the loan repayment program for behavioral health care professionals.

**SUPPORT:** Renewal of the Local Provider Participation Funds (LPPFs) for Tarrant and Dallas counties to ensure federal matching funds are maximized for vital Medicaid supplemental payment programs in the region.

## MILITARY AFFAIRS

**SUPPORT:** Promote compatible growth that lessens the impact on military installations and provides enhanced options for cities and counties to manage growth.

**SUPPORT:** Provide tools that can be used at the local level to promote compatible growth around military installations such as:

Effective requirements for notification, analysis and consultation for certain proposed activities that may adversely affect military operations (e.g. wind turbines, communications towers, etc.) between project developers and military bases and City and County Officials.

Expanding existing municipal authority within the extra-territorial jurisdiction of unincorporated areas within noise contours.



Protecting the voluntary participation of coordination efforts by governmental entities surrounding military installations .

Enhancing communication efforts for new potential residents that may be affected by military operations.

10.17.18

