



State Legislative Agenda 86th Texas Legislature

Advancing Business, Strengthening Community

The members of the HEB Chamber of Commerce, representing approximately 700 businesses and more than 1,200 member representatives, have joined together to speak to our local elected officials with one voice. Our vision is for legislation which will result in the greatest economic and community prosperity in Hurst, Euless, Bedford, Tarrant County, the North Texas Region and the State of Texas. Our agenda seeks the continuation of the economic success our state and region currently enjoy as a result of:

Our business friendly tax structure and local economic development tools

1. Support local responsibility for property tax and appraisal decisions.
2. Support maintaining all economic development tools currently available to fund projects.
3. Support appropriating sufficient funding to maintain the Texas Enterprise Fund to attract high-value companies to Texas.
4. Support policies ensuring Texas remains the premier place to live, work and grow a business without discriminating against any group of individuals and preserving protections against discrimination in local ordinances.
5. Support adequately funding the Events Trust Fund and the Major Events Trust Fund.

Local elected officials need the tools to fund the economic development infrastructure necessary to continue to attract and retain businesses and jobs in their communities.

The continued improvement of our infrastructure

1. Support preserving all transportation funding from Prop 1 and Prop 7 and the continued policy of no diversions from the State Highway Trust Funds.
2. Support the use of previously existing tools including public private partnerships, toll roads, and tolled managed lanes to help build highways to mitigate congestion.
3. Support the equitable use of eminent domain to build highways, railroads, pipe lines, electric transmission lines, airports, seaports, infrastructure to build an adequate water supply and high-speed rail built with private funds.

The ability to move people and goods efficiently and with limited congestion is a major consideration in attracting and retaining quality employers.

The quality workforce development provided by HEB ISD, UT Arlington, Tarrant County College and other educational institutions:

1. Support modifying the school funding system to reduce the dependence on local property taxes, reflect the actual cost of providing educational services and end school property tax diversions.
2. Support adding incentives for desired student outcomes in school funding systems.
3. Support continued improvement of the K-12 district and campus accountability system.
4. Support increasing state funding for public education.
5. Support funding the state higher education formulas to recognize increased enrollment.
6. Support funding to promote Texas' emerging Tier One Universities.
7. Support seamless pathways from early childhood until completion of a college degree.
8. Support incentivizing and aligning quality dual credit courses including Career and Technical Education courses.
9. Support Community College funding to prepare Texans for high demand local jobs.
10. Support the current level of funding for tuition assistance for low income Texans including the Texas Grants and Texas Equalization Grants programs.
11. Support a common transferrable Core Curriculum to all public institutes of Higher Education.

The 86th Legislature should incentivize partnerships between education providers as a key element in workforce development.

Our innovative healthcare providers

1. Support providing a reliable source of state funding for trauma centers.
2. Support funding more slots for graduate medical residency in Texas hospitals and the renewal of the Texas Nursing Shortage Reduction Program.
3. Support increasing mental health funding to reduce the burden on county jails.
4. Support maximizing federal funds for the state Medicaid program.
5. Support increasing access to healthcare in underserved areas by reducing restrictions on nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, psychologists and the use of technologies like Telemedicine.
6. Support renewal of the Local Provider Participation Funds (LPPF's) for Tarrant and Dallas Counties to help fund vital Medicaid supplemental payment programs in the region.

Texas is the only state where more than 22% of its residents' lack health insurance.