



Position Statements for the 88th Texas Legislative Agenda 2023

The 1,200 representatives of community leaders, member businesses and organizations that are the Hurst Euleless Bedford Chamber of Commerce have joined together to speak to our local legislative representatives with one voice to Advance Business and Strengthen Community. Our vision is for legislation that will result in the greatest economic and community prosperity in Hurst Euleless 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 has enjoyed by creating sound policies that ensure we have the necessary tools, talent, infrastructure and healthcare systems for economic and community prosperity. These positions are purposely broad and intended to promote the voice, vision and interests of our diverse Chamber members, their business, employees and customers.

Workforce & Education

- Support maintaining full funding for public and higher education, up-skilling and re-skilling programs that are essential for ensuring workforce readiness and a talent pipeline to maintain our region's economic competitiveness.
- Support the continued expansion of broadband internet access programs throughout the state to expand opportunities for economic growth, education, job creation and quality of life.
- Support the elimination of unfunded mandates on public education.
- Support funding quality, affordable daycare to increase workforce participation.
- Support legislation which ensures there is no discrimination in Texas based on race, religion, national origin or gender identity.

Economic Development

- Support economic development incentive programs that enhance job creation and attract capital investment in Texas.
- Support efforts to modernize systems across government agencies to reduce administrative burdens, increase efficiency, enhance transparency, and provide cost savings to businesses and taxpayers.
- Support increased economic development investments that provide high wage jobs, improve opportunity for quality education, promote public health, and raise the general economic success of low-income Texans.

Infrastructure

- Support efforts to ensure the electric grid is reliable, efficient, and sustainable to serve the current demand of the state while planning for future capacity needs to provide for uninterrupted service at a competitive price.
- Support state continuation of planning for and the implementation of expanded broadband internet access to both municipal and rural areas of the State.
- Support the Texas State Water Plan meeting the future water supply needs for the state's rapid population growth and economic development opportunities.
- Support infrastructure projects that will meet current and future growth by allowing access to public-private partnerships which will also stimulate the economy and create jobs through the construction of multi-modal transportation systems and other infrastructure projects.

Health & Wellbeing

- Support increased funding and resources for expansion of inpatient, outpatient, and community-based behavioral health services, including the identification and treatment of mental illness and substance use disorders.
- Support increased funding and resources to address the workforce shortages in health care and increase the supply of trained industry professionals, physicians, nurses, behavioral health and allied health professionals.
- Support efforts to improve health care coverage and access by reducing the number of uninsured and underinsured individuals.
- Support the reduction of barriers to the utilization of telehealth.

Regulatory & Local

- Support preserving the decision-making authority of local leaders to safeguard the success of our region and preserve the unique character of our communities.
- Oppose any attempt to prohibit city, county and education officials from being able to engage government relations professionals or join associations to efficiently advocate on behalf of their community and communicate with members of the Legislative Branch, the Executive Branch and state agencies.