

Grapevine Chamber of Commerce

State Legislative Agenda

86th Texas Legislature

Our Mission: To promote business that adds value to our community.

The 1200 businesses that are the Grapevine Chamber of Commerce, speak together to our local elected representatives asking for legislation which will result in the greatest economic and community prosperity in Grapevine, Tarrant County, the North Texas Region and the State of Texas. We look for and expect a pro-business, pro-paycheck agenda from Austin that will allow our workforce and citizens to prosper using:

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. 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.

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.

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, 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. While some voice opposition to toll roads, the majority support these optional roadways to move throughout our state and specifically our region.

Convention and tourism businesses base:

1. Oppose legislation that negatively impacts convention and tourism in Texas.
2. Support increasing funding to market Texas as a tourism destination outside the state
3. Support continued funding of the Major Events Trust Fund and the Events Trust Fund.
4. Support current uses of Hotel Occupancy Tax.

Meeting and convention business has a major impact on the state. The sales tax paid by out of state visitors is a significant source of local and state funding..

Quality workforce development provided by colleges, universities and Grapevine Colleyville ISD and other educational institutions:

1. Support seamless pathways from early childhood until completion of a college degree.
2. Support incentivizing and aligning quality dual credit courses including Career and Technical Education courses.
3. Support Community College funding to prepare Texans for high demand local jobs.
4. Support the current level of funding for tuition assistance for low income Texans including the Texas Grants and Texas Equalization Grants programs.
5. 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.
6. Support continued improvement of the K-12 district and campus accountability system.
7. Support a common transferrable Core Curriculum to all public institutes of Higher Education.
8. Support and expect increasing state funding for public education.

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

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.
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 increasing funding for the Texas Nursing Shortage Reduction Program.
7. 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.