



## 2019 Legislative Priorities



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1 Chamber Way / Georgetown, Texas 78626 / (512) 930-3535

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

To facilitate economic success for our community through advocacy, education and collaboration.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

A Chamber of Excellence committed to economic development, education, healthcare and public safety.

## **PURPOSE OF LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

The Legislative Priorities is used to identify and analyze issues impacting Georgetown and the business community, take advocacy positions on those issues and communicate the committee's viewpoint to the Board of Directors.

The 2019 Legislative Priorities was approved by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on January 28, 2019.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Economic Development is crucial to the continued success of Georgetown. The economic incentive programs currently available in Texas have allowed our community to attract and retain businesses and should not be reduced.

- Support state and local tools used to compete for corporate expansions/relocations and job growth, such as the Texas Enterprise Fund, the Texas Enterprise Zone Fund, and the tax incentives available under the Texas Economic Development Act under Chapter 312 and Chapter 313 of the Tax Code.
- Support measures that give municipalities local control and the flexibility to meet the needs of their community.
- Support the removal of excessive and unnecessary licensure requirements while continuing to protect consumer safety.
- Support efforts to ensure workforce has access to housing
- Oppose legislation that would impose revenue caps in the form of adjusting provisions for the current property tax rollback.

- Oppose unfunded or underfunded mandates from state and federal government on our local government.
- Support the continued use of the Hotel Occupancy Tax as a local funding source for tourism.

## EDUCATION

The Chamber strongly believes, and an abundance of evidence proves, that the continuum that leads to a skilled, highly qualified workforce begins with the implementation of high-quality early education programs. Following early education, students move through K-12, onto trade schools, college, military or enter the workforce. We strongly support a funding solution for public schools and our universities that is fair and considers the variances in resources and taxes collected. Our schools have shown they are successful but are not equally compensated in the current funding model.

- Support a funding solution for public education.
- Oppose any unfunded mandates on our public schools.
- Support a community-based accountability system for evaluating our district.
- Support measures that give school districts local control and the flexibility to meet the needs of their students.
- Oppose any state voucher plan, tax credits, tuition reimbursements, or any program that diverts public tax dollars to private entities with little or no academic or financial accountability to the state, taxpayers, or local communities.
- Support state funding of full-day Pre-K programs for all public-school districts and all students.
- Support partnerships between higher education institutions, public school districts, and workforce that promote postsecondary readiness, including state funding for non-credit continuing education through dual enrollment.

## HEALTHCARE

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce advocates for the highest quality health care at the best cost available for both employers who provide insurance to their employees. Through additional health care delivery models and helping consumers understand their role in their own health care, the Chamber can raise awareness and lower health care costs for Georgetown businesses.

- Oppose any measure that increases health care costs for Texas employers and their employees and families.
- Support a long-term extension of the 1115 Medicaid Transformation Waiver.

- Support development and enforcement of policies by the Texas Medical Board to reduce the prescribing of opioids and other pain medications to reduce incidents of addiction.
- Support legislation and appropriations to expand the educational pipeline for physicians, nurses, physician assistants, and other health care professionals by public colleges, universities and privately licensed organizations.

## ADDITIONAL AREAS

### Utilities

- Support local control regarding Municipally Owned Utility (MOU) decision making related to electric market participation.

### Criminal Justice

- Support reducing occupational licensing barriers for Texans with criminal backgrounds.
- Support a packet for all incarcerated Texans leaving the Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Institutional Division that includes: a state issued photo ID, birth certificate, Social Security card, resume, and documentation that they have received pre-release job interview training.