



2021 Legislative Priorities



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 are 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 2021 Legislative Priorities was approved by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on October 26, 2020.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COVID-19 showed that government should consider the impact on businesses with any regulation related to mandatory closures. Additionally, Economic Development is crucial to the continued success of Georgetown. economic incentive programs currently available in Texas have allowed our community to attract and retain businesses and should not be reduced. Government should avoid action that unnecessarily raises the cost of housing so that our housing is as obtainable as possible for the community's workforce.

- Support measures that protect businesses against lawsuits stemming from COVID-19.
- 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 programs that aid in the development of our workforce (Skills Development Fund)
- 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 and 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.

- Protect the funding solution for public education that was approved during the 86th Texas Legislature (HB3).
- Oppose any unfunded mandates on our public schools.
- 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.
- Support partnerships between higher education institutions, public school districts, and the workforce that promote postsecondary readiness, including state funding for non-credit continuing education through dual enrollment, completing internships and other post-secondary measures.

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.

- Support efforts to stabilize the health care marketplace and accessibility of coverage options that are both appropriate and affordable
- Support collaboration among healthcare providers on programs that will manage the cost for providers and patients including continuing education and career development options.
- Protect Texas healthcare providers from payment or reimbursement reductions within the Medicaid or other subsidized programs.
- 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.