



2021 TEXAS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

OUR MISSION

The Greater Mansfield Chamber of Commerce's purpose is to be a community catalyst for change that will create an impactful difference to the success of our members.

One of the core activities in support of our purpose is to advocate for pro-business policies and legislation to help businesses in the area grow and prosper.

It is critical that the members of the Texas Legislature who represent our city and our area hear and understand our legislative priorities for the 87th Texas Legislature. Our legislative agenda informs them of what we support and what we oppose in legislation we expect to be considered.

Our member's interests fall in four broad categories: Education and Workforce Development, Transportation, Economic Development and Healthcare.

The Greater Mansfield Chamber of Commerce, representing our members' interests, strongly supports these positions:

- Keep all current economic development tools including reauthorization of Chapter 313 and funding the Governor's Enterprise Fund.
- Fund and protect HB3 making only minor tweaks necessary to correct unintended consequences in the original drafting of the legislation.
- Maintain the funding from Propositions 1 and 7 and explore creative financing methods including expanded public private partnerships to leverage state investment in critical transportation infrastructure.
- Maximize federal funds to expand healthcare coverage and access through both the public and private market, including the use of Medicaid 1115 waivers and Local Provider Participation Funds.

Education and Workforce Development

To retain and attract employers to the Mansfield area will require a stream of qualified candidates for jobs in demand. We are served by an “A” rated Independent School District, a Community College District focused on Workforce Development and a top tier research university that is graduating thousands of young professionals each year. We are blessed that they work closely together to address our education needs at all levels. We support legislation that will continue and enhance our current, positive trajectory.

Higher Education

- Support appropriating funds for the formulas from the 86th Legislature before other funding priorities. **78.1%**
- Support funding the Governor’s University Research Initiative (GURI) and the Core Research Fund (CRF). **77.5%**
- Support rigorous dual credit courses, early college high schools, and advanced placement testing to reduce the number of credit hours that must be completed after high school to make college more affordable. **100%**

Public Education

- Support continued funding of HB3 with minor tweaks necessary to remedy unintended consequences of the original legislation. **90.9%**
- Support expansion of broadband to ensure all students in Texas have equal access to education. **81.1%**
- Support allocation of emergency funds to public education to make the adjustments required by the global pandemic. **86.5%**
- Support elimination of unfunded mandates placed on public education. **84.9%**
- Support the Legislature and TEA focus on results achieved as opposed to being highly prescriptive in directing the action of educators. **93.8%**

Workforce and Talent Development

Mansfield is experiencing an economic development growth period. To maintain our community momentum we support continuing the economic development tools that are instrumental in attracting new employers to our city.

- Support the reauthorization of Chapter 313 of the Tax Code for 10 years with minor improvements which allow independent school districts to participate in economic development incentives. **78.6%**
- Support funding of the Governor's Enterprise Fund and other economic development tools now available. **86.4%**
- Support economic development incentives which produce high paying jobs in high-poverty zip codes in Texas. **98.2%**
- Support continued use of eminent domain to facilitate construction of highways, rail, pipelines, electric transmission lines, etc.

Healthcare

Effective, affordable and available healthcare is necessary for Mansfield to prosper. Our members and their employees depend on the provision and regulation of healthcare by the state and the county.

- Support maximizing federal matching funds to extend healthcare coverage and access to working poor, self-employed and uninsured Texans through both the public and private market. **93.8%**
- Support funding additional physician residency slots and the Professional Nursing Shortage Reduction Fund. **80.4%**
- Support additional funding for inpatient, outpatient, and community-based behavioral health services and for Mental Health Professionals in the public education setting. **90%**
- Support making permanent the relaxing of scope of practice and telehealth restrictions made during the Covid-19 pandemic consistent with safe, effective patient care **95.7%**

Transportation/Infrastructure

Mansfield prides itself on being “minutes to everything, second to none.” Maintaining that position in the North Texas market requires being connected to an efficient system of highway infrastructure.

- Support continued use of all dedicated Proposition 1 and 7 funds for transportation infrastructure. 100%
- Support innovative financing plans including expanded use of Public Private Partnerships to leverage state funds for transportation infrastructure. 86%
- Support creation of a state plan for the expansion of broadband to every county in Texas providing affordable basic access for distance learning and telemedicine. 81.1%
- Support tolled managed lanes being added to existing public highways where the number of free lanes remains the same after completion. 86%
- Support measures to protect the Texas electrical grid. 97.9%