



Coalition Statement

Starting in 2018, the five Chambers of Commerce on the east side of Tarrant County formed a coalition for the purpose of increasing their ability to impact the Tarrant County delegation in Austin.

The chambers include Greater Arlington, Mansfield Area, Grapevine, Hurst-Euless-Bedford and Northeast Tarrant. The Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce provides the primary resources and staffing. The other chambers offer access to their members and general support of the overall mission. In 2019 the coalition hosted two breakfast events, one with US Senator John Cornyn and the second a Legislative Session Wrap-up. Both were attended by almost 200 members of the five chambers.

Overview

The Coalition of East Tarrant Chamber's State Legislative Agenda supports policies that promote and improve the overall vitality and prosperity of the Texas economy. Our agenda seeks the continuation of the economic success our state and region currently enjoy by creating sound policies that ensure we have the necessary tools, talent, infrastructure, and healthcare systems for economic and community prosperity. The policy priorities articulated here are deliberately broad and intended to promote the voice, vision and interests of our diverse chamber members, their businesses, employees, and customers.

Culture of How We Direct Public Policy

At all times, we will seek to impact the policy discussion in a respectful, open, and ethical manner.

The Coalition works diligently to amplify the voice of our members at all levels of government, we come together to speak to our local legislative representatives with one voice. Our vision is for legislation which will result in the greatest economic and community prosperity

To achieve these policy outcomes, the Coalition will affirmatively engage our state leaders to advocate the enactment of legislation aligning with these priorities while resisting proposals we believe directly harm our members, undermine our economic competitiveness, or damage Texas' reputation as a business-friendly state.

Workforce & Education

- Maintain 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.
- Continue to expand broadband internet access programs throughout the state to expand opportunities for economic growth, education, job creation and quality of life.

Economic Development

- Preserve 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

- 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.
- Ensure that the State continues to plan for and implement expanded broadband internet access to both municipal and rural areas of the State.
- Ensure the Texas State Water Plan meets future water supply needs for the State's rapid population growth and economic development opportunities.

Infrastructure cont.

- Continue to support infrastructure projects that will meet current and future growth by allowing access to public-private partnerships to help support infrastructure needs of the state while also stimulating the economy and creating 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

- Preserve decision-making authority of local leaders to safeguard the success of our region and preserve the unique character of our communities.

Contact

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