

## Mission Statement

**TOGETHER, WE CHAMPION COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.**

## Core Strategies

GROW OUR MEMBERS' BUSINESSES

FOSTER ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

AMPLIFY THE VOICE OF BUSINESS

DEVELOP THE COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

## Overview

The 1,100 businesses that are the Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce have joined 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 in Arlington, Tarrant County, the North Texas Region and the State of Texas. 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.

## Critical Priorities

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 public and private markets, including the use of Medicaid 1115 waivers and Local Provider Participation Funds.

## Economic Development

1. 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.
2. Support funding of the Governor's Enterprise Fund and other economic development tools now available.
3. Support economic development incentives which produce high paying jobs in high-poverty zip codes in Texas.
4. Support continued use of eminent domain to facilitate construction of highways, rail, pipelines, electric transmission lines, etc.

## Talent Development

1. Support appropriating funds for retraining displaced workers using a combination of community colleges, workforce boards and private employers.
2. Support legislation which ensures there is no discrimination in Texas on the basis of race, religion, national origin or gender identity.
3. Support returning military professional access to comparable state licenses with minimal retraining and cost.
4. Support funding quality, affordable daycare to increase workforce participation.

## Healthcare

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

## Public Education

1. Support continued funding of HB3 with minor tweaks necessary to remedy unintended consequences in the original legislation.
2. Support expansion of broadband to ensure all students in Texas have equal access to education.
3. Support allocation of emergency funds to public education to make the adjustments required by the global pandemic.
4. Support elimination of unfunded mandates placed on public education.

## Higher Education

1. Support maintaining formula funding from the 86th legislative session before other funding priorities.
2. Support funding the Governor's University Research Initiative (GURI) and the Core Research Fund (CRF).
3. 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.

## Infrastructure

1. Support continued use of all dedicated Proposition 1 and 7 funds for transportation infrastructure.
2. Support innovative financing plans including expanded use of Public Private Partnerships to leverage state funds for transportation infrastructure.
3. 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.
4. Support tolled managed lanes being added to existing public highways where the number of free lanes remains the same after completion.
5. Support measures to protect the Texas electrical grid.

## Contact

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