

## North Texas Commission 86<sup>th</sup> Session Legislative Priorities

The North Texas Commission supports pro-growth state tax and regulatory policies that grow our economy and attract investment. We encourage policy makers to work to ensure such investment is unfettered and that Texas is able to capitalize on innovation to fuel additional job growth, business expansion and investment.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**SUPPORT:** Continuation of increasing funding to the Texas Enterprise Fund at a level that keeps Texas competitive with other states.

**SUPPORT:** Continuation and amendment of the Ch. 312 and 313 tax code to enable Texas to compete for major, capital intensive projects.

**SUPPORT:** Local responsibility for property taxation decisions and appraisals.

**OPPOSE:** Any bill that would be discriminatory or otherwise damage Texas' reputation as a business-friendly state.

### INFRASTRUCTURE (TRANSPORTATION AND WATER)

**SUPPORT:** Continuing the policy of no diversions from the Highway Fund.

**SUPPORT:** Maintain existing law relating to eminent domain authority to allow planning and development of new and/or expanded transportation corridors including high speed rail, commuter rail, freight rail, highways, telecommunication, gas pipelines and water supply projects.

**SUPPORT:** All tools necessary for successful construction of transportation projects including toll roads, tolled managed lanes, design build, concessions and any other financing avenues available including public-private partnerships and comprehensive development agreements.

**SUPPORT:** Efforts to recapture all of Texas' federal transportation tax dollars that are disbursed to other states.

**OPPOSE:** Any legislation or executive order that may claw back or divert funds from voter approved propositions 1 and 7.

**OPPOSE:** Any attempt to increase truck size and weight limits or create additional heavy weight permits or corridors in Texas.

## EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

**SUPPORT:** Increased funding for the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP).

**SUPPORT:** Initiatives to support research and attract more world class scientists to North Texas, including funding for the Governor's University Research Initiative.

**SUPPORT:** Increased funding for high quality pre-K and early childhood education for all eligible children.

**SUPPORT:** Legislation that would ease the transferring of credits from one public institution (including community colleges) to another.

**SUPPORT:** A process of increased input from the business community with regards to curriculum development at the State Board of Education.

**SUPPORT:** 60X30TX, the tri-agency plan of having 60% of Texans between the ages of 25-34 hold a degree or post-secondary certificate by 2030.

## HEALTH CARE

**SUPPORT:** Reducing the number of uninsured Texans by securing available federal and state funds to reform and renew opportunities to broaden the net of coverage for the uninsured.

**SUPPORT:** Legislation to increase the funding and education of chronic condition treatment, prevention and awareness thereby decreasing the overall burden placed upon taxpayers across the state.

**SUPPORT:** Continued and increased funding and awareness of mental health issues including alcohol and prescription drug dependence and abuse.

**SUPPORT:** Establishment of an adequate, stable source of state funding to support and enhance the statewide trauma and emergency health care system.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

**OPPOSE:** Legislation that expands the definition of a private (including non-profit) entity that receives public funds and their duty to respond to public information requests.

**OPPOSE:** Any attempt by the state legislature to preempt cities or counties ability to govern and raise funds as determined necessary.

**OPPOSE:** Unfunded mandates placed on our local municipalities that are veiled as solutions for education funding.

## **NORTH TEXAS COMMISSION LEGISLATION WATCH LIST** **86<sup>th</sup> Legislature**

**SUPPORT:** Comptroller Hegar's "Texas Legacy Fund" proposal of investing excess Rainy-Day Funds.

**SUPPORT:** Healthy economic growth in our state by promoting the production of adequate supplies of all forms of energy at competitive prices.

**SUPPORT:** The upholding of the importance of a Do Not Resuscitate order or end of life directives.

**SUPPORT:** Feeding Texas Program and an increase in funding from \$6.9 million to \$22 million for the biennium for Feeding Texas' Surplus Agricultural Product Grant Program.

**SUPPORT:** A modest and careful approach to foster in and not prohibit an environment that will usher in the next generation of Autonomous Vehicle technology.

**OPPOSE:** Any legislation that would create a jet fuel tax.

**OPPOSE:** Any effort to diminish the importance and safety immunizations.

**OPPOSE:** The carrying of any firearm on any hospital or healthcare facility property.

## NORTH TEXAS COMMISSION WHITE PAPER LIST (TO DATE) 86<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATURE

**SUPPORT:** Housing affordability legislation.

**SUPPORT:** Protecting eminent domain authority

**SUPPORT:** Tools in the toolbox for transportation funding

**SUPPORT:** Reclaiming all federal gas tax dollars.

- Texas remains one of five states that is a federal gas tax “Donor State”. That equates to nearly \$400M that we do not recapture every year.

**SUPPORT:** Enhanced civic engagement of workforce through the implementation of online voter registration to also improve voting system security and costs savings.