

2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



The City of Round Rock is strong, diversified and expanding, largely due to best-in-class municipal management, community leadership, regional collaboration and execution of economic development initiatives by the Round Rock Chamber. The City of Round Rock, and Texas as a whole, consistently exhibits a strong pro-business posture and low regulatory environment.

The Round Rock Chamber asks members of the 88th Texas Legislature to join us by embracing the following key public policy priorities which are critical to our region's continued growth and success.

KEY PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

TAX

- Oppose efforts to change the statewide assessment of sales tax from origin to destination-based sales tax.
- Support all efforts to ensure that Texas remains business-friendly and competitive with its low tax burden.
- Support the return of a portion of the large projected budget surplus back to taxpayers through tax relief for businesses and homeowners.

LOCAL CONTROL & REGULATION

- Oppose legislation that impedes a city's ability to provide increased services including but not limited to public education, public safety workers, facilities and infrastructure.
- Support legislation that ensures that a municipality is not required to provide services and utilities to properties located outside of its municipal boundaries.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support local authority and flexibility in the use of economic development tools and other incentives that promote new investment and job creation, such as Chapters 311, 312, 380 and 381.
- Support a new, modern and transparent economic development program that reduces property tax effects on businesses to win new major capital investment projects, including a school property tax relief incentive.
- Maintain or increase funding for the Texas Enterprise Fund, Texas Enterprise Zone Program, Skills Development Fund, Major Events Trust Fund, Sales & Use Tax Exemptions and other economic development incentive tools

- that create jobs, expand our tax base and diversify our economy while enhancing Texas's competitive corporate recruitment advantage.
- Support the continuation of a statewide economic development and tourism office that supports business recruitment, expansion and new investments for the State of Texas.
- Support the continuation of tax exemptions and credits for research, development and manufacturing.
- Support legislation that enables Texas semiconductor and related companies to access federal CHIPS and Science Act funding.

KEY PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES - CONTINUED

EDUCATION, WORKFORCE AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT

- Protect prior investments and support additional funding for K-12 public education that creates strong career pathways for Texas students.
- Support legislation to reform recapture to ensure that school taxes collected locally remain within the local school district.
- Support increasing the basic allotment and updating the cost of education index to ensure that public schools across Texas have the resources needed to succeed.
- Support investment in high-quality childcare and early childhood education.
- Support the Texas Commission on Community College Finance Recommendations to Strengthen our Workforce including outcomes-based funding, student support and stackable credentials.
- Increase funding for workforce development programs that help employers attract, upskill and reskill their labor pool while also enabling accessible and affordable education and training for Texas workers.
- Support opportunities to expand and diversify the workforce by providing innovative and alternative programs to remove employment barriers for those seeking to enter or re-enter the workforce or change careers.
- Oppose legislation that could adversely impact talent attraction and retention or undermine the business community's commitment to building the best workforce.

HEALTHCARE

- Oppose cuts or delays to Medicaid, Medicare and other supplemental hospital payments.
- Support legislation and budget proposals that improve access to affordable health coverage.
- Increase access to mental health programs and services that enable individuals to lead meaningful and productive lives in the community while ensuring public safety.
- Support maintaining the state's commitment to expand Graduate Medical Education funding to ensure Texas is educating top-class physicians in all medical fields.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Support an update to TXDOT's 2030 transit study and allocate necessary funding to ensure infrastructure investments keep pace with economic growth.
- Support the ability for local transit agencies to access private capital by preserving the ability to issue revenue bonds and certificates of obligation bonds for infrastructure investments.
- Support statewide policies that increase grid reliability and innovative solutions such as net metering and distributed generation while keeping costs affordable for businesses and Texans.
- Support the state's investment into planning for and development of new and sustainable water resources and infrastructure.