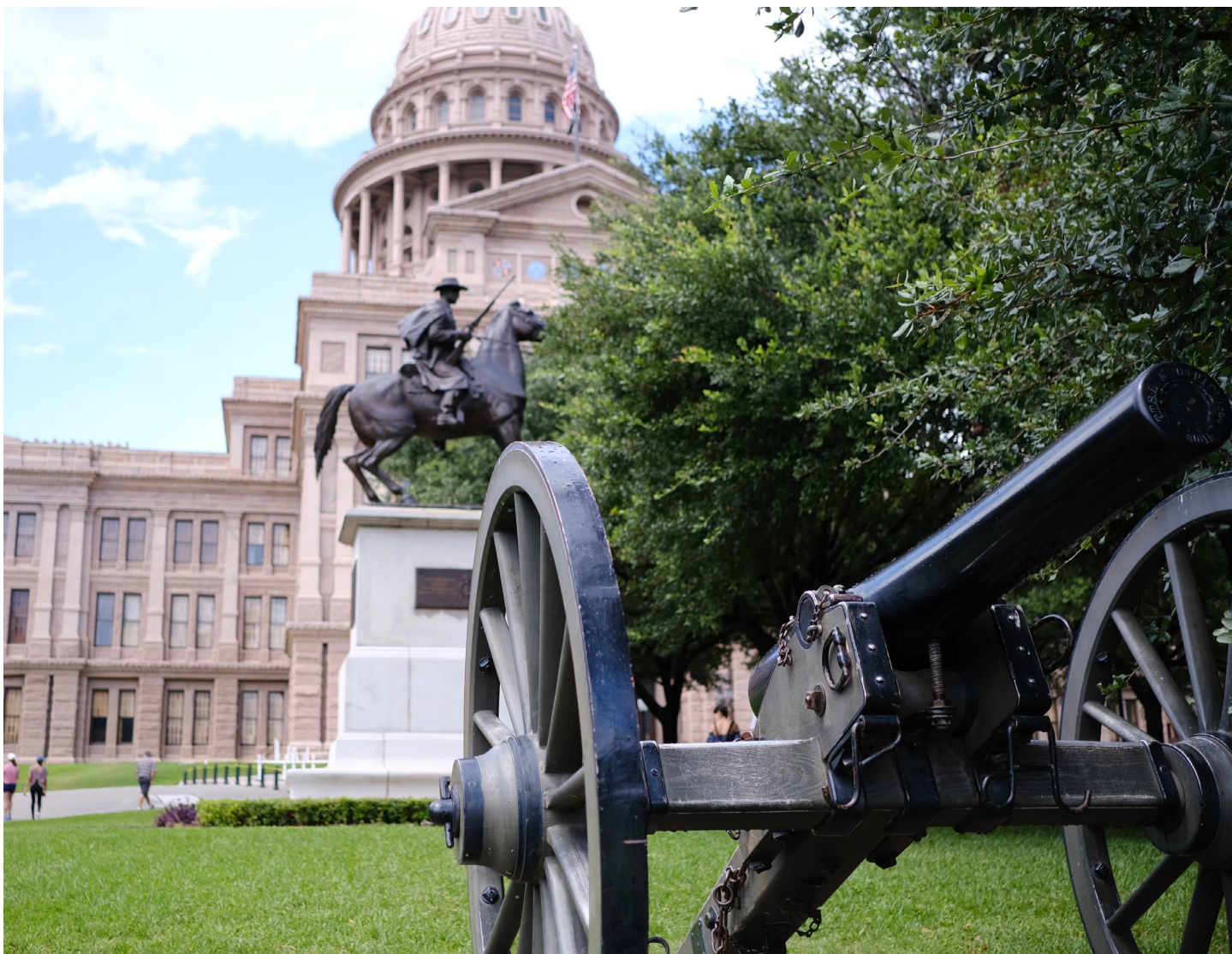


**FORT WORTH
CHAMBER★**



**89TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE
SESSION AGENDA**



The Fort Worth Chamber's (FWC) State Legislative Agenda supports policies that promote and improve the overall vitality and prosperity of the Texas economy. 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.

To achieve these policy outcomes, the FWC 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.

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

ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

- ★ Preserve Texas' **economic development incentives** and support policies that promote innovative approaches to attracting capital investment in the state.
- ★ Ensure that our state's diverse energy market, water supply, and transportation options are affordable, reliable, sustainable, and secure, while remaining easily accessible and readily available.
- ★ Support a **tax system that stimulates economic growth** by balancing the interests of all Texans, avoids a disproportionate tax burden on select sectors of the economy, and provides rules and processes that are transparent.

WORKFORCE READINESS/TALENT PIPELINE

- ★ Ensure access to an equitable and rigorous **public education** system through the sustained outcome-focused funding and additional supports to equip Texas students with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in the workplace.
- ★ Invest in Texas' **higher-education** institutions through sustained formula funding and increased assistance for academic research and workforce development programs.
- ★ Align educational programs with workforce needs through existing and new state-level incentives for **work-based learning** opportunities and career focused instruction and learning.
- ★ Support the development of programs and initiatives to provide **reskilling** opportunities for non-traditional student populations in high-demand fields.
- ★ Provide systemic support for Texas' **childcare** infrastructure to expand access to quality and affordable care options that enable parents to participate in the workforce.

HEALTH CARE

- ★ Support efforts to increase health care coverage, access, and quality.
- ★ Support the ability of Texas businesses to determine appropriate health care coverage and access for their employees.
- ★ Provide adequate, predictable, and stable funding for Texas health care providers, including trauma care, maternal health services, and early childhood health services.
- ★ Support efforts to reduce health care workforce shortages and enhance workplace safety.
- ★ Fund the expansion of behavioral health services that address the full continuum of care, including the expansion of inpatient facilities and additional outpatient programs at all levels.

QUALITY OF LIFE

- ★ Ensure Texas remains a **welcoming state** for all and the premier state in the nation for all people to live, work, play, and do business.
- ★ Preserve individual **companies' rights to manage their organizations and employees** according to their unique needs.
- ★ Elevate initiatives tied to **public safety** that **build greater trust** between various communities and those serving in public safety roles.



LEVEL ONE PRIMARY BUSINESS ISSUES

Primary business issues with a direct connection to business and where it would typically be appropriate for the FWC to take a position, though it may not always choose to do so.

These issues are core to business' bottom line, such as taxes and regulations of major significance.

The FWC will often take positions on these issues in coordination with our members in an effort to amplify their importance and present a united front to lawmakers.

Due to the sheer volume of such issues, we will not take a position on each one. When an issue rises to a level of significance for our membership and there are no clearly conflicting positions within our membership, we will likely take a position. The priority placed on the issue will be determined largely by practical considerations.



LEVEL TWO ENABLING BUSINESS

Enabling business issues that create an environment for businesses to thrive and contribute to regional growth and opportunity.

These issues include public and higher education, workforce development, and transportation and infrastructure.

FWC members typically do not dedicate their internal resources to addressing these issues, rather they look to organizations like the FWC to build consensus and impact policy outcomes on their behalf. As such, this activity is a key value-add the FWC provides our members.

Positions are developed in consultation with our members through the Government Affairs Committee and other channels.



LEVEL THREE INDIRECT IMPACT

Social issues with indirect impact on business may resonate within the community but have little or no impact on business. While these issues attract considerable public attention and tend to generate strong partisan responses, they seldom have a clearly identifiable nexus to business or economic development.

In cases where a nexus to business is strongly established, the FWC must determine if it can truly impact to final outcome. Taking a position on such issues will be based on overwhelming consensus of the FWC Executive Board upon the recommendation of the Government Affairs Committee.