

# 2023-2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

# Texas 88th Legislative Session

# **SUMMARY**

The North San Antonio Chamber represents business members in a variety of industries and employers throughout Bexar County. The Chamber advocates for business-friendly policies and legislation working to ensure that the needs of our members including smaller businesses, are understood and represented at all government levels. While the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session focused on healthcare, redistricting, school finance and pandemic economic and workforce recovery; the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session will have lawmakers fixated on Texans and businesses affected by a changing workforce, inflation, increased energy prices and tax burdens, and public and school safety and mental health service needs.

We will advocate on legislative efforts that recover, restore, and expand the San Antonio economy and workforce, creating jobs and opposing government restrictions, limitations, and overreach. This includes actively engaging business leaders, partners, stakeholders, and legislators and commissioning broad, long-term legislative priorities that impact businesses and employers; economic development and taxation; education and workforce development; infrastructure and innovation; the defense community and Veteran services; and legislation related to the distribution of federal funding such as, ARPA, IIJA, etc. for the San Antonio region.

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

#### **BUSINESS REGULATION & EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS**

**Employer Mandates**—Support legislation that protects business, economic growth, and job creation by prohibiting regulations and other governmental actions that limit employers' rights that are unconstitutional or hinder free enterprise.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TAXATION**

Tax Incentives/Investments, Taxpayer Solutions, & Travel, Tourism, Entertainment, & Hospitality—Support sustained local and state incentives that supplement and increase economic development strategies to retain existing and recruit new employers and create new jobs. Assess property tax appraisal system, reduce tax burdens and retain and improve exemptions for taxpayers and businesses. Advocate for incentives that contribute to recovering industries, expand productivity and innovation in high-growth sectors, and oppose efforts that hinder workforce recruitment, business attraction/relocation, and tourism.

#### **EDUCATION & WORKFORCE**

**Education Finance & Workforce**—San Antonio's future workforce depends on education opportunities for all. We support a balanced approach to the distribution of public- and private-education funds and resources. Support a sustainable public education funding system that responds to changing student and workforce needs, and that lead to a strong workforce for in-demand and high-need jobs and occupations and TRBs for public higher education capital construction projects.

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE & INNOVATION**

**Transportation & Ports, Energy, Technology, & Healthcare/Biomed**—Preserve existing and support new revenue sources for all transportation modes. Support innovative, cost-effective solutions strengthening all aspects of energy and utilities. Support innovative technology and broadband connectivity. Support expanded consumer healthcare access with lower business costs. Support funding for biomedical research and higher education infrastructure.

### VETERANS, DEFENSE, & MILITARY

**Military & Veteran Workforce**—Support legislation that promotes the training and placement of transitioning Veterans to civilian workforce, such as limiting barriers and fast-tracking certifications. Support legislation that protects local military installations from BRAC activities, including DEAAG funding.



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### PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

The Chamber includes recommendations, facilitates input, and considers legislative priorities from our member businesses and organizations when developing our legislative priorities. We also engage our business and community partners and take into consideration their respective legislative priorities that pertain to business and job growth and economic development. A few these partners are listed below:

- Alamo Colleges
- Bexar County
- City of San Antonio
- CPS Energy
- greater:SATX
- Joint Base San Antonio
- National Federation of Independent Businesses
- Northeast ISD
- Northside ISD
- OCI Group
- Port San Antonio
- San Antonio Business Coalition
- San Antonio Chamber
- San Antonio Digital Connects

- San Antonio Hispanic Chamber
- San Antonio Mobility Coalition
- San Antonio Water System
- Texas 2036
- Texas A&M University-San Antonio
- Texas Association of Business
- Texas Public Policy Foundation
- United Way of San Antonio
- University of Texas-San Antonio
- The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
- University Hospital
- Visit San Antonio
- VIA Metropolitan Transit

## **CONTACT**

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