

The **Plano Chamber of Commerce** presents the following legislative priorities for the 89th Texas Legislature, with an emphasis on advancing economic prosperity, enhancing public education, fostering workforce development, ensuring robust infrastructure, and improving healthcare access for all Texans.

## ABOUT THE PLANO CHAMBER

Founded in 1946, the **Plano Chamber of Commerce** is here to serve the business community. Accredited as a 5-Star Chamber of Commerce in 2015 by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Plano Chamber is recognized as being in the top 1% of all chambers in the United States.

The **Plano Chamber of Commerce** is committed to maximizing business development and economic growth of the community through advocacy, education, innovation, and collaboration.

## CONTACTS



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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### • **Support for Economic Development Incentives**

Advocate for the continuation and expansion of key economic development programs, including Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credits and Chapters 380/381, to ensure Texas remains competitive in attracting new business investments and fostering innovation.

### • **Texas Enterprise Fund (TEF) Support**

Champion funding for the Texas Enterprise Fund (TEF), and work to accelerate the decision-making process to expedite the allocation of these grants to businesses that will create jobs and stimulate economic growth across the state.

### • **Qualified Hotel Project Participation for Plano**

Seek legislation that would qualify the City of Plano for participation in the Qualified Hotel Project financial tool, enabling local economic growth through hospitality and tourism investment.

### • **Preserve Texas' Business Climate**

Advocate for the preservation of Texas' pro-business environment, supporting the passage of inclusive non-discrimination laws that are both comprehensive and conducive to fostering a diverse workforce.

### • **Artificial Intelligence Governance**

Support the thoughtful development and adoption of a governance framework that balances the protection of businesses' safe use of artificial intelligence (AI) with the promotion of innovation in emerging technologies.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION



### • Investment in Public Education

Push for the restoration of funding for public education to the levels outlined in House Bill 3 (2019), adjusted for inflation, ensuring that all students receive the resources necessary for success.

### • Reform A-F Accountability System

Support reforms to the state's A-F accountability system that incorporate multiple measures of school performance, better align assessments with regional workforce needs, and ensure a holistic approach to evaluating school success.

### • Accountability and Transparency in Education

Advocate for stringent financial and academic transparency for all entities receiving public funds for education, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used efficiently and equitably across the system.

## INFRASTRUCTURE



### • Electric Grid Reliability

Support measures and funding to strengthen the reliability and resilience of the Texas electric grid, ensuring that it can meet the growing demands of the state's population and business sectors.

### • Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure

Encourage the development of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to address Texas' infrastructure needs, ensuring projects are completed efficiently while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

### • Broadband Access Expansion

Advocate for the implementation of a comprehensive statewide broadband plan that includes both wireless and fiber-optic infrastructure to bridge the digital divide and ensure equitable access to high-speed internet across Texas.

### • Water Management and Flood Risk Reduction

Support the implementation of water management strategies outlined in the Texas State Water Plan and flood risk reduction measures specified in the Texas State Flood Plan, ensuring Texas remains resilient to water scarcity and natural disasters.

The **Plano Chamber of Commerce** remains committed to advocating for legislative policies that support economic growth, educational advancement, workforce development, infrastructure innovation, and healthcare access. We urge state legislators to prioritize these critical issues to ensure Texas' continued prosperity and to build a more equitable and resilient future for all Texans.



## HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### • Community College Financing

Support continued investments in community college finance (House Bill 8, 2023), including considerations for out-of-state and private school credit transfers to improve access to higher education pathways and workforce training.

### • Support for Small Business Development Centers

Advocate for ongoing investments in Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) and their business advising and training programs, which are essential to the growth and sustainability of small businesses.

### • Higher Education Funding for Enrollment Growth

Promote funding for Texas' higher education institutions to accommodate enrollment growth and address inflationary pressures through academic funding formulas.

### • Investment in Research Initiative

Advocate for increased funding for academic research programs, such as the Texas Research Incentive Program and the National Research Support Fund, to elevate Texas' status as a leader in cutting-edge research and innovation.



## HEALTHCARE

### • Address Healthcare Workforce Shortages

Advocate for appropriations aimed at addressing the shortage of physicians, nurses, and behavioral health professionals, including investment in graduate medical education programs to strengthen the healthcare workforce.

### • Expand Healthcare Access and Coverage

Support policies that expand access to healthcare, particularly for the underinsured and uninsured populations, ensuring all Texans can receive essential medical care.

### • Population and Behavioral Health Management

Advocate for policies that improve access to population health management tools and enhance behavioral health services, addressing the mental health crisis and improving the overall health of Texas communities.

### • Equitable Healthcare Reimbursement

Promote fair and equitable reimbursement rates for healthcare providers to ensure that all medical professionals are compensated appropriately for services rendered to Texans, maintaining a sustainable healthcare system.