PLANO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

89TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

2025

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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.

- ✓ **SB 2206 (Bettencourt/Geren)**
  Extends and enhances Texas' R&D franchise tax credit, providing long-term certainty and improved incentives for companies investing in innovation. Eliminates the previous expiration date and streamlines the credit structure- strengthening Texas' position as the most competitive and business-friendly state in the nation for research-driven industries.

- ⊗ **SB 878 (Birdwell)**
  Would have implemented guardrails and improved transparency measures across Chapters 380 and 381 as well as Chapter 312. Aimed to limit use of public money under certain economic development agreements or programs adopted by certain political subdivisions.

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.

- ✓ **SB 1 (Huffman/Bonnen)**
  Includes unexpended balance of the Texas Enterprise Fund from the current biennium.

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.

- ⊗ **HB 4682 (Leach)**
  Would have authorized the City of Plano to receive hotel tax revenue and use that revenue to support local projects.

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.

- ✓ **SB 14 (King/Capriglione)**
  Creates the Regulatory Reform and Efficiency Act to remove barriers to small business success by overhauling how state agencies adopt rules and impose regulations. It creates the Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office within the Governor's Office to identify and expand opportunities to eliminate unnecessary rules, reduce training hours, minimize forms and fees, and narrow the scope of regulated activities.

- **HB 9 (Meyer/Bettencourt)**
  Increases personal property tax (also known as inventory tax) exemption for businesses to $125,000, up from $2,500.

- **HB 11 (Phelan/Middleton)**
  Removes barriers to small business success by directing the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to expand licensing reciprocity agreements with other states, making it easier for skilled professionals to work in Texas without redundant red tape. By establishing clear rules for recognizing equivalent out-of-state licenses and requiring biennial reporting on progress, the bill promotes workforce mobility and reduces bureaucratic hurdles for entrepreneurs and tradespeople entering the Texas market.

- **HB 346 (Harris Davila/King)**
  Allows the Secretary of State to offer expedited business filings so Texas small businesses can establish themselves quickly.

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.

- **HB 149 (Capriglione/Schwertner)**
  Creates guardrails for the use of artificial intelligence while promoting innovation and maintaining a light regulatory touch.

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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.

✔ **HB 2 (Buckley/Creighton)**
Allocates record funding for public education of $8.5 billion, including pay raises for teachers and support staff, limited funding for fixed costs impacted by inflation, and targeted investments in special education and early childhood learning.

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.

⊗ **SB 1962 (Bettencourt/Buckley)**
Would have required the Texas Education Agency to develop a new test in place of STAAR designed to be more instructionally-supportive and be administered multiple times throughout the year. Would have provided significantly more authority to the Commissioner of Education to make adjustments to the state accountability system without legislative involvement.

⊗ **HB 4 (Buckley/Bettencourt)**
Would have streamlined standardized testing, requiring the use of an existing nationally-norm referenced test to replace STAAR. Would have provided the opportunity to incorporate non-test-based metrics for accountability. Would have reduced the Commissioner's ability to make changes to the accountability system without legislative approval.

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.

✔ **SB 2 (Creighton/Buckley)**
Creates an Education Savings Account program. Requires reporting of academic performance of students receiving money from ESAs.

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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.

- **SB 1 (Huffman/Bonnen)**
  Includes $5 billion for the Texas Energy Fund to support the development of new dispatchable power generation facilities.
- **SB 6 (King/King)**
  Enhances Texas's ability to manage the state's growing energy demands by granting ERCOT increased oversight of large electricity consumers, ensuring grid stability during peak periods. Mandates that substantial energy users contribute to infrastructure costs and disclose relevant project information, facilitating better demand forecasting and preventing overbuilding. By establishing clear guidelines for large load interconnections, SB 6 aims to support business development while maintaining system reliability and cost-effectiveness for all consumers.
- **HB 14 (Harris/Schwertner)**
  Creates the Texas Advanced Nuclear Energy Program, funded by the Texas energy fund, to provide grants of up to $200 million per project. The grants are awarded based on megawatt capacity and include bonuses for using Texas-based manufacturing and workforce.

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.

- **SB 35 (Nichols/Hunter)**
  Would have limited the number of design-build contracts TxDOT can enter into from six per biennium to two to improve quality control and accountability.

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.

- **SB 1 (Huffman/Bonnen)**
  Appropriates $466 million to the Broadband Infrastructure Fund.
- **SB 1405 (Nichols/Ashby)**
  Expands broadband access and reduces taxes on Internet services by amending the state's broadband framework, streamlining grant application processes, improving mapping strategies, and alleviating tax liability associated with Internet service and broadband grant awards.

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.

- **SB 7 (Perry/Harris)**
  Secures a $2.5B immediate injection of water infrastructure funding, with additional $1B permanent funding every fiscal year. Includes funding for both new infrastructure and legacy repairs.

- **HJR 7 (Harris/Perry)**
  Proposes a constitutional amendment on the November 2025 ballot to dedicate a portion of the state sales tax to the Texas Water Fund

- **HB 2109 (VanDeaver)**
  Proposed the removal of the Marvin Nichols Reservoir from the state water plan.

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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.

- **SB 1786 (Creighton/VanDeaver)**
  Provides greater efficiency in career and technical education grant program funding, promotes dual credit and industry certification opportunities, enables high school students to earn valuable credentials before graduation by strengthening regional education-to-workforce pipelines, and helps students access clear, well-funded pathways to stable, high-wage careers. Expands transfer eligibility to private higher education institutions.

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. training.

- **SB 1 (Huffman/Bonnen)**
  Maintains existing funding for Small Business Development Centers.

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.

- **SB 1 (Huffman/Bonnen)**
  Funds enrollment growth and increased the formula rate by 10%.

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.

- **HB 500 (Bonnen/Huffman)**
  Provides $400 million to address the backlog of state matching funds for the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP).
- **SB 1 (Huffman/Bonnen)**
  Increases funding for the National Research Support Fund by $58 million.

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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.

- **SB 1 (Huffman/Bonnen)**
  Appropriates $1 billion in wage increases for personal care attendants. Includes $71 million to expand first-year residency slots in medical schools.

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.
training.

- **SB 1 (Huffman/Bonnen)**
  Provides over $215 million for rural healthcare and grants for new ambulances. Appropriates $252 million for women's health and maternal safety and $49.8 million for support for children and adults with disabilities. Provides $3 billion to the Dementia Prevention Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT).

- **SB 5 (Huffman/Craddick) & SJR 3 (Huffman/Craddick)**
  Establishes DPRIT to drive innovation and research on dementia, Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. Funding will be established upon passage of constitutional amendment in November 2025.

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.

- **HB 500 (Bonnen/Huffman) -** Appropriates $200 million for the Dallas State Hospital.

- **SB 1 (Huffman/Bonnen)**
  Provides $340 million for new mental health beds and $54 million for youth crisis outreach.

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.

- **HB 3348 (Patterson/Parker)**
  Authorizes the continuation of the Local Provider Participation Funds (LPPF) in Denton and Collin counties to fund the nonfederal share of certain Medicaid programs.

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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.

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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.

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