



Legislative Priorities 86th Session of the Texas Legislature

Public Education and Workforce - Public education is responsible for providing opportunities to all Texas children. We seek to improve the Texas public school finance system to more equitably and adequately fund education and provide much-needed resources for teachers to prepare our future workforce. We understand that an early investment in a child's education is not only fiscally responsible, but also changes the trajectory of their life.

- Create a more equitable and transparent public school finance system that remedies the unequal recapture rate and increases the state's public education funding to 50% of total funding. Plano ISD has paid over \$1.9 billion in recapture payments to the state since 1993, including \$209 billion in 2018/19.
- Provide high-quality, full-day Pre-K programs for all children
- Increase opportunities to pair student achievement and teacher development through equitable accountability assessments and align outcomes with financial incentives and funding
- Expand high-quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities, measures that encourage non-traditional students to complete their education and obtain workforce skills, and provide flexible pathways and increased financial aid for students attending four-year higher education institutions

Transportation - Transportation needs are growing as rapidly as our regional population. We support innovative technology and solutions to mobility, as well as adequate investment in the maintenance and enhancements of our current transportation system. We will continue to advocate for local control in transportation planning.

- Oppose diversions to ensure transportation tax revenue is invested in and spent solely on transportation projects and priorities
- Reinforce regional decision-making authority to prioritize and identify funding for transportation projects in North Texas
- Provide funding to maintain and expand Texas' transportation system utilizing all available tools including managed lanes and public/private partnerships, along with full appropriation of Prop 1 and Prop 7, the voter-approved, transportation-dedicated revenue streams
- Support the development of a Texas high-speed rail project and oppose legislation that would inhibit the delivery of a North Texas-Houston service funded by the private sector
- Expand public transportation options and new innovations that promote mobility such as bike sharing, ride sharing, and others

Economic Development - Plano is a renowned location for businesses to grow and thrive. We advocate for policies that preserve and enhance our business-friendly environment, so we will remain a hub for global Fortune 500 companies, family-owned small businesses, and everything in between.

- Replenish the Texas Enterprise Fund to keep Texas competitive
- Maintain the R&D tax credit to incentivize new investments in Texas
- Reauthorize Chapter 312 of the Texas State Tax Code to continue allowing local property taxing entities to enter into tax abatement agreements
- Oppose legislation that would damage Texas' reputation as a "business-friendly" and welcoming state
- Oppose policies that regulate issues that would be better addressed at the federal level, including consumer privacy and digital marketing
- Support policies focused on enhancing innovations in technology and cybersecurity while maintaining a light-touch regulatory environment

Taxes and Spending - We support fiscally responsible policies that enhance our business climate while investing in the most essential areas – such as public education and transportation – and have the biggest return on investment for our valuable public dollars.

- Support prioritizing public education funding throughout the budget process
- Manage property taxes with local tax structures and processes that are fair and equitable for businesses, including support for local government to temporarily lower tax rates and then return to the previously-approved tax rate
- Consider opportunities for additional funding dedicated to public education that are tied to specific programs and outcomes
- Support improvements to state and local tax systems that create or enhance equity and transparency
- Continue to evaluate opportunities to create more equitable, effective tax(es) on a broad basis from the business sector

Healthcare - We support healthcare initiatives that provide access to quality services and adequate funding to meet the various needs of residents.

- Promote stable and adequate funding for health care providers in Texas, including maximizing opportunities for additional or matching federal funding
- Support the expansion of telehealth in Texas to improve access and quality of care, and promote patient safety for individuals disproportionately impacted by the social determinants of health
- Provide adequate funding for mental health services that allow individuals with severe and persistent mental illness to access services that are clinically appropriate, cost effective and improve health outcomes
- Ensure a stable source of critical trauma care funding that meets the area's growing needs
- Reduce the physician, nursing, allied health, and behavioral health workforce shortages through enhanced funding with an emphasis on prevention and well-being

Water and Environment - Natural resources are a vital component of a thriving community. We advocate for appropriate oversight of these resources and encourage conservation to ensure they remain sustainable.

- Oppose legislation that prevents or slows the implementation of water management strategies included in the Texas State Water Plan
- Conduct appropriate oversight on State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) applications to ensure appropriately prioritized funding
- Expedite general state permitting and inter-basin transfer processes
- Create effective water management strategies that include incentives for increased conservation efforts, recycling, and reuse projects

Higher Education - Institutions of higher education are essential to the development of Plano's future workforce. Their ability to bolster research, meet a diverse set of student and workforce needs, and help many Texans earn postsecondary degrees is essential for the entire region.

- Support legislation that will advance the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's 60x30TX plan
- Provide funding for 100% of students eligible for the TEXAS Grant Program
- Maintain special items funding for vital programs at Collin College and UT Dallas
- Support policies that bolster research at UT Dallas and other North Texas universities, including fully funding the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP) that provides state matching money for private research contributions
- Support programs that provide increased access to post-secondary degrees and certificates