



## INTRODUCTION

The North San Antonio Chamber represents more than 1,000 business members of various sizes and industry types; its members employ more than 150,000 employees throughout San Antonio and Bexar County. The Chamber adopts a broad, long-term view of the impact of business regulations on sustained economic growth and job creation. We support legislative efforts that promote continued long-term economic growth and jobs that includes a broad, long-term view of the impact of business and employer regulations, economic development, education and workforce development, infrastructure, and innovation.

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Chamber will deliver focused advocacy, actively engaging key business leaders, stakeholders, and legislators in these primary areas:

### Business Regulation and Employment Relations

**Employer Mandates**—Oppose state and local infringement of private employer rights and hiring practices under existing state and/or federal laws.

### Economic Development

**Travel, Tourism, & Hospitality**—Oppose legislation that hinders workforce recruitment, business attraction/relocation, and tourism in San Antonio and the State of Texas.

### Infrastructure

**Transportation & Aviation**—Support equitable distribution of state transportation infrastructure funding and advocate for increased funding of operations and capital expenses in collaboration with local partners to advance multi-modal transportation and expansion options and funding mechanisms for transportation infrastructure related to Texas' inland ports that serve as strategic assets for industry, trade, military, and emergency management.

### Education & Workforce

**Education Finance**—San Antonio's future workforce depends on fair education opportunities for all. We support a balanced approach to the distribution of public- and private-education funds and resources.

### Veterans, Defense, & Military

**Veteran Workforce**—Support legislation that promotes the participation, education, and training of Veterans transitioning to the civilian workforce in Texas, such as fast-tracking certifications for military veterans transitioning to the civilian workforce.

### General Business

The North San Antonio Chamber opposes legislation, proposed laws, statutes, or ordinances deemed discriminatory against any individual or detrimental to business, economic development and/or job creation.

In addition to the focused legislative priorities above, the Chamber will also actively track, support, and engage our business leaders, stakeholders, and legislators on other legislative issue areas, as needed.



### **BUSINESS REGULATION AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS**

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.

#### **Employer Mandates**

- **Oppose** state and local infringement of private-employer rights and hiring practices under established federal law.
- **Support** statewide legislation restricting state and local government interference with employer-employee relations with unnecessary, burdensome and unreasonable mandates, such as arbitrary living-wage ordinances, mandatory minimum wage increases, paid sick leave mandates, and predictive scheduling that preempts existing state or federal laws and impedes business and economic growth and job creation.

#### **Revenue Caps**

- **Oppose** legislation that would impose a stricter/reduced revenue cap, which would limit a city's ability to meet the needs of its rapidly growing population.

#### **Annexation Reform**

- **Monitor** legislation that could impact municipal annexation authority or land use controls in the extraterritorial jurisdiction.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Support continuation of local and state incentives that supplement and increase local economic development strategies to retain existing and recruit new employers and create new jobs.

#### **Tax Incentives and Investment Capital**

- **Support** continued appropriation of funds into the Texas Enterprise Fund (TEF) and for the Events Trust Fund and tax incentives to encourage business participation in education and workforce development programs and initiatives such as state and local tools used to compete for corporate expansions/relocations and job growth through the Texas Enterprise and Texas Enterprise Zone Funds reauthorization of the Texas Economic Development Act, Tax Code, Chapters 312 and 313.
- **Support** investment capital programs and initiatives for entrepreneurs and small businesses
- **Support** local control and flexibility in the use of tax abatements, tax increment financing, reinvestment zones and other incentives to promote economic development and job creation including the sustained use of a locally approved 1/2-cent sales tax collected by cities to fund economic development projects and prevent efforts to reallocate funds for non-economic development projects.

#### **Travel, Tourism, & Hospitality**

- **Oppose** any legislation hindering workforce recruitment, business attraction/relocation and tourism for San Antonio and the State of Texas.
- **Advocate for** full funding for state tourism promotion; maintaining the school start date law; protecting the integrity of the Hotel Occupancy Tax; the Tourism Public Improvement District and a legislative mandate to use funds to drive and promote tourism and conventions.
- **Oppose** legislation that applies unfair taxes and unreasonable regulations to the San Antonio and Texas travel industry.



## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTINUED**

- **Protect** Event Trust Funds and Major Events Trust Fund, and support comprehensive transportation infrastructure planning and travel-related programs, continued state investment in the Alamo, and multi-modal transportation that benefits travelers and supports the travel industry.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Transportation & Aviation**

- **Support** equitable distribution of state transportation infrastructure funding and **Oppose** any effort to reduce the availability of recent revenue gains provided by Propositions 1 and 7.
- **Support** continued policy of non-diversion of revenue from the State Highway Fund and urge consideration of a Constitutional Amendment to prevent such diversions in future legislative sessions.
- **Support** San Antonio Mobility Coalition (SAMCo) Legislative Program for the 86th Session to include, but not be limited to preserving existing revenue streams and funding approaches and supporting potential new sources of revenue, and SAMCo's proposed Interim Legislative Studies (2019-2020).
- **Advocate for** increased funding of operations and capital expenses in collaboration with local partners to advance multi-modal transportation and expansion options.
- **Advocate for** efforts to establish funding mechanisms for transportation infrastructure related to Texas' inland ports, including industrial airport facilities such as Kelly Field that serve as critical and strategic assets for industry, trade, and our military, as well as for disaster response and emergency management.

### **Energy Resources & Sustainability**

- **Support** letting markets lower energy costs and improve grid reliability, promoting a free enterprise approach to energy production, improved long-term reliability for the grid, and production of adequate and diversified energy supplies at competitive prices, without overregulation
- **Support** energy efficiency efforts that encourage and incentivize local, voluntary, free-market energy conservation programs that are cost-effective while investing in needed infrastructure, grid reliability, and security.
- **Support** efforts to ensure TCEQ adopts flexible, aggressive plans for the approval of emission reduction credits to ensure the maximum degree of economic growth and business development in air quality, nonattainment areas.

### **Redevelopment**

- **Support** preserving and enhancing funding to implement the Alamo Master Plan, which includes redevelopment of the Alamo complex and Alamo historic district.
- **Support** efforts to improve the eminent domain process that protect both the interests and rights of property owners, improve the efficiency of the process for **any** party acquiring property through eminent domain, reduce the costs of infrastructure projects to taxpayers and ratepayers and ensure a balance of interests between both public utilities and landowners.

### **Affordable Housing**

- Support legislation that allows flexible and innovative partner-based solutions that increase opportunities for affordable housing for a low- and moderate-income labor workforce and their families.



## **EDUCATION & WORKFORCE**

San Antonio's future workforce depends on fair education opportunities for all.

- **Support** a balanced approach to the distribution of public- and private-education funding and resources and efforts to strengthen public education solvency through a student-centered school finance system that promotes a fair, equitable, quality education choice and manageability of funds.
- **Support** career and technology education in public schools, community colleges, and private education institutions to assist in closing the job skills gap for advanced manufacturing, technology, and cybersecurity.
- **Support** increased alignment among K-12 and higher education systems to ensure increased student participation in courses that lead to in-demand occupations through increased funding for dual credit and career tech courses.
- **Support** enhanced formula funding for health related institutions (HRIs) like UT Health San Antonio (UTHSA), inclusive of Graduate Medical Education, to increase and retain Texas' Medical School graduates, increase the number of physician residency training positions, and continue funding to increase the number of nurses and allied health professionals affecting the present healthcare workforce shortage in the state.
- **Support** collaborative efforts for Tuition Revenue Bonds (TRBs) which enable public higher education capital construction projects that are critical to program advancement and economic development investments and San Antonio's workforce.

## **VETERANS, DEFENSE, & MILITARY**

### **Veteran Workforce**

- **Support** legislation that will continue to assist the participation, education, and training of Veterans transitioning to the civilian workforce in Texas, such as fast-tracking certifications for military veterans transitioning to civilian workforce.
- **Support** legislation that implements aggressive hiring policies and improvements for veterans; analyzing barriers in education or occupational careers upon completing military service; allowing maximum college credit benefits for service-related training.

### **Military Installations**

- **Support** legislation that protects San Antonio-based military installations from BRAC activities and enhances military value..
- **Support** increased funding for the Texas Military Preparedness Commission's Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) and enhance military value of active installations.
- **Support** leveraging recent military mission growth with recognized invaluable research capacity in area Universities, such as UTSA, to position the San Antonio-Austin Corridor as a Regional Innovation Hub, thereby creating an industrywide investment zone for future innovation opportunities across a range of industries including Military, Cybersecurity, Information Technology, Healthcare, Bioscience, and Manufacturing.



## INNOVATION

### Technology and Cybersecurity

- **Support** Texas Cybersecurity Act reauthorization and efforts to strengthen the cybersecurity posture of industry, government, and community partners.
- **Support** efforts to enhance the states' ability to protect business and personal data to help ensure confidence in the programs, processes and systems that maintain sensitive information.
- **Support** programs to increase awareness for small- and medium-sized businesses to protect themselves from cybersecurity threats.
- **Support** efforts to increase the supply of a skilled workforce for the cybersecurity sector, including programs that effectively transition veterans into this sector.
- **Support** efforts to establish a National Security Collaboration Center (NSCC) at UTSA-Downtown.

### Healthcare

- **Sustain** state funding for UTHSA as it supports leading edge and innovative programs in education not otherwise supported by formula funding.
- **Recover and sustain** state funding supporting the UTHSA, San Antonio Life Sciences Institute's (SALSI) mission to collaborate and contribute to solutions for the challenges facing research and healthcare that impact education, research and workforce/infrastructure development, specifically in biomedicine.
- **Recover and sustain** state funding supporting educational and clinical training programs in the south Texas Border Region and San Antonio.
- **Support** legislation that Restores Medicare Part B co-pay of the 20 percent coinsurance payment for Medicare Part B cost-sharing on physician services for the state's dual eligible patients.
- **Support** legislation for highest quality healthcare and help consumers gain increased access to primary care and lower healthcare costs for Texas businesses.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Oppose** legislation, proposed laws, statutes, or ordinances deemed discriminatory against any individual or group of individuals and would impact workforce recruitment and/or cause a negative economic impact on the state, including but not limited to Texas' ability to attract major events, conventions, workforce and corporate recruitment.
- **Support** transparency and public access within the Public Information Act that does not threaten private sector proprietary information or competitiveness.



## **PARTNERSHIPS 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 through a variety of ways and take into consideration the legislative priorities of our partners as they pertain to business and job growth and economic development.

- Bexar County
- City of San Antonio
- Live Brooks
- National Federation of Independent Businesses
- Northside ISD
- Port San Antonio
- San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
- San Antonio Economic Development Foundation
- San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- San Antonio Hotel & Lodging Association
- San Antonio Housing Authority
- San Antonio Mobility Coalition
- San Antonio Tourism Council
- Texas A&M University-San Antonio
- Texas Association of Business
- Texas Public Policy Foundation
- University of Texas-San Antonio
- UTHSC-San Antonio
- Visit San Antonio
- VIA Metropolitan Transit

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