



NORTH SAN ANTONIO  
**CHAMBER**

Keeping Bexar County Strong.

2017

Legislative Position

85th Legislative Session



## **Revenue Caps**

Revenue Caps would severely restrict the ability of local governments to increase property taxes when needed. SB 2 would trigger an automatic vote on any city or county property tax increase of more than 4 percent per year. Currently, a rollback election is allowed if a tax increase exceeds 8 percent. The City of San Antonio is expected to grow by an additional 1 million people by 2040. Stricter revenue caps would severely limit the City's ability to deliver the services important to the community, such as parks, libraries, public safety and senior centers.

The North SA Chamber opposes legislation that would impose a stricter revenue cap, which would limit a city's ability to meet the needs of its rapidly growing population.

## **Annexation Reform**

The North SA Chamber supports a city's ability to control its Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) and oppose legislation that would limit local control and undermine the fundamental authority of cities.

## **Economic Development**

Oppose any legislation that will hinder workforce recruitment, business attraction/relocation and tourism for San Antonio and the State of Texas.

Support continued funding for the Texas Enterprise Fund for economic growth and development and the Events Trust Fund which assists in business and event attraction to the state, and provides additional oversight and transparency measures to the TEF.

Support preserving and enhancing funding to implement the Alamo Master Plan, which includes redevelopment of the Alamo complex and Alamo historic district.

## **Transportation**

Oppose any effort to reduce the availability of recent revenue gains provided by Propositions 1 and 7 in attempting to fund other state budget priorities.

Support legislative efforts to fully implement Propositions 1 and 7 and ensure equitable distribution of funding among the districts. Oppose any efforts to reduce anticipated funding from these two revenue sources.

Support continued policy of non-diversion of revenue from the State Highway Fund. Urge consideration of a Constitutional Amendment to prevent such diversions in future legislative sessions.



## Education & Workforce

Texas' employers are experiencing significant challenges in hiring appropriately qualified, technical talent to fill current job openings and fuel continued job growth. Enhancing certification and associate degree programs can help to fill this need and provide an identifiable future for high-school students:

Support continued efforts and strategies that align our workforce and educational systems both at a local and state level to ensure innovative models are supported with the necessary resources. This would include the alignment of our state-wide agencies:

Texas Education Agency (TEA), State Board of Education (SBOE), Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and Texas Workforce Commission (TWC); as well as alignment between our local and statewide workforce boards.

Support career and technology education in public schools and community colleges to assist in closing the job skills gap for advanced manufacturing, technology, and cybersecurity.

Support legislation that will increase alignment amongst our K-12 and higher education systems to ensure increased student participation in courses that lead to in-demand occupations which can be accomplished through an increase in 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.

## Healthcare

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 a legislative funding mechanism designated to trauma which would support the state's network of regional trauma facilities that currently provide more than \$230 million each year in uncompensated care for critical healthcare services.

Support enhancing non-formula funding of \$5M for The Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies to further develop clinical trials in Alzheimer's diseases, expanding military health research and collaborations.

## Cybersecurity

The North SA Chamber supports 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.



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