



Draft Resolutions

Pertaining to Joint Positions during the 86th Session of the Texas Legislature

2018-19-1: DENTON CHAMBER of COMMERCE
JOINT PRIORITIES DURING the 86th SESSION of the TEXAS LEGISLATURE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the Denton Chamber of Commerce has been the chief proponent and advocate of an healthy, expanding and profitable local business community since 1909; and

WHEREAS, the Mission Statement of the Denton Chamber states that the organization shall represent and serve its members by providing leadership on key issues that impact economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the Denton Chamber has served as the primary external marketing arm of the JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP with the CITY of DENTON since 1987.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Denton Chamber of Commerce does hereby approve its:

1. Support for legislation to extend the sunset date of Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code to allow for the continued use of property tax abatements.
2. Support continuation or expansion of funding of the Skills Development Fund of the Texas Workforce Commission to promote workforce training.
3. Introduce and seek passage of legislation that enables the creation of a Tourism Public Improvement District (TPID).

2018-19-2: DENTON CHAMBER of COMMERCE
JOINT PRIORITIES DURING the 86th SESSION of the TEXAS LEGISLATURE
TOURISM PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Denton Chamber of Commerce has been designated as the lead marketing and support entity for conventions, tourism and the hospitality industry in general by virtue of its contract to administer the Denton Convention & Visitor Bureau since 1976; and

WHEREAS, Tourism Public Improvement Districts (TPID) are a proven tool for creating more funding to recruit convention business in a highly competitive market, such as Denton's position compared to major area destination cities, such as Arlington, Dallas and Fort Worth; and

WHEREAS, funded solely by self-assessments from local hotels within a designated district, creation and application of a TPID would not require expenditure of any City of Denton general revenues; and

WHEREAS, the City of Denton City Council has approved Resolution 18-1847 advocating the authority to create a local TPID.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Denton Chamber of Commerce does hereby:

1. Endorse the concept of a Tourism Public Improvement District as a valuable supplement for supporting local tourism allies.
2. Support the City of Denton's resolution requesting applicable statutory authority through the Texas Legislature to create a Tourism Public Improvement District in Denton.

2018-19-3: UNITED WAY of DENTON COUNTY, Inc.
JOINT PRIORITIES DURING the 86th SESSION of the TEXAS LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, the Denton Chamber of Commerce and the United Way of Denton County, Inc. share the philosophy that Denton County's strong economic productivity depends on effective education that produces a highly skilled workforce that is healthy, housed, and protected; and

WHEREAS, the Denton Chamber and United Way are allies sharing support from many of the same benefactors, advocating a common pledge to help make the Denton area an attractive place in which to live and work; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Denton Chamber of Commerce does hereby endorse the key points of the United Way of Denton County, Inc.'s employable workforce priorities for the 86th Session of the Texas Legislature, to include:

1. Integration of academic and workforce development policies that create cradle-to-career pathways, providing a better educated workforce that enables self-sufficiency.
2. Continue to increase funding that would expand the entry points for coordinated and comprehensive services for behavioral health that are planned, cohesive, and monitored for effectiveness at the community level that ensures individual wellbeing and community safety for residents of all ages.
3. Continue to increase funding for housing, health, and behavioral health services for veterans transitioning from military life and for those already in our community.
4. Increase access to high quality, affordable child care and early childhood education; and increase access to dropout prevention programs for at-risk students that improve student achievement and post-graduation success.
5. Support for prevention and intervention programs that make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring, and policies that promote an increase in affordable, available and accessible housing throughout the state.
6. Reform the statutory framework for regulation of predatory lending to provide protections for financially vulnerable Texans from aggressive and harmful lending practices.

2018-19-4: CITY of DENTON
JOINT PRIORITIES DURING the 86th SESSION of the TEXAS LEGISLATURE
LOCAL CONTROL

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Denton Chamber of Commerce recognizes and supports the need for the City of Denton to preserve its ability to determine its own financial destiny in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens and to meet the needs and demands of those citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Denton Chamber Board has previously supported specific aspects of this position during the 85th Session of the Texas Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Denton Chamber of Commerce does renew its current position to:

1. Support legislation that preserves municipal home-rule authority.
2. Oppose legislation that would reduce or otherwise negatively impact municipal revenue streams, particularly revenue or tax caps, and, sales tax expansion fulling benefitting the municipality.
3. Support the authority of Texas cities to manage and control their rights-of-way or other public property, and to be reasonably compensated for such use.
4. Support the current authority of Texas cities to enact a system and set the level of impact fees for new development.
5. Support cities' ability to adopt or amend zoning regulations or annex property in their extraterritorial jurisdiction.

2018-19-5: DENTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
JOINT PRIORITIES DURING the 85th SESSION of the TEXAS LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Denton Chamber of Commerce places great emphasis on the quality of education; and recognizes that the future prosperity of not only Denton, but the entire state, relies on an education system that prepares students for college and all types of careers; and

WHEREAS, the Denton Chamber supports the Denton Independent School District's goal of striving for excellence in student achievement; and

WHEREAS, the Denton Chamber recognizes and embraces that much of the success of the Denton ISD to continuously achieve said excellence is related to the actions of the 86th Session of the Texas Legislature; and

WHEREAS, The Denton Independent School District is categorized as a destination, Fast Growth School District, although funding formula weights in the Existing Debt Allotment and Instructional Facilities Allotment formulas have remained frozen, accounting for large amounts of deferred maintenance;

WHEREAS the Denton ISD Board of Trustees has endorsed several key priorities identified by the Texas association of School Boards and the Texas Association of School Administrators.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Denton Chamber of Commerce does hereby:

1. Oppose the diversion of public funds for vouchers, tax credits, education savings grants, or any other funding mechanisms diverting funds to private schools. Consider public accountability and transparency provisions to charter schools in compliance with the Texas Constitution.
2. Support an assessment and accountability system that values student growth and achievement over standardized, high-stakes one day testing. Promote the establishment of a comprehensive accountability system. Oppose A-F campus and district ratings.
3. Support legislation making public education funding a priority. Recommend that the state make appropriate budget adjustments to the school finance system by developing a simplified and sustainable plan, which provides resources promoting educational excellence for all Texas students. Advocates for truth in taxation as it relates to the implications of rising property values.

Denton ISD Resolution continued:

4. Support a state-funded organizational framework designed to create a network of effective support in our public schools and community-based services to address the mental health needs and school safety of our children.
5. Support governance allowing for local control of the school district. Support establishment of innovations in school district taxing authority allowing local school trustees more flexibility to raise and lower taxes within a voter-approved limit.
6. Supports full funding for the expansion of high-quality Pre-K programs state-wide.
7. Recognizes the needs of rapidly growing districts and districts in areas of the state with low property values and supports the legislature in designing a school finance system to provide adequate and equitable resources.

2018-19-6: DENTON AREA INSTITUTIONS of HIGHER EDUCATION
JOINT PRIORITIES DURING the 86th SESSION of the TEXAS LEGISLATURE
(TWU only)

WHEREAS, the Denton Chamber of Commerce places great emphasis on the quality of education; and

WHEREAS, the Denton Chamber proudly acknowledges the fact that the city of Denton is the home of the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University, as well as having a central business district campus of North Central Texas College; and

WHEREAS, the Denton Chamber recognizes the importance of higher education as a critical component for attracting and retaining quality professional career opportunities, major corporate investment for the entire state, and subsequently a year-round contributor to economic development and business assistance, providing a positive impact on the local economy.

NOW, THEREFORE. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Denton Chamber of Commerce does hereby:

(a) Support Texas Woman's University in its request:

1. Full Formula Funding to address enrollment growth and inflation.
2. Maintain 100% of Base Funding Including Hold Harmless Funding
3. Transfer of Hold Harmless Funding to Institutional Enhancement significantly reducing the need for increased tuition.
4. Tuition Revenue Bond Funding for Health Sciences Center
5. State Financial Support for Students
6. Additional Funds for Nursing Faculty expand capacity to address the growing shortage of nurses
7. Funding for Hazelwood Exemptions; help offset the costs of maintaining a Military Veteran Friendly status for eight consecutive years.

(b) Support the University of North Texas in its request:

(c) Support North Central Texas College in its request:

1. An 8%, or \$144 million, overall increase in state formula funding for Texas Community Colleges during the 2020-2021 biennium. The recommended funding level includes increases. Respectfully ask the 86th Legislature to support increasing the biennial rate for Success Points from the current \$173 to \$215 per point.
2. Dual Credit: Broadening Access and Sustaining Quality - Texas community colleges completely support dual credit as both a proven means for students to earn college credit even while they are still in high school, and as an important factor in meeting the state's 60x30TX plan.
 - Establishing a state goal for dual credit: By 2030, no less than 30% of high school graduates will have earned at least 12 semester credit hours (SCH) in dual credit.
 - Establishing a state taskforce to include the THECB, Texas Education Agency, Texas Workforce Commission, and stakeholders from K-12 and higher education to study equitable access to quality dual credit programs across the state and the role of dual credit in meeting the goals of the 60X30TX plan.
 - Requiring dual credit students to declare a meta-major/field of study upon completion of 12 SCH in core academic subjects or declare a career path upon completion of 12 SCH in career and technical education (CTE).
 - Broadening dual credit access by expanding student eligibility for the Texas Education Opportunity Grant (TEOG) program to high school students enrolled in dual credit for up to 12 SCH in core academic transfer subjects or in CTE courses leading to certifications.
3. Recommend increased state investments in community college formula funding to help broaden the reach of CTE and CE programs, and sustained state funding for SDF and JET Texas Community Colleges partner to deliver workforce training through two programs Skills Development Fund (SDF) and Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant.