

# 2025 State Legislative Agenda

The Austin Chamber of Commerce encourages legislators to work in a bipartisan manner to advance policies that strengthen our economy, create good-paying jobs, support small businesses and boost state investments into our education system. Central Texas has experienced tremendous growth in recent years. The entire state benefits from this economic growth and the Legislature plays an important role in passing legislation that improves the lives of all Texans and ensures that Central Texas remains a great place to live, work and raise a family.



## EXECUTIVE PRIORITIES

### Economic Development Policy

Support policies that attract employers, create jobs and grow Central Texas' manufacturing and technology industry. The Legislature should increase investments in physical infrastructure and broadband to keep pace with population and economic growth, as well as boost funding for:

- Texas Enterprise Fund
- Skills Development Fund
- Film Incentives

### Workforce Development

The Austin Chamber supports policies and programs that bolster our local workforce, strengthen Texas' talent pipeline and prepare our students and workers for careers in high demand fields. The Legislature should advance policies that support Texas' childcare infrastructure, which is critical to supporting parents in the workforce.

### Education & Recapture

State investments in K-12 are critically important to improving education outcomes. The Legislature should increase the basic allotment, update a cost of education index, maintain accountability and invest in teachers to ensure that public schools can thrive. The Legislature should identify reforms to Recapture, which send nearly \$1 Billion in Central Texas taxpayer dollars outside of our region.

### Artificial Intelligence Policy

The Legislature should advance common-sense, responsible laws related to artificial intelligence (AI) that protects innovation and beneficial emerging technologies while safeguarding citizens and businesses against harmful uses of AI.

## KEY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

### Housing Affordability

The Legislature should address the dramatic increases in housing costs for both renters and homeowners, and advance policies that ensure the Greater Austin region is affordable for all. Amend the "two-mile rule" which restricts affordable housing development.

### Property Tax Relief

Following tax relief that was approved by voters last year, the Legislature should identify further policies that can lower the property tax burden for businesses and homeowners.

### Secure the Grid

The Legislature should pursue policies that increase grid reliability while keeping costs affordable for businesses and Texans. Importantly, transmission capacity must be expanded to keep pace with the deployment of additional dispatchable energy resources.

### Racial & Social Equity

The Austin Chamber opposes discrimination in all forms and encourages the Legislature to reject racism and bigotry and address systemic inequities in our society. The Legislature should identify ways to expand access to employment opportunities, reduce inequities in housing, health care, education and housing and protect the civil rights of all Texans.

### Water

Extreme drought and population growth compel the need for Central Texas water suppliers and utilities to partner with the state to invest in water infrastructure and water conservation throughout Central Texas.

### Promote Clean Energy

The Austin Chamber supports the expansion of the clean energy industry in Texas, and opposes efforts that create burdensome red tape for deploying wind, solar and other renewable energy projects.

### Health Care

To promote wellness, lower costs and expand access to care, the Legislature should consider policies that reduce the number of uninsured Texans while maintaining affordable coverage options. Further, the Austin Chamber opposes efforts to limit or restrict employee benefits and healthcare coverage options available to Texas employers.

### Transportation & Infrastructure

The Austin Chamber supports increased state-level funding for regional transportation initiatives that keep pace with our population and economic growth. Further, the Austin Chamber supports efforts that protect City of Austin municipal investments in 21st century transit solutions.