

2019 Annual Report

Learn more at austinchamber.com/annualreport



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

About the Chamber

The Austin Chamber takes on the biggest challenges so you can focus on growing your business.

Our Mission

To provide leadership that facilitates the creation of a prosperous regional economy and results in effective advocacy for our members

www.austinchamber.com

2019 Board Chair



Brian Cassidy

Managing Partner, Locke Lord

"There are many opportunities for us to continue the success we've had in stimulating and growing the economy through generating and attracting new jobs that help people in our region gain economic stability and prosperity."

Events Held



43 events last year

New Members



351 new members last year

Website Visits



133K website visitors

since launch of new austinchamber.com in July 2019

ATX HELPS

Business Community Collaboration

Driven by the Austin Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Austin Alliance—as well as a number of other businesses, nonprofit entities, faith-based organizations, and individuals—ATX Helps launched on Nov. 7, 2019, with the goal of raising \$14 million to construct and operate a shelter that will provide immediate housing and other necessities for Austinites experiencing homelessness.



For more information or to see how you can get involved, visit atxhelps.org



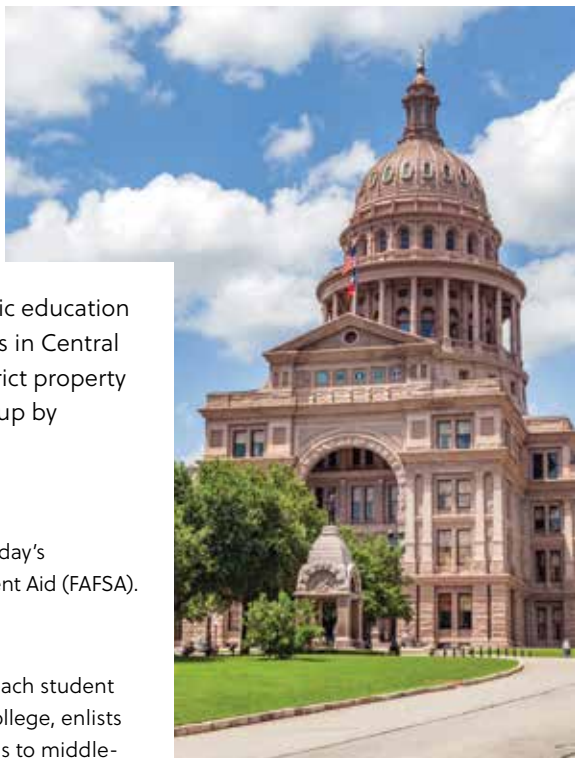
Effective workforce training programs

The Chamber continues to collaborate with education partners, such as local school districts and Austin Community College, to ensure Austin continues to have individuals with the talent and skills to fill the jobs of tomorrow. As part of a grant funded by the Texas Workforce Commission and facilitated by Workforce Solutions Capital Area, the Chamber has hired a talent coordinator to work directly with local school districts to connect students with learning opportunities from nearby businesses.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

86th Texas Legislature

The Chamber supported and advocated for key policy initiatives to ensure Texas remains competitive when it comes to infrastructure and strong economic fundamentals necessary for attracting and retaining job creators and talent.



Economic Development Tools

The Legislature approved increased funding for economic development projects and renewed the ability for local governments to offer tax abatements on new investment projects.



HB 1
Appropriates \$534 million for economic development projects



HB 3143
Extends Tax Code Chapter 312 to 2029

Education Improvement

The Legislature approved landmark legislation that reforms public education funding. The legislation will keep money for Central Texas schools in Central Texas, while reducing property tax rates. We estimate school district property taxes due to state recapture (aka Robin Hood) would have gone up by approximately \$600 million in FY21 without the passage of HB 3.



FAFSA
The state expects all high school graduates, starting with today’s sophomores, to complete the Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA).



COLLEGE/CAREER/MILITARY READINESS
School districts will receive \$3,000-\$5,000 in bonuses for each student who graduates college ready and either goes directly to college, enlists in the US Armed Services, or earns a certification that leads to middle-wage employment.

Opportunity Austin 4.0

In 2019, we launched the fourth iteration of our prosperity initiative, Opportunity Austin. Opportunity Austin 4.0 aims to boost economic diversification to proactively strengthen the economy, deepen the talent pool through development and attraction, and keep the Greater Austin region attractive to entrepreneurs, business leaders and site selectors.

For more information:
austinchamber.com/about/opportunity-austin

ACTIVITY	2019	2018	Annual Goal	Campaign to Date	OA 4.0 Goal
Prospect Visits	139	157	125	139	625
Lead Generation	276	280	250	276	1,250
Out-of-Region Visits	306	240	225	306	1,125
Newly Located Companies	58	46	60	58	300
Regional Retention Surveys	469	556	280	469	1,400
Local Expansions	118	109	100	118	500

Expansions & Relocations





Mobility


Air Services

The Chamber continued its work to increase the number of nonstop flights out of Austin-Bergstrom International Airport.

- 

March 2019
British Airways celebrates 5th anniversary of service from Austin → London
- 

May 2019
Lufthansa launches service from Austin → Frankfurt
- 

September 2019
KLM Royal Dutch Airlines announces nonstop from Austin → Amsterdam
- 

October 2019
Norwegian Air announces nonstop from Austin → Paris

Project Connect

Boards of the Chamber and partner organization Real Estate Council of Austin passed a joint resolution to support Capital Metro’s Project Connect vision, provided key items are addressed.



Brian Cassidy
2019 Board Chair

“We look forward to playing an active role in planning high-capacity transit that is part of a comprehensive regional multi-modal system that connects Central Texans to job opportunities across the region.”

