

*The Austin Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors unanimously approved recommendations for the 86th legislative session designed to ensure Texas remains competitive when it comes to infrastructure and strong economic fundamentals necessary to attracting and retaining job creators and talent.*

## HIGHEST BUDGET PRIORITIES

- + *Maintain \$200 million balance in Texas Enterprise Fund to keep Texas competitive for major economic development opportunities.*
- + *Fully fund voter-authorized transportation Propositions 1 & 7 and fulfill budget requirements from 85th legislative session.*
- + *Authorize higher per pupil K-12 spending targeted to keep our best teachers in the classroom and improve kindergarten, 3rd, 5th and 8th grade and college/career readiness rates. Reduce local property tax rates for Central Texas taxpayers.*

**Economic Development** - We need to attract and create new jobs to keep our economy moving forward. We will promote a diverse workforce, support reauthorizing Chapter 312, and work to protect all economic development tools that are crucial to job creation and generation.

**Investment Capital & Innovation** - Austin is an incubator for innovative, small- and high-growth companies and entrepreneurs. These companies that are intertwined in the fabric of Austin's, and Texas', economy require significant and specialized capital resources to grow jobs. We will support domestic venture and capital markets to promote a tie-breaker preference by state investment funds for in-state money managers. We will promote partnerships between private industry and academia, support the Governor's University Research Initiative and oppose unnecessary regulations.

**Transportation** - Growing population and insufficient planning or funding has left Texas behind the curve on transportation infrastructure. We'll advocate for the use of all project delivery and funding tools, support an update to the latest transportation needs and funding study, support urban congestion relief, and call for new policies that encourage and enable transportation technologies and solutions.

**K-12** - In addition to addressing Robin Hood, we support policies that educate and prepare each generation for a career that will help every Texan pay their bills and provide for their families. This includes maintaining the current K-12 accountability system, increase per-pupil funding tied to improved student outcomes, update and account for the cost of education in Central Texas, and allow school districts to receive transportation funding.

**Higher Education, Workforce** - To help limit student debt, we support continuing priority for TEXAS Grant scholarships to limited income students who graduate college/career ready. We also support the legislature enacting 60x30 Texas plan; and we should also classify computer science courses as CTE so schools offering these courses receive weighted funding. We should increase opportunities for students to pursue dual-credit and P-TECH course offerings, internships and other credentials in advanced manufacturing, health care, and IT.

**Promoting a consistent regulatory environment** - We will work collaboratively to promote a consistent regulatory environment for municipal governments and promote flexible employer hiring practices.