



SUMMARY

The North San Antonio Chamber represents over a thousand business members and industries that employ more than 150,000 employees throughout Bexar County. The Chamber is an advocate for business-friendly initiatives and legislation and will work to ensure that the voices of Member businesses are heard and represented in Austin during the 87th Texas Legislative Session. While the 2019 Session was successful with school finance reform and property tax relief, the 87th Session will be extraordinary with an expected budget shortfall with the Legislature prioritizing redistricting; healthcare; and recalibration of school finance and education and the economy and workforce impacted by COVID-19.

We will advocate for comprehensive legislation that helps to recover, restore, and expand business and our economy, especially small businesses impacted most by COVID-19 pandemic; and help the immediate need for workforce and job growth in hard-hit industries, including opposing pandemic-related restrictions, limitations and government overreach imposed on businesses. We support legislative efforts that sustains continued economic growth and job creation that includes a broad, long-term view of the impact of business and employer regulations, economic development, education and workforce development, infrastructure and innovation, and the defense community and Veterans.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

In addition to the COVID-19 legislative priorities, the North SA Chamber will focus its advocacy by actively engaging business leaders, stakeholders, and legislators in these primary areas:

BUSINESS REGULATION AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS

Employer Mandates—Support legislation that protects business, economic growth, and job creation by prohibiting regulations and other governmental actions that limit employers’ rights that are unconstitutional or hinder free enterprise.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Incentives, Travel, Tourism, Entertainment, & Hospitality—Support continuation of local and state incentives that supplement and increase local economic development strategies to retain existing and recruit new employers and create new jobs. Advocate for incentives that contribute to recovering industries and oppose efforts that could hinder workforce recruitment, business attraction/relocation, and tourism.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

Education & Workforce Finance—San Antonio’s future workforce depends on education opportunities for all. Therefore, we support full/expanded HB3 funding. Support a balanced approach to the distribution of public- and private-education funds and resources. Support funding and resources that lead to a strong workforce for in-demand and high-need occupations and TRBs for public higher education capital construction projects.

INFRASTRUCTURE & INNOVATION

Transportation & Ports, Energy, Technology, & Healthcare—Preserve existing and support new revenue sources for all transportation modes. Support innovative, cost-effective solutions strengthening all aspects of energy and utilities. Support innovative technology and broadband connectivity. Support expanded consumer healthcare access with lower business costs. Support funding for biomedical research and higher education infrastructure.

VETERANS, DEFENSE, & MILITARY

Military & Veteran Workforce—Support legislation that promotes the training and placement of transitioning Veterans to civilian workforce, such as limiting barriers and fast-tracking certifications. Support legislation that protects local military installations from BRAC activities, including increased DEAG funding.



PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES

The Chamber includes recommendations, facilitates input, and considers legislative priorities from our member businesses and organizations when developing our legislative priorities. We also engage our business and community partners through a variety of ways and take into consideration the legislative priorities of our partners as they pertain to business and job growth and economic development. A sample of these partners are listed below:

- Alamo Colleges
- Bexar County
- City of San Antonio
- CPS Energy
- Joint Base San Antonio
- National Federation of Independent Businesses
- Northeast ISD
- Northside ISD
- Port San Antonio
- San Antonio Economic Development Foundation
- San Antonio Mobility Coalition
- San Antonio Tourism Council
- San Antonio Water System
- South Texas Energy & Economic Roundtable
- Texas 2036
- Texas A&M University-San Antonio
- Texas Association of Business
- Texas Public Policy Foundation
- University of Texas-San Antonio
- University Health-San Antonio
- University Hospital
- Visit San Antonio
- VIA Metropolitan Transit

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