



87th State Legislative Session

Legislative Agenda
and Priorities

2021



Top 15 State Legislative Priorities

San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

**Priorities are not listed in the order of preference*

SMALL BUSINESS

1. Supports economic relief for small businesses that have been adversely affected by COVID-19.
2. Opposes legislation regulating a private business's daily operations and or employment practices.
3. Supports efforts to increase the percentage of contracts awarded to local small businesses, especially woman, veteran or minority owned.

EDUCATION

Public Education:

4. Supports education funding be, at a minimum, adequate to cover HB3 (86R) and other commitments made by the 86th legislature; and, alternative revenue sources, including lessening tax compression measures, should be explored as ways to ensure public education is fully funded.

Higher Education:

5. Supports enhanced funding (formula and non-formula) and authorize permanent Mission Specific Formulas (MSF) for San Antonio institutions of higher education (IHEs) and Health-Related Institutions.
6. Supports Tuition Revenue Bonds (TRBs) for San Antonio institutions of higher education and Health-Related Institutions to utilize for a capital construction projects.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

7. Supports maintaining and strengthening the availability of economic development incentives as a business recruitment tool that encourages significant jobs and capital investment including the ability for local governments to leverage economic development tools to encourage growth tailored to their region.
8. Opposes legislation that would potentially discriminate against Texans based upon race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, age or disability.
9. Opposes legislation that would erode local control and limit the authority of municipalities and government entities to address the unique needs of their communities, including any prohibition of advocacy and/or communicating community priorities with legislators.





HEALTHCARE

10. Supports expanding access to affordable healthcare coverage for an estimated two million uninsured, low-income, adult Texans.
11. Supports securing the remaining \$152.4M needed to complete the reconstruction of a new San Antonio State Hospital (SASH).



TRANSPORTATION

12. Supports continuation of current funding framework for the State Highway Fund (SHF) including full funding and implementation of Propositions 1 and 7.
13. Supports initiatives that protect and expand the ability of VIA to fund and deliver public transportation services and options within the community.



BROADBAND

14. Supports working with the State and private internet service providers to explore the best options to increase availability, adoption, and quality of high-speed internet service in underserved areas where connectivity is needed the most.



MILITARY, VETERANS & SPOUSES

15. Supports legislation that will continue to assist the participation, education, and training of Veterans transitioning to the civilian workforce in Texas and ease the burden of transition to civilian life for military members and their families, including but not limited to licensing and professional certifications.

General State Legislative Priorities

SMALL BUSINESS

- Supports much needed property tax reform and relief for small businesses.

EDUCATION

Higher Education:

- Supports expanding the funding and resource capacity for to Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI).
- Supports increasing the allocations per trainee under the Skills Development Fund, and Jobs/Education for Texans Grant.
- Supports continuing to improve pathways for credential completion to meet regional industry needs through:
 - Establishment of a statewide dual-credit plan
 - Expansion of Career and Technical Education (CTE) dual-credit opportunities
- Supports establishing a task force to review equity of access to quality dual credit programs statewide and determine method for expanding the Texas Education Opportunity Grant to high school students enrolled in dual credit courses.
- Supports \$2.5 million in annual funding to support the San Antonio Partnership for Precision Therapeutics (SAPPT).
- Supports continued funding of Texas grants for students attending public colleges and universities.

Curriculum:

- Supports legislation and appropriations for expanded role of STEM courses, career, technology, and trade programs in Texas public schools providing necessary materials such as high tech and relevant equipment, curriculum, and expanded student career readiness choices.

Workforce Development:

- Supports growing and investing in employer-informed workforce programs including short-term training and micro-credentialing while ensuring they are recognized as part of the states 60x30TX Plan.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Supports maintaining the equitable use of eminent domain authority to ensure the delivery of much needed infrastructure projects for water, transportation projects, railroads, ports, pipelines, power transmission and distribution systems, utility connections, communications networks, and drainage and flood control systems for growing communities.
- Supports pursuing efforts to establish/expand funding mechanisms for transportation infrastructure, including industrial airport facilities such as Kelly Field that serve as critical and strategic assets for industry, trade, and our military, as well as for disaster response and emergency management.

Cybersecurity and Innovation:

- Supports state of Texas funding for the implementation of the Community Cyber Security Maturity Model (CCSMM) across the state of Texas. Specifically, support for \$5 million in funding for UTSA's Cybersecure Advanced Manufacturing for Texas Initiative in order to assist Texas manufacturers to pursue training and certification for their workforce.

Energy:

- Supports the continued preservation of the Municipally Owned Utility (MOU) business model and opposes any efforts that would erode CPS Energy's ability to directly serve the needs of our San Antonio community, including full or partial opt-in requirements.
- Supports legislation that allows utilities, like CPS Energy, to continue to ensure the physical and cyber security of critical infrastructure assets and sensitive information while balancing transparency and open communication with industry, regulators and our community.
- Supports Ensuring Texas' diverse and competitive energy market is affordable, reliable and sustainable without favoring one energy source over another.

Transportation:

- Supports continued availability of tolling for the delivery of major added capacity projects in regions of the state that have insufficient revenue from traditional sources.
- Opposes any legislation that would further limit the ability of local governments to pursue infrastructure projects.

Healthcare:

- Supports addition of mental health diagnoses as diagnoses protected by the Texas Physician Healthcare Program, granting healthcare professionals coverage if it is determined that mental health treatment or counseling is recommended.

- Supports extension of the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program with \$2.49 billion in continued funding for the final demonstration year of the current 1115 Healthcare Transformation Waiver.
- Supports continued funding for health and human services programs and services, including the adequate Medicaid funding that supports hospital payments closer to the actual costs of providing health care services.
- Supports maintaining base appropriations and current service capacity for the following:
 - Mental Health Outpatient Treatment Capacity for adults and children
 - Locally purchased inpatient psychiatric beds and Community Hospitals
 - Substance Use Disorder Services
 - Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Programs
- Supports key clarifications and modifications from Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) and other military treatment facilities (MTF) that provide medical care to civilians.

Military and Veterans:

- Supports continued advocacy for San Antonio to base the Headquarters, United States Space Command and Space Training and Readiness Command.
- Opposes any legislation that would threaten current and future military missions.
- Supports continued funding for the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) and growing the biennial appropriation from current level of \$30 million.

Water:

- Supports oversight of State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) applications made to the State Water Development Board (SWDP) to expedite applications and support development of resources to support Texas' anticipated population growth.
- Supports appropriate checks and balances in groundwater district laws and regulations that provide a stable and equitable framework for developing and managing needed water supply projects.
- Supports ongoing water conservation efforts, such as improving water use efficiency and the reduction of water loss.
- Supports protecting individual privacy rights by limiting access to a customer's highly personal and sensitive data acquired from water utilities.



"The San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce mission is to be the leading resource, advocate, and access point for Hispanic businesses, Hispanics in business, and the Hispanic market."



Marina Gonzales, J.D.

President & CEO



Dr. Erika Gonzalez

2021 Chairwoman & STAAMP
Allergy President & CEO



Martin Gutierrez

Director of Policy &
Business Advocacy

www.SAHCC.org
P: (210) 225-0462 F: (210) 225-2485
1948 Probandt St., San Antonio, TX 78214

