



Leading The Region's Advocacy.

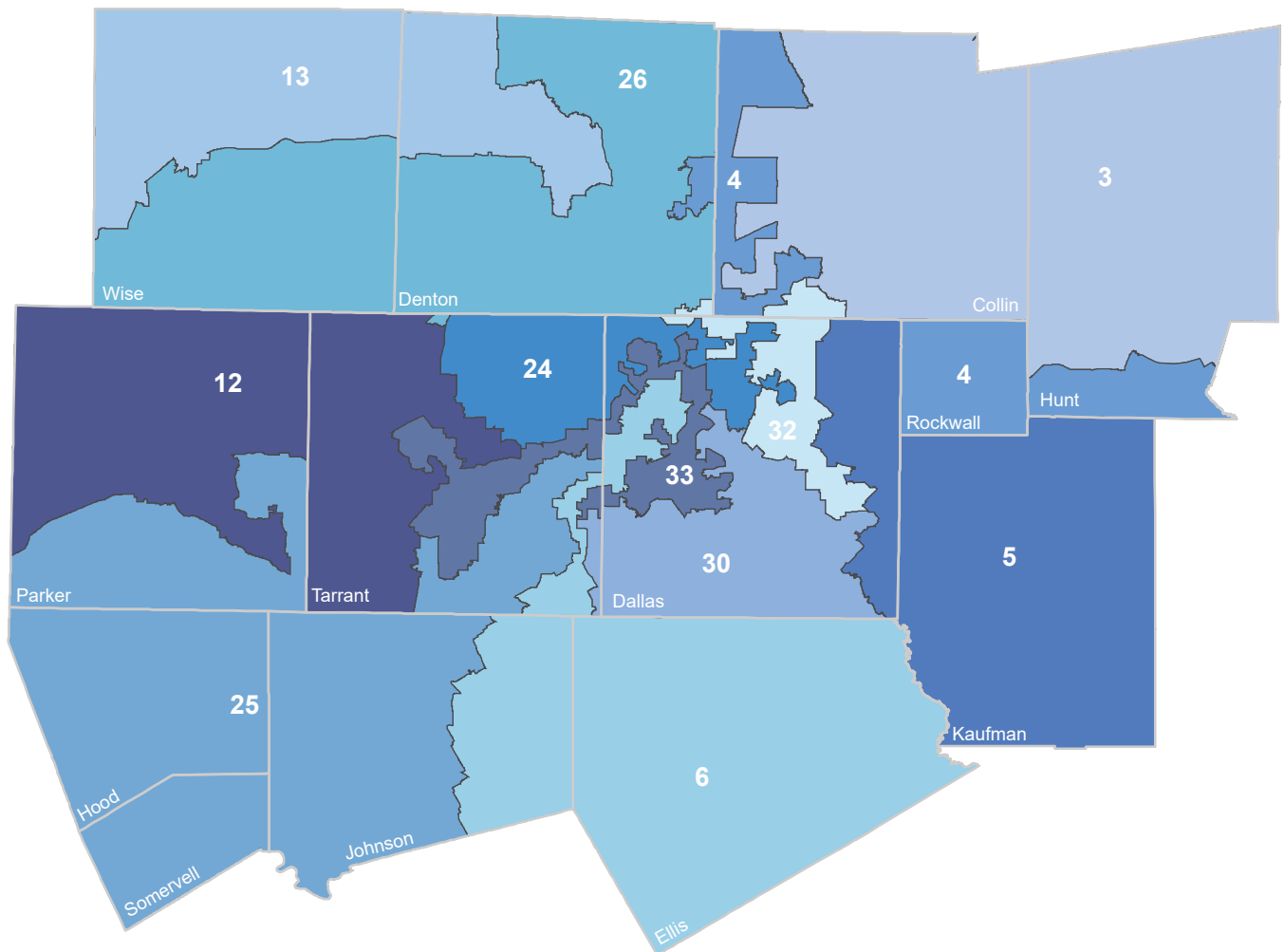
A large, detailed photograph of the Texas State Capitol building in Austin, Texas. The image shows the iconic white dome with its statue on top, and the classical portico with columns and statues. The building is set against a bright, slightly hazy sky. The foreground shows the steps and some railings of the entrance.

FEDERAL PRIORITIES **FOR THE NORTH TEXAS REGION** **118TH CONGRESS**



NORTH TEXAS COMMISSION

North Texas Federal Delegation 118th Congress



US House of Representatives

CD 3 - Keith Self (R)

CD 4 - Pat Fallon (R)

CD 5 - Lance Gooden (R)

CD 6 - Jake Ellzey (R)

CD 12 - Kay Granger(R)

CD 13 - Dr. Ronny Jackson (R)

CD 24 - Beth Van Duyne (R)

CD 25 - Roger Williams (R)

CD 26 - Dr. Michael Burgess (R)

CD 30 - Jasmine Crockett (D)

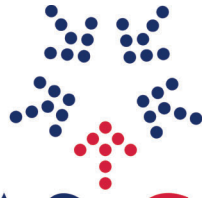
CD 32 - Colin Allred (D)

CD 33- Marc Veasey (D)

US Senators

- John Cornyn (R)

- Ted Cruz (R)



NORTH TEXAS COMMISSION

A unique public-private partnership, the North Texas Commission drives large impactful projects and legislative issues benefiting our robust 13-county region. The Commission manages the region's unified advocacy voice at the state and federal levels and has a long history of tackling the region's greatest challenges – convening subject matter experts who provide resources to market the region and educate future leaders.

The Commission's Federal Legislative Priorities were developed by five policy task forces and our Government Affairs Committee. We appreciate the leadership and engagement of our members to form a strategic and unified regional advocacy effort for the 118th U.S. Congress.

Federal Advocacy Areas



Aviation & Aerospace



Data Privacy & Cybersecurity



Defense



Economic Strength



Education & Workforce



Health & Well-Being



Immigration



Infrastructure



Trade & Taxation



Water



Leading The Region's Advocacy.



Aviation & Aerospace

NTC supports continued robust federal funding for agencies, including the Federal Aviation Administration and Transportation Security Administration to partner with and support the aviation and aerospace industries, including airlines (commercial and cargo), General Aviation programs, aerospace manufacturing, and airport infrastructure maintenance and improvement.

EXECUTIVE PRIORITIES

Maintain Aviation Ecosystem

Support the “aviation ecosystem” need for a skilled workforce including pilots, aviation maintenance technicians, engineers, architects, mechanical, etc.

Increase Efficiency

Support Air Traffic Control investment in technology and improve procedures to increase efficiencies in the aerospace system.

Encourage greater efficiency and enhanced resources for Customs and Border Protection at our region’s airports for passenger service, as well as cargo.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES



Support increasing the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding.



Support responsible environmental policies that encourage innovation by reducing burdensome regulations that are economically or operationally detrimental to aviation operations.



Support allowing the flexibility to effectively manage terminal and airfield safety with federal, state, and local partners.



Support the reduction of federal taxes and related fees, including fuel taxes paid by commercial airlines, thus keeping airfares more affordable for business and leisure travelers.



Support fair global competition by encouraging government action to ensure U.S. commercial carriers are afforded fairness in regulations compared to foreign competitors.



Support the inclusion of regulatory, workforce education, and infrastructure support for Urban Air Mobility/Advanced Air Mobility industry as part of the FAA reauthorization.



Data Privacy & Cybersecurity

NTC supports the federal government's efforts to strengthen and protect consumers' data.

EXECUTIVE PRIORITIES

Consumer Data Protections

Support for a unified national data privacy framework to protect consumer data, promote transparency, and provide regulatory certainty in the marketplace. Consumers deserve to have their privacy protected, and businesses need certainty to provide the best products and services, including those specifically designed to promote economic growth and recovery.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES



Support for a national federal data-privacy policy that eliminates a confusing maze of state laws and promotes innovation, regulatory certainty, and respect for individual privacy.



Defense

NTC supports a strong federal investment in the North Texas defense community that promotes and advances warfighter efforts, military installations and defense suppliers and manufacturers.

EXECUTIVE PRIORITIES

Defense Spending

Support timely passage of the Department of Defense appropriations (without any reductions from FY23 levels), and passage of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for the 63rd year in a row, which are vital to our region's continued economic recovery.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES



Fully support the US Army's budget request for the Future Vertical Lift program, especially the Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA), as part of U.S. Army modernization.



Support education, training, and job-seeking programs that sustain and grow the employment of Veterans and their spouses, and contribute to the successful transition from military to civilian life.



Support and fund all North Texas programs that align with DoD Strategy, including rotorcraft programs, fixed wing fighters, and military readiness (services).



Economic Strength

NTC supports legislation that will continue to make Texas competitive by expanding access to all economic development tools that incentivize growth and promote the recruitment of new large employers and small businesses.

EXECUTIVE PRIORITIES

Reduce Regulatory Barriers

Support workforce development and job creation opportunities by reducing regulatory barriers for business. Our region's economic growth relies on a stable, predictable, and business-friendly regulatory environment.

Small Business Development

Support the Reauthorization of the Small Business Administration and funding for small businesses including support for Women and Minority-owned businesses

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES



Funding for state and local governments to achieve economic recovery across the entire state and provide support to those in need.



Supporting federal policies that assist in the creation of workforce re-entry programs to accelerate training and create career pathways for high demand positions.



Support for our local industries, with an emphasis on manufacturing, to allow them the chance to create more job opportunities for our communities.



Providing sufficient federal funding for priority programs while maintaining a balanced budget that promotes prudent stewardship of limited federal resources; addressing our nation's growing federal debt should remain a priority



The preservation and expansion of Opportunity Zones and New Markets Tax Credits, particularly after accepting the 2020 Census results.



Education and Workforce

NTC supports legislation to assist colleges, universities, PK-12 schools, and early childhood programs to produce a high-quality workforce.

EXECUTIVE PRIORITIES

Increasing the Skilled Workforce Pipeline

Support funding PK-12 education programs to increase high school graduation and preparation for college, careers, and the military.

Support efforts to align Post-Secondary education and skills training programs with industry needs to meet rising demands.

- Skills training, internships, CTE apprenticeship programs for industry recognized certificates and credentials to fill high-demand positions
- Accelerated Reskilling and Upskilling training programs to address workforce shortages
- Increased access to Workforce Pell and Short-term Pell grants

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES



NTC supports the expansion of early education programs.



NTC supports diversity, equity & inclusion programs for the workforce.



Provide support for quality and affordable childcare options that will enable workforce participation for parents and improve long-term academic success for children.



NTC supports federal funding of research grants and apprenticeships for North Texas universities and colleges.



Health & Well-Being

NTC supports predictable, adequate funding and a reasonable regulatory environment for health care providers to enhance high-quality health care for North Texas, its hospital systems, residents, physicians, clinicians, and industry professionals.

EXECUTIVE PRIORITIES

Workforce Expansion

Support the expansion of workforce development and education programs to increase workforce pipeline of healthcare workers (including workforce pipeline of physicians, nurses, and healthcare support positions), removal of employment and country immigration caps, and education enrollment caps.

Behavioral Health

Support enhanced access to behavioral health resources for adult and pediatric patients, including expansion of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) program with strong consideration for including CCBHCs in the Public Health Provider 340B pharmaceutical program.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES



Ensure adequate supplies and support for health care providers while addressing social determinants to reduce inequities in accessing health care for chronic diseases.



Prevent cuts to payment programs including Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and supplemental programs like the Disproportionate Share Hospital program.



Protect and strengthen patient protections in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and address rising costs and instability in the exchange marketplace.



Support robust telehealth, telemedicine, and appropriate public health border policies due to the expiration of the Public Health Emergency and Title 42 while ensuring equitable reimbursement within governmental and commercial health policies for virtual health treatment.



Support efforts to enhance consumer transparency and decrease the rising cost of prescription drugs, out of pocket expenses, and surprise billing.



Conduct a thorough, technical review of existing health care regulations to determine which should sunset, and to do so in a comprehensive manner to ensure no gaps or liabilities in the regulations.



Support enhancement of Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) to include physical activity and fitness programs and allow for access to coverage expansion and innovation in health plans that meet the Essential Health Benefit threshold under the ACA.



Immigration

NTC supports a sensible immigration reform to strengthen our region's competitiveness, enhance the vibrancy of our local workforce and economy, and secure our nation's borders.

EXECUTIVE PRIORITIES

Comprehensive DACA Solution

Support permanent legislation to protect Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) individuals to expand the workforce pipeline.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES



Support funding to strengthen border security to stop the flow of illegal immigration, human trafficking, and drugs into our nation



Remove employment and country immigration caps, which restrict Texas' ability to hire a skilled workforce in high-demand positions.



Support additional H-1B, H-2B, L-1, and STEM Visas, as well as the EB-5 Program.



Infrastructure

NTC supports a significant investment in our region's roadways, bridges, multi-modal transportation system, energy production and reliability, and broadband infrastructure.

EXECUTIVE PRIORITIES

Transportation Funding

Support additional infrastructure revenue sources such as, including indexing the current gas tax, vehicle miles traveled (VMT), or other proven revenue sources involving private partnerships, while preserving funding from Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Continued Use of P3s

Support the use of Public-Private-Partnerships (P3s) as a funding mechanism to repair and/or expand roadway capacity and continue to strive for completion of the North Texas Managed Lane Master Plan.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES



Close the Digital Divide by accessing available federal funds dedicated to telecommunication infrastructure to increase broadband deployment for First Responders and allow for greater access for underserved populations and rural areas.



Preserve road/bridge conditions by preventing increased truck size and weight limits.



Development of safe autonomous vehicle technology policy through clear federal action that recognizes federal and state jurisdiction is technology-neutral, and is applied equally to all companies and modes of transportation.



Protect and continue to support efforts for high-speed rail.



Support policy and programs that are consistent with current Texas Electric Market constructs to advance energy storage development enabling a reliable, cost-effective, clean electric grid.



Support natural gas as a safe, reliable, and clean energy source, which should be part of the solution to our future energy needs.



Oppose any rules or legislation designed to incentivize a homeowner to remove a gas appliance and replace it with an electric one.



Implement reasonable solutions to address climate concerns while providing affordable and reliable energy.



Protect America's energy infrastructure jobs by promoting sensible regulations that reduce energy emissions and improve environmental performance.



Trade & Taxation

NTC supports a free market capitalist system that limits taxation on individuals and corporations and supports free and fair trade that enhances business competitiveness while promoting global stability and emphasizing national security

EXECUTIVE PRIORITIES

Stable & Secure Trade

Support strong, stable relationships through global trade while maintaining an emphasis on national security.

Embracing the Digital Age

Support legislation that modernizes the tax process to the digital age, including promoting electronic filing and signatures, automated bank filings, the acceptance of video conferences and hearings, and other taxpayer-friendly initiatives that drive fair, faster, more timely, and cost-effective answers to appeals and questions.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES



Support efforts to enhance individuals' ability to save for retirement and expand tax benefits for employers offering student loan repayment benefits, and incentivize employees



Support maintaining current taxation levels of capital gains and qualified dividends.



Support efforts to restore full deductibility of state and local taxes.



Support quorum for fully operational Export-Import Bank and support reauthorization.



Support robust efforts to protect U.S. intellectual property.



Trade stability

- Resolution of Section 232 steel/aluminum tariffs, particularly for Canada and Mexico.
- Avoid Section 232 tariffs on automobiles and auto parts.



Truck-air program – DFW Airport is a beneficiary of Mexico manufacturing trucks.



Support trade policies and agreements that expand market opportunities for U.S. companies.



Oppose the FTC's attempt to regulate noncompete agreements as well as any overreach from agencies without authorization from Congress.



Water

NTC supports continued investment in major water infrastructure projects for the region

EXECUTIVE PRIORITIES

WRDA Implementation

Support continued funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) authorized projects through the full implementation of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2022-2023.

Sensible PFAS Regulations

Development of pre- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) regulations through a stakeholder process based on sound science and requests that Congress defer to the EPA for a thorough stakeholder process to develop regulations.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES



Engage the Texas delegation and the Army Corp of Engineers on legislative oversight of any newly proposed Water Supply legislation.



Support streamlining of 404 permitting to allow for timely delivery of water projects.



Support continued levels of federal appropriations for the Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Fund and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) programs.



Monitor status of lawsuits and agency actions relative to Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and the Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR) to ensure clearly identifiable jurisdictional waters.



NORTH TEXAS COMMISSION

Our NTC Advocacy team and DC-based team will continue to advocate a wide range of issues during the 118th U.S. Congress to support our region's businesses, cities, counties, higher education institutions, and school districts. We welcome your engagement in our unified regional advocacy efforts. Please contact us to share ideas, needs, and opportunities.

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