



## WORKFORCE READINESS

### **EDUCATION:**

*A skilled workforce pipeline is fueled by quality education. Our public education system and institutions of higher education are vital to the preparation of the future workforce for our region and state. Maintaining full funding for education is necessary to advance educational attainment opportunities and create career pathways.*

### **HEALTH & WELL-BEING:**

*A healthy workforce is crucial to a productive and stable economy. Producing a healthy workforce starts by addressing health care concerns and improving access to care to the most vulnerable populations in our region by reducing the number of uninsured, increasing behavioral and mental health services, and eliminating social determinants of health. Investing in the health and well-being of North Texans will lead to a more productive workforce.*



## ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

### **TALENT PIPELINE:**

*North Texas represents the most economically diverse and viable region in the state. The NTC believes a healthy and welcoming business climate is critical to sustaining a booming economy and protecting our greatest asset for economic growth - a highly skilled workforce. We must ensure that policies and practices create an inclusive and inviting atmosphere that promotes growth and attracts diverse talent to supply our workforce pipeline.*

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

*Texas must remain competitive by continuing the use of all economic development tools that incentivize growth and promote the recruitment of larger employers. Job creating programs begin by reducing regulatory barriers for business. Our region's economic growth relies on a stable, predictable, and business-friendly regulatory environment.*



## STRONG LOCAL COMMUNITIES

### **INFRASTRUCTURE:**

*As one of the fastest growing regions in the U.S., North Texas must continue to invest in the planning and development of critical infrastructure needs. Ensuring adequate water supply, strengthening electric grid resiliency and reliability, providing integrated transportation systems of choice, and expanding access to and adoption of broadband are all necessary to meeting the demands of our rapidly growing region, and continued business development. Through the use of public-private partnerships, projects can be completed efficiently and with minimal taxpayer burden.*

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

*As the fourth largest region in the U.S., North Texas is home to 7.7 million people. The region's 9,000 square mile boundary encompasses 13 counties and more than 150 cities that uniquely contribute to the alluring qualities that define North Texas. Maintaining authority for each of those communities is key to remaining a region of growth. Preserving decision-making authority for local leaders is critical to safeguarding the success of our region and the unique individuality of our communities.*

**The North Texas Commission convenes public and private sector leaders to ensure that state and federal public policies promote strong local governments, support excellence in public schools, increase the skilled workforce pipeline, and safeguard a thriving business environment. Together as a unified region, we will continue to advocate for policies that improve the sustainability and inclusivity of our growing economy.**

## EDUCATION & WORKFORCE: (PK-12)

**SUPPORT:** Efforts to increase teacher workforce supply and resiliency.

**SUPPORT:** Increased funding for local school districts to protect students and teachers by providing preventative safety and security measures that meet the needs of each local school district.

**OPPOSE:** The transfer of public education funds to nonpublic education entities.

**SUPPORT:** Limits on expanding charter schools in high-performing school districts and applying accountability and financial transparency standards equal to traditional public schools.

**SUPPORT:** Methods to provide funding by average daily enrollment with compulsory attendance requirements.

**SUPPORT:** Full funding for wraparound support systems, including mental wellness, high-quality Pre-K, and early childhood education.

**SUPPORT:** Reforming the state's assessment and accountability systems to appropriately measure all factors that influence student performance and school ratings.

## (Higher Education)

**SUPPORT:** Efforts to enhance tri-agency initiatives to increase workforce supply and accelerate training to meet the goal of the Building a Talent Strong Texas Initiative.

**SUPPORT:** Investment in higher education by appropriating additional funding in the formulas to cover student enrollment growth and inflation and pass an updated Community College funding plan.

**SUPPORT:** Investments in research funding programs that encourage innovation and economic growth in Texas.

**SUPPORT:** Continued funding for the Comprehensive Regional University program.

**SUPPORT:** Investing in keeping talent in Texas by incentivizing Texas high school graduates to attend community colleges, universities, trade schools, and other professional certificate programs in Texas.

**SUPPORT:** Continued investment in Small Business Development Centers and their professional business advising and training programs, which are proven resources that strengthen the Texas economy.

**OPPOSE:** Any effort to restrict an institution of higher education's ability to offer tenure, a critical tool to recruit and retain academic talent for the purpose of instruction and research.

**SUPPORT:** Funding for mental health services on higher education campuses.

## HEALTH & WELL-BEING:

**SUPPORT:** Efforts to address the workforce shortages in health care and increase the supply of trained industry professionals.

**SUPPORT:** Education and awareness resources that address social determinants of health, promote prevention and well-being, support equity, and eliminate racial and socioeconomic disparities.

**SUPPORT:** Increased funding to improve access to in/out-patient behavioral and mental health.

**SUPPORT:** Providing predictable and stable reimbursements by enhancing the base Medicaid rates for hospitals and increasing rates of trauma, rural, and safety-net hospitals.

**SUPPORT:** Modernization efforts to increase access to care, reduce barriers, and provide cost savings for Texans, including the utilization of telehealth.

**SUPPORT:** Efforts to reduce the number of uninsured Texans.

**SUPPORT:** Efforts that promote safety and security and mitigate the risk of violence in the workplace.

**SUPPORT:** Efforts to improve or better support our child welfare system for children in imminent danger.

### **BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS:**

- SUPPORT:** The use of, and timely decision making for, economic development incentive programs that enhance job creation and capital investment in Texas.
- SUPPORT:** A workforce re-entry program that accelerates training and creates career pathways for individuals to return to work and fill high demand positions.
- SUPPORT:** The creation of a comprehensive and fully inclusive non-discrimination law.
- OPPOSE:** Any bill that would damage Texas's reputation as a business-friendly state and inhibit the attraction of talent for employers.
- SUPPORT:** Efforts to modernize systems across government agencies to reduce administrative burdens, increase efficiency, enhance transparency, and provide cost savings to businesses and taxpayers.
- SUPPORT:** The use of innovative technologies, such as cryptocurrency and blockchain, while protecting consumers and safeguarding the state's electric grid.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

- SUPPORT:** Legislation that enhances local decision-making authority to govern properly and fully fund services, and adopt and enforce charters, ordinances, and building codes necessary to plan and provide for growth challenges.
- SUPPORT:** Legislation allowing local governments to increase restrictive revenue caps to fund essential services including public safety and transportation improvements.
- OPPOSE:** Any attempt to prohibit city, county, and education officials from the ability to engage government relations professionals or join associations to efficiently advocate on behalf of their community and communicate with the members of the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch, including state agencies.
- OPPOSE:** Legislation that eliminates the current uniform election dates and/or restricts local governments' ability to determine appropriate ballot language.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE:**

- SUPPORT:** Ensuring the state's electric grid will be able to reliably, efficiently, and sustainability serve the needs of the state while planning for future technologies' demand for electricity.
- SUPPORT:** The Texas State Water Plan to ensure a future water supply that meets the needs of our rapid population and economic growth.
- SUPPORT:** Funding for programs to create plans that address flooding in Texas with the goal to protect all Texans from natural disasters.
- SUPPORT:** The use of Public-Private Partnerships to meet increased needs while stimulating the economy and creating jobs through the planning, design, and construction of a multimodal transportation system of choice and other infrastructure projects that ensure safe and efficient movement of people and goods.
- SUPPORT:** Continued state investment in projects that enhance existing, and new infrastructure to meet the current and future needs.
- SUPPORT:** Continuing legislation that maintains a network of air quality monitors throughout North Texas.
- SUPPORT:** The implementation of a statewide broadband plan that equitably serves all Texans.
- SUPPORT:** Maintaining existing law relating to eminent domain authority to allow planning and development of new and/or existing infrastructure projects that are fundamental to economic growth.
- SUPPORT:** The use of domestic production of efficient energy sources, including all fuel sources, to further Texas' position as a global energy leader all while being responsible to consumers.

