



Leading The Region's Advocacy.

A large, detailed photograph of the Texas State Capitol building in Austin, Texas, serves as the background for the entire page. The image shows the iconic white dome and the classical portico with columns. The text is overlaid on the lower portion of the image.

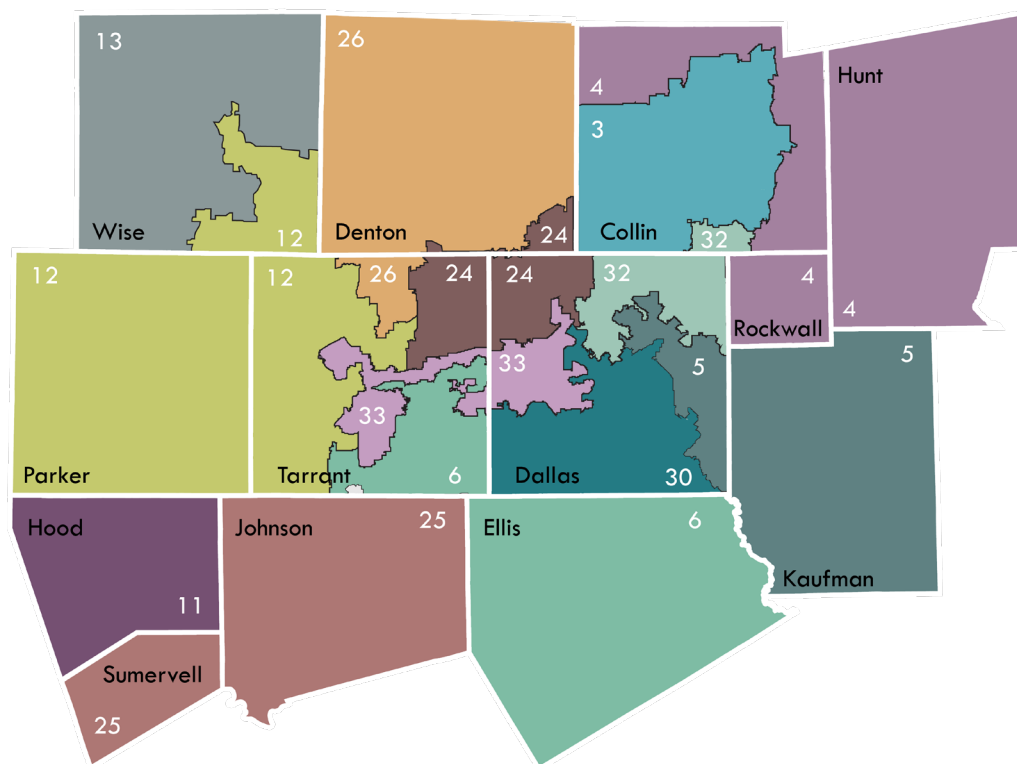
# **FEDERAL PRIORITIES** **FOR THE NORTH TEXAS REGION** **117TH CONGRESS**

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 four 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 117th U.S. Congress.

## North Texas Federal Delegation

### 117th Congress



#### US House of Representatives

Van Taylor (R), CD 3  
Pat Fallon (R), CD 4  
Lance Gooden (R), CD 5  
Jake Ellzey (R), CD 6  
August Pfluger (R), CD 11

Kay Granger (R), CD 12  
Ronny Jackson (R), CD 13  
Beth Van Duyne (R), CD 24  
Roger Williams (R), CD 25  
Michael Burgess (R), CD 26

Eddie Bernice Johnson (D), CD 30  
Colin Allred (D), CD 32  
Marc Veasey (D), CD 33

#### US Senators

John Cornyn (R)  
Ted Cruz (R)

## Aviation and Aerospace

NTC supports the continued funding necessary for advancing the aviation and aerospace industries, including airlines (commercial and cargo), General Aviation programs, aerospace manufacturing, and airport infrastructure maintenance and improvement.

- Increase Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding.
- Support COVID-related relief for airlines, airports, and concessioners.
- Prevent unfunded federal mandates, particularly those related to airport security, sanitation, or healthcare requirements imposed upon aviation operations.
- Support responsible environmental policies that encourage innovation. Simultaneously, prevent excessive and burdensome regulations that are economically or operationally detrimental to aviation operations.
- Allow for the flexibility to effectively manage terminal and airfield safety with federal, state, and local partners.
- Support the reduction of federal taxes, including fuel taxes paid by commercial airlines, thus keeping airfares more affordable for business and leisure travelers.
- Encourage greater efficiency and enhanced resources for Customs and Border Protection at our region's airports – for passenger service as well as cargo.
- Advance global competition by supporting government action to ensure U.S. commercial carriers are afforded fairness in regulations compared to foreign competitors.

## Defense

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

- Pass the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).
- Support a speedy review of Department of Defense appropriations, which are vital to our region's continued economic recovery and workforce.
- Support and fund all North Texas programs that align with the DoD Strategy, including rotorcraft programs, fixed wing fighters, military readiness (services).
  - Fully support the Future Vertical Lift program, including the Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA) and Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft (FARA), as part of U.S. Army modernization.
  - Support development and modernization of next-generation technologies that encourage joint, all-domain operations (e.g., Hypersonics, Artificial Intelligence, Sensor Networking, etc.).
- Support education, training, and job-seeking programs that address deployment to the employment of Veterans and their spouses to assist in successful transitions from military to civilian life.

## Economic Recovery

NTC supports legislation that will assist our state government, cities, counties, schools, and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Funding for state and local governments to achieve economic recovery across the entire state and provide support to those in need.
- Support for our local industries to allow them the chance to create more job opportunities for our communities.
- To provide optimal support for our region's businesses and ensure their long-term success and survival, we oppose increasing the minimum wage to \$15/hour and a long-term extension of unemployment benefits.



## **Education & Workforce Development**

NTC supports legislation to assist colleges, universities, PK-12 schools, and early childhood programs to return to pre-pandemic levels. We support programs that will ensure safe returns to in-person instruction, provide supplemental education to address learning gaps during the pandemic, and help identify and return displaced students.

NTC supports skills training and support programs to increase the skilled workforce pipeline.

- Skills training and internships for high-demand positions
- CTE Apprenticeship Programs
- Retraining of displaced workers affected by the pandemic

NTC supports the expansion of early education programs.

- 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 K-12 education programs to increase high school graduations and preparations for college, careers, and the military.

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

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

## **Energy**

NTC supports reasonable federal energy policy to promote clean energy sources for North Texas.

- Support natural gas as a safe, reliable, and clean energy source that needs to be considered in the ongoing discussions of future energy needs.
- Opposes any rules or legislation which might incentivize a homeowner to remove a gas appliance and replace it with an electric one.
- Protect America's energy infrastructure jobs by promoting sensible regulations that reduce energy emissions and improve environmental performance.
- Implement reasonable solutions to address climate concerns while providing affordable and reliable energy.
- 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.

## **Fiscal Controls**

The NTC believes that addressing our nation's growing federal debt should be a priority.

- Monitor Budget Control Act as modified by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019

## **Health Care**

NTC supports predictable and adequate funding as well as 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.

- Ensure adequate supplies and support for health care providers during the pandemic while addressing social determinants to reduce inequities in accessing health care for COVID-19 and chronic diseases.
- Protect and strengthen patient protections in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and address rising costs and instability in the exchange marketplace.
- Support efforts to decrease the rising cost of prescription drugs, out of pocket expenses, and surprise billing practices.
- 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.

- 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) and removal of employment and country immigration caps.
- Prevent cuts to payment programs including Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and supplemental programs like the Disproportionate Share Hospital program.
- Support use of Telehealth by expanding broadband connectivity and revising HIPPA restrictions to allow for more Telehealth services, including telephone visits where appropriate.
- Support enhanced access to behavioral health resources, including expansion of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) program to extend to all willing states.
- Conduct a thorough, technical review of existing health care regulations to determine which ones should be sunset in a comprehensive manner to ensure no gaps or liabilities in the regulations.

## **Immigration Reform**

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

- Support permanent legislation to protect Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) individuals to expand workforce pipeline.
- Support additional H-1B, H-2B, L-1, and STEM Visas, as well as the EB-5 Program.
- Support the Transit Without Visa (TWOV) program.
- Remove employment and country immigration caps, which restricts Texas' ability to hire skilled workforce in high-demand positions.

## **Infrastructure Investment**

NTC supports a significant investment in our region's roadways, bridges, multi-modal transportation system, dams, water supply reservoirs, and broadband infrastructure.

- Any infrastructure package should focus on a multi-modal transportation system.
- Protect and continue to support regulatory efforts for high-speed rail.
- Consider additional infrastructure revenue sources in general, including indexing the current gas tax, vehicle miles traveled (VMT), or other proven revenue sources involving private partnerships.
- Consider Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) as a funding mechanism to repair and/or expand capacity.
  - Completion of the North Texas Managed Lane Master Plan
- Preserve road/bridge conditions by preventing increased truck size and weight limits.
- Safe development of 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.
- 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.
- NTC supports funding for infrastructure projects which create jobs.

## **Privacy**

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

- Promote and protect a national consumer data privacy framework.

## **Regulatory Oversight**

NTC supports focused efforts on continued deregulation of burdensome regulations.

NTC opposes additional unnecessary new regulations against businesses.

NTC supports the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Proxy Advisor rule.

## **Small Business Development**

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

NTC Supports SBA Funding.

## **Taxation**

NTC opposes increases of personal or corporate taxes.

- Support policymaker and legislative efforts to enhance individuals' ability to save for retirement and expand tax benefits for employers offering student loan repayment benefits and incentivize employees making payments toward their student loan debt.

NTC supports maintaining current taxation levels of capital gains and qualified dividends.

NTC supports 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 faster, more efficient, and cost-effective decisions.

## **Trade**

NTC supports free and fair trade that enhances business competitiveness while promoting stability in trade policies.

- 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 quorum for fully operational Export-Import Bank and support reauthorization.
- Support trade policies and agreements that expand market opportunities for U.S. companies.
- Protection of U.S. intellectual property.

## **Water**

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

- Support continued funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) authorized projects through the full implementation of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2020.
- Engage Texas delegation on legislative oversight of any newly proposed Water Supply legislation.
- 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.
- 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.
- Support eliminating EPA's "veto authority" for 404 permits associated with water supply projects.



# NORTH TEXAS COMMISSION

**Our NTC Advocacy team and DC-based team will continue to advocate a wide range of issues during the 117th 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.**

## **Federal Advocacy Leadership Team**

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