

# 87th LEGISLATIVE SESSION PRIORITIES FOR THE NORTH TEXAS REGION

## POLICY AREAS

BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

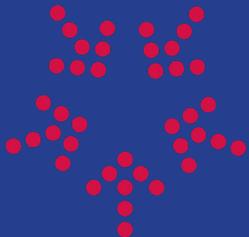
EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

HEALTH CARE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ACCOUNTABILITY

WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE

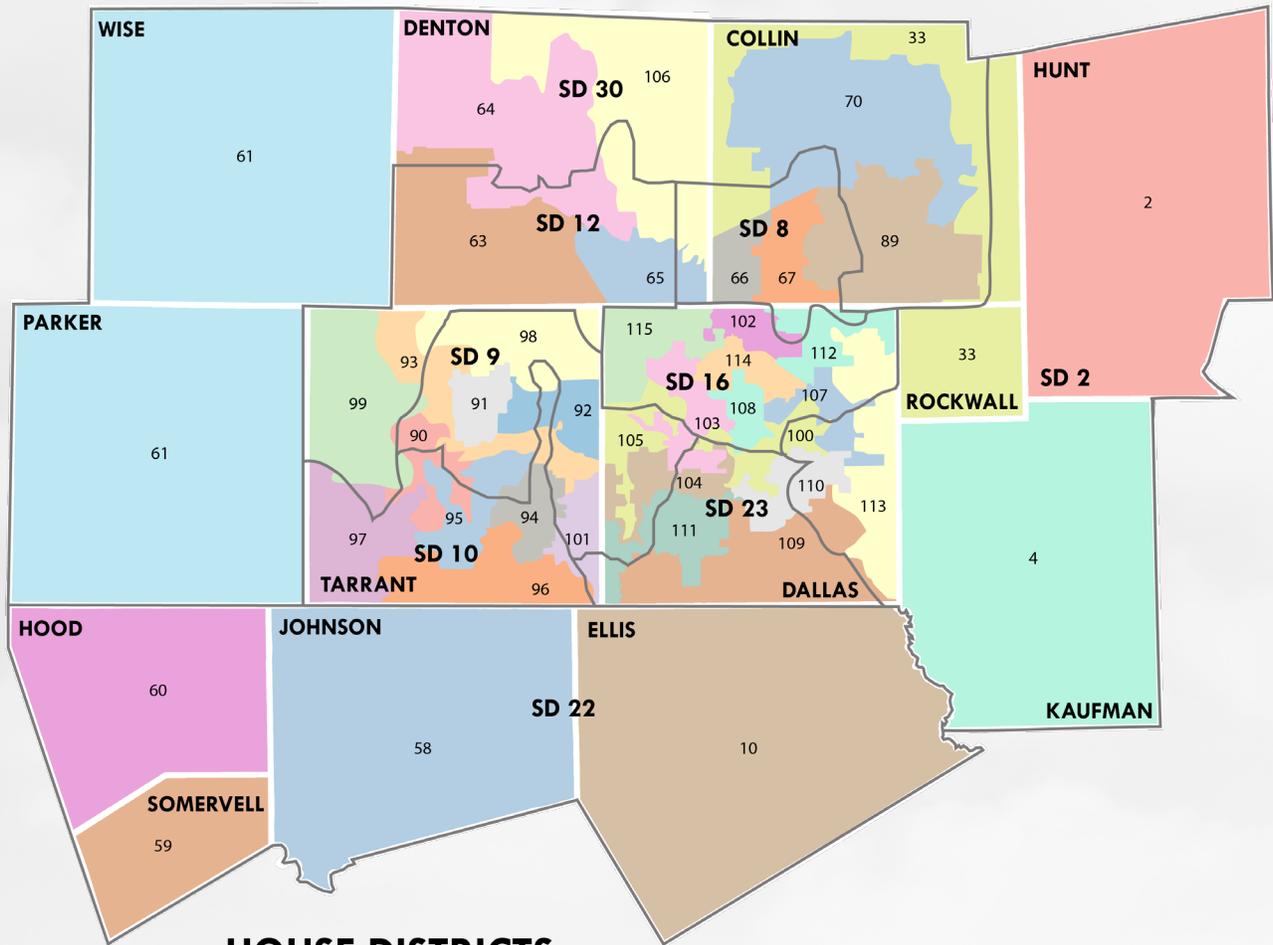
NORTH  
TEXAS  
COMMISSION



A unique public-private partnership, the NTC 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.



# North Texas Legislators for the 87th Session



## HOUSE DISTRICTS

Rep. Rafael Anchia (D)	103	Rep. Jeff Leach (R)	67
Rep. Michelle Beckley (D)	65	Rep. Morgan Meyer (R)	108
Rep. Keith Bell (R)	4	Rep. Terry Meza (D)	105
Rep. Rhetta Andrews Bowers (D)	113	Rep. Victoria Neave (D)	107
Rep. DeWayne Burns (R)	58	Rep. Candy Noble (R)	89
Rep. Giovanni Capriglione (R)	98	Rep. Tan Parker (R)	63
Rep. Jeff Cason (R)	92	Rep. Jared Patterson (R)	106
Rep. Angie Chen Button (R)	112	Rep. Ana-Maria Ramos (D)	102
Rep. Nicole Collier (D)	95	Rep. Glenn Rogers (R)	60
Rep. David Cook (R)	96	Rep. Ramon Romero (D)	90
Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D)	100	Rep. Toni Rose (D)	110
Rep. Yvonne Davis (D)	111	Rep. Scott Sanford (R)	70
Rep. Charlie Geren (R)	99	Rep. Matt Shaheen (R)	66
Rep. Craig Goldman (R)	97	Rep. Carl Sherman, Sr. (D)	109
Rep. Jessica Gonzalez (D)	104	Rep. Bryan Slaton (R)	2
Rep. Jake Ellzey (R)	10	Rep. Shelby Slawson (R)	59
Rep. Justin Holland (R)	33	Rep. Lynn Stucky (R)	64
Rep. Julie Johnson (D)	115	Rep. Tony Tinderholt (R)	94
Rep. Phil King (R)	61	Rep. Chris Turner (D)	101
Rep. Stephanie Klick (R)	91	Rep. John Turner (D)	114
Rep. Matt Krause (R)	93		

## SENATE DISTRICTS

Sen. Brian Birdwell (R)	22
Sen. Bob Hall (R)	2
Sen. Kelly Hancock (R)	9
Sen. Nathan Johnson (D)	16
Sen. Jane Nelson (R)	12
Sen. Angela Paxton (R)	8
Sen. Beverly Powell (D)	10
Sen. Drew Springer (R)	30
Sen. Royce West (D)	23

## BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

*North Texas represents the most economically diverse and vibrant region in the state. The North Texas Commission believes a healthy and welcoming business climate is critical to sustaining a prosperous economy and attracting diverse talent. We will continue to advocate for pro-growth regulatory policies that fuel additional job growth, business expansion, and investment in the region. We must support these measures to entice corporate relocations, improve our economy, and increase opportunities for our workforce during and after the pandemic.*

**SUPPORT:** Continuation of funding for economic development incentive programs such as: the Texas Enterprise Fund, Chapter 380/381 municipality agreements, Event Trust Fund, Texas Tourism, the Texas Music Office, and the Texas Film Commission at levels that keeps Texas competitive with other states.

**SUPPORT:** Continuation and revision of the Chapter 313 tax code to enable Texas to compete for major, capital intensive projects.

**SUPPORT:** Legislation that improves racial equity in all sectors of the state including education, employment, health care and criminal justice.

**SUPPORT:** Local responsibility for property taxation decisions and appraisals.

**SUPPORT:** Creation of a comprehensive and fully inclusive non-discrimination law.

**SUPPORT:** Legislation that modernizes processes across all government agencies to the digital age, including tax processes, 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.

**OPPOSE:** Legislation that impairs the flexibility of local government to utilize all economic development tools currently available.

**OPPOSE:** Any bill that would be discriminatory or otherwise damage Texas as a business-friendly state.

*Special thanks to Michael Peterson of AT&T for leading a broad group of stakeholders through the policy development process of these critical legislative priorities for the North Texas Region.*

*Education is the foundation of our state's and region's future workforce pipeline. The North Texas Commission supports our public education system and higher education institutions as they prepare the next generation through education. Training a skilled workforce to meet current and future demands begins by investing in our public schools and continues by advancing our higher education institutions.*

## Public Education (K-12)

**SUPPORT:** Legislation that maintains public school funding levels established by HB3.

- Support methods to provide funding by average daily enrollment with appropriate compulsory attendance requirements.
- Support limits on the expansion of charter schools so that all available state funds for public education are used to sustain the promises made in HB3 and to help existing public schools meet the challenges and unanticipated costs of COVID-19. In addition, support applying the same accountability and financial transparency standards to charter schools as required by traditional public schools.
- Full funding for high quality pre-K and early childhood education for all eligible children.

**SUPPORT:** Regulations/legislation that uses federal funds to supplement rather than supplant funds to local education agencies and use of the state's Economic Stabilization Fund to reimburse COVID-19 costs incurred by school districts.

**SUPPORT:** Legislation that provides for enhanced local decision-making of local education agencies including increasing the 2.5% revenue caps imposed on school districts to 4% or higher.

**SUPPORT:** Investing in technology including infrastructure for greater student connectivity and access.

**SUPPORT:** Legislation that temporarily reduces state standardized testing requirements and suspend or adjust the accountability standards to reflect the loss of instructional time due to COVID-19.

**SUPPORT:** Developing standards suitable for all Dropout Recovery High Schools including charter schools and traditional public schools.

**SUPPORT:** Policies that preserve and promote evidence-based curriculum that enhance physical education and health programs, as well as increase opportunities for physical activity during the school day.

**SUPPORT:** Maintaining funding for P-Tech and other early college and workforce readiness programs.

**OPPOSE:** Any use of school district fund balances to offset state financial obligations.

## Higher Education

**SUPPORT:** Maintaining formula funding from the 86th legislative session for public institutions of higher education including restoring 5% mid-biennium cuts to higher education institutions.

**SUPPORT:** Continuing to invest in Small Business Development Centers and their professional business advising and training programs for small business owners, which are proven resources that strengthen the Texas economy.

**SUPPORT:** Investing in keeping talent in Texas by incentivizing Texas high school graduates to attend Texas colleges.

**SUPPORT:** Use of Economic Stabilization Fund to address one-time COVID-19 costs incurred by higher education institutions toward student refunds for housing, dining, meal plans and rapid conversion to online learning.

**SUPPORT:** Continuing to fund the Governor's University Research Initiative, the Texas Research Incentive Program, and core research for institutions of higher education.

**SUPPORT:** 60X30TX, the tri-agency plan of having 60% of Texans between the ages of 25-34 hold a degree or post-secondary certificate by 2030.

**SUPPORT:** The Texas Reskilling & Upskilling Through Education initiative, the partnership between local business leaders and the 50 Texas community college districts to prepare 300,000 students for in-demand careers in 300 days while also building an enduring workforce pipeline for the Texas economy.

*Special thanks to Dr. Susan Bohn of Aledo ISD and Chris Huckabee of Huckabee Inc. for leading a broad group of stakeholders through the policy development process of these critical legislative priorities for the North Texas Region.*

*Our economy's vitality is dependent on the productivity of our population. Addressing health care concerns begins with the most vulnerable segments of our communities. The North Texas Commission will continue to address the need to reduce the number of uninsured Texans, increase behavioral health services, and mitigate social determinants of health. Now more than ever, with the COVID-19 crisis, closure of rural hospitals, and increasing mental health needs, we must have comprehensive solutions to ensure health care for all Texans.*

**SUPPORT:** Maximizing the number of insured and reduce the number of underinsured Texans by securing available federal and state funds to reform and renew opportunities to broaden the net of coverage, particularly given the uncertain status of the Medicaid 1115 Waiver, ongoing or future health pandemics, as well as the need to close racial and socioeconomic inequality gaps.

**SUPPORT:** Increased funding to ensure timely and appropriate access to inpatient and outpatient community-based services and supports for Texans with a behavioral health diagnosis.

**SUPPORT:** Ensuring adequate resources to address the social determinants of health by: promoting health equity, literacy and navigation; reducing health care disparities; encouraging cultural awareness and competency; and promoting prevention, wellness and chronic disease management initiatives.

**SUPPORT:** Legislation that preserves hospitals' base Medicaid payment rates and the enhanced rates for trauma, rural, and safety net hospitals.

**SUPPORT:** Legislation to increase the funding and education of chronic condition awareness, prevention and treatment; thereby decreasing the overall burden placed upon taxpayers across the state.

**SUPPORT:** Increased funding, regulatory relief, and resources for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery related to emergencies impacting public health, including natural disasters, pandemics, and other events.

**SUPPORT:** Continued funding for physician, nurse, behavioral health professional and allied health professional education and training.

*Special thanks to Michael Arvin of New Era Partners for leading a broad group of stakeholders through the policy development process of these critical legislative priorities for the North Texas Region.*

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

*We must provide our local leaders with the appropriate authority and resources to make decisions for the communities they serve - at the county, municipal, and school district levels. We will continue to oppose any attempt to diminish their local decision-making authority.*

**SUPPORT:** Preserving local governments' responsibility to establish appropriate means to adequately fund services and govern including establishing and maintaining charters and ordinance making authority.

**SUPPORT:** Legislation that provides for enhanced local decision-making of local government including increasing the 3.5% revenue caps imposed on cities and counties to 6% or higher.

**SUPPORT:** Legislation that provides funding for training programs for local police departments to be administered locally including certification opportunities for first responders to improve criminal justice and responses to adverse situations.

**SUPPORT:** Repealing HB 2439, which unnecessarily prohibited cities from regulating building products, materials, or methods used in construction of residential or commercial structures.

**SUPPORT:** Repealing portions of HB 3167 from the 86th Session, to provide that the governing body may delegate to one or more officers or employees of the municipality to approve, deny or conditionally approve plans and to allow for an applicant at their discretion to waive the deadline for a response, including allowing the applicant to request an extension on a plat application for greater than 30 days, not exceeding 90 days, to be accepted/approved by the municipality.

**SUPPORT:** Legislation which would provide an expedited process for voluntary annexations by petition between municipalities and property owners, as well as legislation that would provide a path to involuntarily annexation of property for a city.

**OPPOSE:** Any attempt by the state legislature to further preempt cities' or counties' ability to govern and raise funds as determined necessary (i.e., revenue caps), or penalize municipalities who increased taxes above the existing cap due to COVID-19 expenses.

**OPPOSE:** Unfunded mandates placed on our local municipalities that are veiled as solutions for education funding.

**OPPOSE:** Any attempt to limit or prohibit the authority of city, county, and/or school district officials to use public funds to communicate with legislators and state agencies, as well as pay membership dues to organizations that hire lobbyists.

**OPPOSE:** Any legislation that increases revenues paid to the State of Texas by local governments as a result of the State of Texas increasing fines, fees or charges to local governments including, but not limited to, the 2% administrative fee all municipalities pay to the state for the collection and distribution of local sales taxes and municipal court fees.

**OPPOSE:** Legislation that would erode municipal authority related to development matters, including with respect to the following issues: annexation, eminent domain, public right-of-way, zoning, and building codes.

**OPPOSE:** Legislation that would eliminate any of the current uniform election dates.

*Special thanks to Opal Mauldin-Jones of the City of Lancaster for leading a broad group of stakeholders through the policy development process of these critical legislative priorities for the North Texas Region.*

# WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE

*North Texas continues to experience significant growth throughout our 13-county region. We must continue to invest in the planning and development necessary to supply water, provide integrated transportation systems of choice, and increase the infrastructure for our region's rapidly growing current and future demand. The North Texas Commission advocates increasing these necessary services and decreasing the taxpayer burden through innovative financing provided by public-private partnerships. Infrastructure projects create jobs and will assist with our state's economic recovery.*

## Water

**SUPPORT:** Continuing to implement and adequately fund the Texas State Water Plan to meet the water supply needs associated with future population growth and the economic development of the State.

**SUPPORT:** Continuing to plan, implement and adequately fund the Texas State Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) to meet the statewide effort to help protect urban and rural Texas from flood and natural flood related events and the associated loss of life and economic costs.

**SUPPORT:** Maintaining existing law relating to eminent domain authority to allow planning and development of new and/or expanded water supply and distribution projects, wastewater collection and treatment and drainage facilities.

## Transportation

**SUPPORT:** Maintaining existing law relating to eminent domain authority to allow planning and development of new and/or expanded transportation corridors including highways, high speed rail, commuter rail, freight rail, and transit.

**SUPPORT:** Reinstating and implementing all transportation "tools" necessary for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to stimulate the economy and create jobs through planning, design and construction of transportation projects including toll roads, tolled managed lanes, and facilitate the funding of these projects via concessions and any other financing avenues available, including public-private partnerships (P3s) and comprehensive development agreements (CDAs).

**SUPPORT:** Continuing the policy of no diversions from the Highway Trust Fund.

**SUPPORT:** Continuing efforts to recapture all of Texas' federal transportation tax dollars that are currently disbursed to other states.

**OPPOSE:** Any legislation or executive order that may reduce or divert funds from voter approved propositions 1 and 7.

**OPPOSE:** Any attempt to increase truck size and weight limits or create additional heavy weight permits or corridors in Texas.

**OPPOSE:** Any efforts that would increase the cost or slow the delivery of materials needed for public and critical infrastructure projects.

**OPPOSE:** Any attempt to impose a state tax on jet fuel.

## Other Infrastructure

**SUPPORT:** Developing plans consistent with free-market principles and compiling resources needed for greater broadband connectivity to enhance access to public education, healthcare, employment, news, and information.

**SUPPORT:** Maintaining existing law relating to eminent domain authority to allow planning and development of new and/or expanded necessary infrastructure including electric transmission lines and substations, telecommunication lines, and oil and gas pipelines and facilities.

**SUPPORT:** Continuing state legislation that maintains a network of air quality monitors throughout North Texas.

**SUPPORT:** Any legislation that creates a favorable regulatory environment for the pursuit of innovative transportation solutions.

**OPPOSE:** Any legislation that obstructs market determination by advancing one energy source over another as it relates to consumer choice, including providing incentives to choose one energy source over others.

*Special thanks to Brian O'Neill of Pacheco Koch and Stanford Lynch of Freese and Nichols, Inc. for leading a broad group of stakeholders through the policy development process of these critical legislative priorities for the North Texas Region.*

**Karen Hunt, NTC Board Chair**  
Market President  
Frost Bank

**Lori McMahon, Government Affairs Committee Chair**  
Director, Government Affairs  
Toyota Motor North America

## **NTC Lobby Team**

**Chris Wallace**

President/CEO

[chris@ntc-dfw.org](mailto:chris@ntc-dfw.org)

Legislative Lead for:

- Business Competitiveness
- Energy
- Immigration

**Patrick Brophey**

Director, Legislative Planning & Stakeholder Relations

[patrick@ntc-dfw.org](mailto:patrick@ntc-dfw.org)

Legislative Lead for:

- PK-12
- Local Government

**Charlene Stark**

Senior Advisor, Strategic Initiatives

[charlene@ntc-dfw.org](mailto:charlene@ntc-dfw.org)

Legislative Lead for:

- Economic Recovery
- Health Care
- Broadband

**Christopher Lee**

Director, State Relations

[christopher@ntc-dfw.org](mailto:christopher@ntc-dfw.org)

Legislative Lead for:

- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Higher Education

**Jim Keffer**

Senior Policy Advisor

[jim@andradevdp.com](mailto:jim@andradevdp.com)

**Dr. Charles Luke**

Education Policy Advisor, TEC Consultants

[charlesluke43@gmail.com](mailto:charlesluke43@gmail.com)

**Marc Rodriguez**

State Lobbyist, Office of Marc Rodriguez

[marc@marctx.com](mailto:marc@marctx.com)

**Jennifer Rodriguez**

State Lobbyist/Of Counsel, Office of Marc Rodriguez

[jenniferrodriguez@me.com](mailto:jenniferrodriguez@me.com)

