



Fort Bend County

86th Legislative Session Priorities



General Pro-Business, Pro-Growth Premises Guiding FBEDC Legislative Priorities

Do No Harm

We believe the legislature should:

- (1) Show restraint and limit legislation wherever possible to the fiscal and administrative matters related to state governance;
- (2) Avoid mandates on local government and especially unfunded mandates;

Local Control

We believe the legislature should:

- (1) Favor local control, always;
- (2) Oppose additional property tax and revenue cap legislation;
- (3) Maintain all local options available to respond to mobility challenges;
- (4) Address local bills when requested that assist the community and advance local economic development and quality of life;

Public Education

We believe the legislature should:

- (1) Increase state funding of public education to levels greater or equal to 50% of public education costs.
- (2) Develop a state permanent funding source to fund the state share of public education
- (3) Fund public education student safety and security but allow flexibility of each district to determine the best use of enhanced security funding (e.g. metal detectors, mental health, counseling services, etc.)

Property Tax Relief

We believe that local school property tax rates should be reduced as state education funding is increased while keeping school districts whole in the process.

Higher Education

We support:

- (1) Increased pay for performance and program alignment with workforce needs
- (2) Seamless transitions and pathways of workforce development, including incentivizing and aligning dual credit courses

Flood Mitigation & Resiliency

We support the establishment of a statewide flood mitigation fund at Texas Water Development Board through the one time use of the economic stabilization fund.

Texas Public Information Act (TPIA)

We support the Texas Supreme Court decisions in the matter of Greater Houston Partnership and Boeing and oppose legislation intended to expand the application of TPIA to private parties.

Economic Development Tools (Chapters 311, 312, 313, 380, 381)

The FBEDC supports retention of existing laws concerning Tax Increment Financing (311), Tax Abatement (312), School Value Limitation (313), and Economic Development Agreements (380/381) in their present form and seeks reauthorization where appropriate.