

# TOP POLICY OPPORTUNITIES For 2023

Big Policy Ideas, Supported by the People of Texas to Prepare the State for its Bicentennial

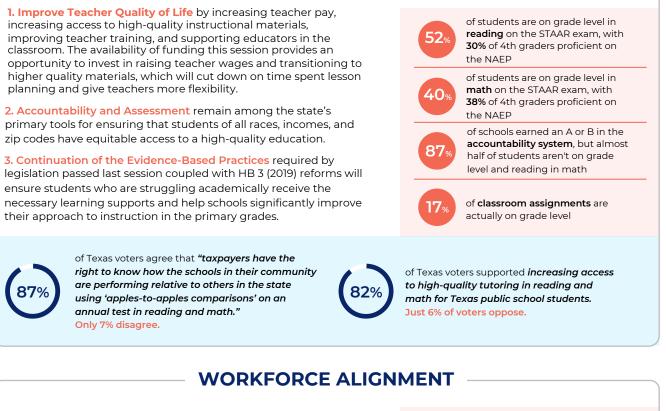






### EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

### **EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES**



1. Texas has a generational opportunity to overhaul its **Community College Finance** formulas to meet the state's workforce needs.

2. Texas also has the opportunity to significantly increase the number of workforce credentials earned in high school, particularly in rural schools, by adopting the recommendations of the Texas Commission on Virtual Education.

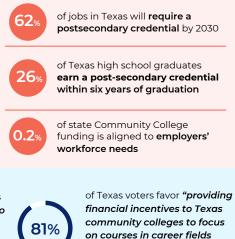
**3.** The state should continue its commitment to the **Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative**, which builds the data and cross-agency infrastructure toward long-term alignment of the state's education and workforce systems.



of Texas voters agree that "community colleges should focus on offering course programs that match the needs of the local workforce."



of Texas voters believe it is important "for the state to focus on increasing the number of credentials earned while students are still in high school."



where students can earn a self-sustaining wage."





### Our Education and Workforce policy efforts are divided into two main workstreams:

**EDUCATION AND** 

WORKFORCE

(1) improving student outcomes in our PK-12 system, and (2) improving postsecondary achievement with better workforce outcomes. The combined goal of these efforts is to ensure Texans have the education and skills necessary to pursue a productive career and earn a family-sustaining wage.

### Closing PK-12 Achievement Gaps with Data-Driven Policies

- Defend Annual Assessment, Accountability, and the A-F System
- Encourage High-Quality Curriculum
- Defend House Bill 3 Programs and Encourage Future Data-Driven Investments
- Improve Teacher Quality, Compensation, and Training
- Support High-Quality Public Charter Schools
- Increase Access to High-Quality Tutoring

### Removing Barriers to PK-12 Student Outcomes

- Increase Access to Rigorous Coursework
- Increase High School Access to Workforce Training and Credentials
- Improve Student Access to Virtual Learning and Other Innovative Learning Models
- Improve Digital Literacy, Technology Planning, and Funding Stability

### **Postsecondary Workforce Alignment**

- Prioritize Career Outcomes and Economic Mobility in Community College Finance
- Incentivize Attainment of Credentials of Value
- Promote Self-Sufficient and Family-Sustaining Wage Attainment as a Goal of State Education and Workforce Programs

### Access to Economic Mobility

- Increase Access to Reskilling and Upskilling Opportunities
- Increase Employer-Led Education Opportunities
- Improve Recognition of Prior Learning and Competency-Based Education Models
- Expand Skills Attainment and Skills-Based Hiring
- Support Efforts to Improve Access to Quality Child Care

#### **Efficient Postsecondary Pathways**

- Improve Dual Credit Completion and Transfer
- Ensure Stackable Sequencing of Credentials
- Pursue Cross-Agency Programmatic Integration and Funding
- Improve Workforce Data Infrastructure



### **HEALTH CARE**

### AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE



#### Nearly 7 in 10

IEXHS

POLICY

Texans believe eligibility for Medicaid should be increased to make single individuals earning \$13,000 a year or less.



they should be informed *how much medical treatment will cost before they receive it.* 



of Texans support allowing highly trained nurses to provide more primary care health services in shortage areas.



of voters support *government action to prevent business tactics that reduce competition.* (Arnold Ventures polling)



of large employers believe a greater governmental role is needed to help them contain health care costs. (KFF Employer Survey)





### Our north star in health care policy is to ensure that Texans are able to obtain the highquality care they need, when they need it, at a price they can afford. In order to achieve this, high-quality care for Texans must be both available and affordable. While these goals sound simple, the challenges we face in this area are complex. In many cases, incentives are misaligned, which has resulted in inefficient allocation of resources and a low return on investment. While the challenge is great, so is the opportunity. Because of the growing bipartisan recognition that our current health care system isn't working well, there is a chance for real, impactful reforms that can help ensure that all Texans are able to access and afford the care they need, when they need it.

**HEALTH CARE** 

### Affordability and Transparency of Care

- Enforce and Expand Transparency
- Remove Barriers to Cost and Quality Data
- Reform State Employee Health Benefit Plans
- Protect Smart Shoppers Within Their Deductibles
- Reduce Inappropriate Facility Fees
- Improve Market Competition by Prohibiting Anti-Competitive Contracting Practices

### Availability of Medical Care

- Enable Independent Practice for APRNs, Especially in Demand Shortage Areas
- Codify Federal Flexibilities for Vaccine Administration
- Improve Access to Children's Mental Health Services
- Support Innovation to Expand our Health Care Workforce Pipeline
- Ensure Continued Access to Telemedicine

### Increasing Health Insurance Coverage

- Pursue an "All Options are on the Table" Approach to Increasing Covered Lives
- Authorize, Develop, and Enact 1115 (Medicaid) and 1332 (Affordable Care Act) Waivers
- Expand Medicaid Eligibility to Close the Coverage Gap
- Increase Postpartum Medicaid Eligibility from 6 Months to 12 Months





### INFRASTRUCTURE

### **ENERGY EXPANSION**

Texas needs to **pursue an "all of the above" energy strategy** as part of its energy expansion. This includes robust oil and gas production along with the the development and deployment of hydrogen, geothermal, battery storage, carbon capture and underground storage, and an expanded renewable energy portfolio.

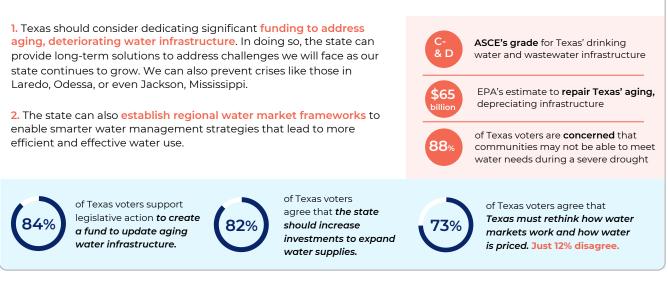
**2.5**×

Texas produced roughly 2.5 times more energy than any other state in 2020, with total **energy production of** 23,329,100 billion BTUs



of Texans want Texas to remain as the nation's energy leader in the adoption of new technologies that allow for cleaner forms of energy that can grow the Texas economy, create jobs, and improve air quality.

### WATER INFRASTRUCTURE



### BROADBAND

Despite historic state and federal efforts to increase access to high-speed internet in underserved rural and urban market, challenges remain to ensure stable funding for the state's broadband efforts.



of Texas households do not have broadband internet subscriptions



of Texans supported using \$2 billion of federal funds to improve the state's broadband and emergency communications infrastructure in 2021.





### INFRASTRUCTURE

**Texas' growth correlates with accelerating infrastructure needs.** The continuation of our economic miracle hinges on the expansion and modernization of our energy, water, transportation, broadband, and government infrastructure. Just as this infrastructure needs to grow, so, too, does the need to replace aging, depreciating infrastructure that presents greater liabilities with each passing year.

### **Energy Expansion**

- Pursue an "All of the Above" Strategy for Energy Expansion
- Support Market-Based Investments in Clean Energy and Decarbonization
- Support Development of Hydrogen and Carbon Capture Hubs
- Support Regulatory Certainty for Oil and Gas Production
- Support Natural Gas Infrastructure Resilience
- Reduce and Mitigate Oil and Gas Waste Streams

### Water Planning and Infrastructure

- Support Water Development Board Sunset Legislation
- Develop More Accurate Water Planning Data
- Fund Solutions that Address Growing Water Needs
- Establish Frameworks for the Development of Regional Water Markets that Encourage Voluntary Transfers of Water
- Support Water Workforce Development Programs

### **Resilient Electricity**

- Leverage Federal Infrastructure Funds to Improve Grid Resilience
- Address Agency Staffing Challenges that Inhibit Grid Reforms
- Support Efforts to Improve Electricity Affordability for Texas Households

### **Future-Forward Transportation**

- Align Funding and Revenue to Market Trends
- Embrace Technological Innovation

### **Digital Connectivity**

- Optimize the State's Broadband Program to More Efficiently Close the Digital Divide. This involves:
  - Map Underserved Areas in Our State Program
  - o Expand Personnel Capacity Within the Broadband Development Office
- o Update Speed Standards for Broadband Infrastructure Projects Funded with State Dollars
- Coordinate Federal and State Broadband Funds for Maximum Impact
- Expand Market Reforms and Incentives for Broadband Expansion
- Advance Digital Literacy Opportunities

### **State Parks**

Support Expansion and Improvement of State Park Infrastructure

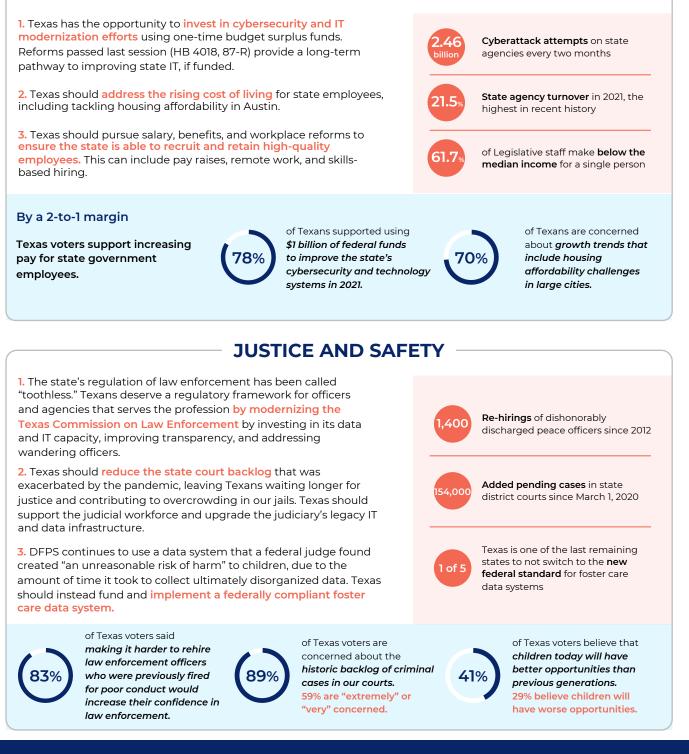


TEXAS

POLICY

### GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

### **GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE**







### GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

### Government Performance is a signature policy area for Texas 2036, with our team often

the only voice on many critical issues. Our first session and special sessions featured impactful victories on state employee pension reform, information technology and cybersecurity modernization, education investment fund reforms, and smart use of federal funds to promote long-term growth. This session, our government performance efforts will be divided into two primary themes: (1) broadly addressing the long-term fiscal, workforce, and technological needs of our state government; and (2) leveraging data and IT to specifically target improvement in government services related to policing, the judiciary, and child welfare.

### **Fiscal Sustainability and Budget Performance**

- Ensure Long-Term Priorities are Funded and Measured Accurately by:
  - Reducing the Risk Long-Term Liabilities Will Have on Future Generations and Balance Sheets
  - Continuing Information Technology and Cybersecurity Modernization
  - Reforming State Budget Performance Measures
- Preserve a Broad-Based Tax Structure Aligned to a Modern Economy

### Talent, Technology, and Data

- Modernize State Employment Practices, Pay, and Benefits. This Involves:
  - o Increasing State Agency and Legislative Staff Salaries
  - o Improving Access to Remote Work for Appropriate State Jobs
  - Encouraging Skills-Based Hiring for State Employees
- Address Rising Housing Costs for State Employees
- Ensure Data Quality and Privacy by:
  - o Improving State Agency Data Infrastructure and Sharing
  - Ensuring State Held Personal Data is Protected and Private
  - Leveraging 2-1-1 Data to Improve State Customer Service

### Justice Data and Accountability

- Address Court Backlogs with Resources, Rules, and Reporting Changes
- Improve Law Enforcement Regulation and Data

### Improving Systems for the Vulnerable

- Ensure IT for Tracking Foster Children Best Serves the State and Texas Children
- Pursue an "All Options Are on The Table" Approach to Improving Child Welfare
- Improve Conditions in Correctional Facilities
- Reduce Recidivism by Improving Employment Outcomes for Justice-Involved Texans



## For additional information, please contact :

⊠ | info@texas2036.org

- 📞 | (469) 384-<u>2036</u>
- 210 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1100, Austin, Texas 78701

# TEXAS 38