

AREAS OF FOCUS

For the 2025 Legislative Session



During the legislative session, Texas has the opportunity to continue its forward momentum with policies that advance our state's economic growth and shared prosperity. **Policy opportunities below represent the emerging, data-driven opportunities to strategically invest in our infrastructure, our people and our economic future.**

Water Infrastructure



Reality for Texans Today

Texas faces a **long-term water supply deficit** if it does not develop enough new water supplies and is hit with another long, severe drought. In addition, aging water systems in need of repairs place a significant strain on our state's resources.

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) grades for Texas:

C-

drinking water infrastructure

D

wastewater infrastructure

\$154 billion

will need to be spent on water needs over the next 50 years

Policy Opportunity

Create a dedicated revenue stream to address long-term economic needs for continuous, adequate water supplies and reliable infrastructure.

College and Career Readiness



Reality for Texans Today

Recent changes to the K-12 and community college funding systems have the potential to dramatically accelerate the number of Texas students earning a postsecondary degree or credential. However, these updates have **not yet been fully aligned for maximum impact.**

90%

high school graduation rate

76%

of graduates achieve college or career readiness benchmarks

36%

actually go on to earn a postsecondary degree

Policy Opportunity

Ensure the K-12 system is aligned with workforce demands and incentivizing opportunities for students to **earn a family-sustaining wage upon high school graduation.**

Improve the quality of mathematics instruction to prepare students with the math skills needed to be successful and competitive in the 21st century.

Health Care Affordability



Reality for Texans Today		Policy Opportunity
<p>With the rise in health care unaffordability and nearly 5 million Texans uninsured, barriers to coverage and affordability include awareness of programs, inaccurate perceptions of affordability, and inefficient, bureaucratic enrollment processes.</p>	<p>16% of Texans are uninsured</p>	<p>Improving transparency and streamlining state regulations to align incentives could make health care more affordable.</p> <p>Creating express lane eligibility, modernize and optimize advertising regulations and evaluate a state-based exchange to address eligible but uninsured Texans.</p>
	<p>200+ Texas counties are federally designated primary care shortage areas in their entirety</p>	
	<p>59% of Texans have skipped needed care due to cost</p>	

Improving Correctional Education, Workforce Readiness



Reality for Texans Today		Policy Opportunity
<p>Unemployment and recidivism among formerly incarcerated Texans are significant problems that affect the state's fiscal, economic, and public safety goals.</p>	<p>27% the unemployment rate for formerly incarcerated Americans</p>	<p>Expand access to workforce aligned credentials will help incarcerated adults find jobs post release. Improve state data integration between TDCJ, THECB, and TWC to better evaluate outcomes and improve programmatic offerings.</p>
	<p>43% less likely to recidivate when inmates participate in a correctional education program</p>	

Housing Supply and Affordability



Reality for Texans Today		Policy Opportunity
<p>Lower housing costs have historically been a competitive advantage for our state, but homeownership is becoming increasingly out of reach for middle class Texans.</p>	<p>38% rise in the median home price</p>	<p>To increase housing supply and affordability, reform outdated petition processes, reduce regulatory barriers and embrace innovation in building design and materials.</p>
	<p>320K homes short of what is needed to serve Texas</p>	

Other Areas of Engagement

Childcare	Energy Expansion	Emerging Technologies
<p>To improve access to childcare, the state needs to improve Texas Workforce Commission data systems with a focus on timeliness, interoperability, and regional needs.</p>	<p>Promote a regulatory and economic environment that will foster an all-of-the-above solution to meet the state's long-term energy needs.</p>	<p>Prepare Texas to lead in the responsible adoption and growth of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and advanced air mobility.</p>