

# City of McKinney and McKinney Chamber of Commerce

## 2013 Legislative Agenda

The City of McKinney and McKinney Chamber of Commerce adopt shared legislative priorities that are in the best interest of our community and allow us to maintain a healthy economic climate to attract and retain jobs and investment and provide a high level of service to our residents and businesses.

Texas has had a strong tradition of limited regulatory burdens on business in order to create and maintain a business friendly environment conducive for job creation. We encourage the legislature to ensure we maintain a pro-business environment as we continue to evolve our regulations relating to key components of the 21st century economic engines, such as the internet, emerging technologies and proven job producing endeavors in the development of infrastructure and manufacturing. Texas needs to ensure that the private sector can utilize competition to produce better prices, new services and more choices for Texans and not burdened with over-regulation.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Type A/Type B Sales Tax Revenue** -Support continued use of a locally approved 1/2 cent sales tax collected by cities to fund economic development efforts and oppose efforts to reduce local control of these funds or efforts to limit the uses of these funds. Because these funds are local funds, taxpayers should retain the right to manage their use for community and economic development.

Support continued funding for the **Texas Enterprise Fund and Texas Emerging Technology Fund** programs to include unexpended balances and restoring funding to be consistent with FY 10-11 biennial budget levels.

**Tax abatements and other economic development incentives.** Continue to support local control and flexibility in the use of tax abatements, tax increment financing, reinvestment zones and other incentives to promote economic development and job creation.

### EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

**Funding.** Restore the \$5.4 billion in funding cuts to public schools and replace the current funding system with adequate and equitable formula that allows for growth based funding.

**Local Control.** Ensure districts have flexibility to meet the needs of their students and discretionary funds to meet local community needs.

**Accountability.** Reexamine the public school accountability system in Texas and rely less on standardized testing. Support the efforts of the Texas Education Consortium to present a more comprehensive approach to accountability.

**Community colleges.** Support education at the community college level as an important contributor to training students for jobs in the workforce.

## HEALTHCARE

Healthcare will continue to be a very important issue that affects every employer and will continue to be a central concern over the next 12 to 18 months as we learn more about the impact of the Affordable Healthcare Act. We will continue to be engaged in monitoring this issue and its impacts on our business members.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Principles and Priorities

**Principles.** – All transportation policy decisions should be focused on increasing efficiency and ease of movement of people and goods across Texas. We must understand our system needs in the short-term while envisioning a system that is sustainable for the next several decades. While financing options, project sizes, and decision processes are limiting factors to implementation, we cannot originate infrastructure goals based solely or primarily on funding. Financing methodology is an important but secondary question. Instead, we must first envision the system the state deserves and then figure out how to pay for it. Prioritization for transportation projects should include potential economic impact in addition to current levels of service of existing roadways.

Increase in transportation funding to at least meet the “Worst Acceptable Condition Scenario” identified in the state’s 2030 Committee Report. (addition of \$174 per Texas household or \$80 per registered vehicle)

Constitutional amendment mandating transportation related funds not be diverted for non-transportation purposes.

McKinney Road Priorities – Our current road infrastructure priorities include the following:

- **FM546 Replacement** to improve access to the area surrounding Collin County Regional Airport
- **Virginia Parkway** (FM 3038)Mallard Lakes to US 75 - traffic on Virginia Parkway currents exceeds the capacity for a four lane roadway. This project will increase capacity of the roadway by 50% by installing a new lane in each direction to the outside of the existing lanes.
- Virginia Parkway** – Ridge to Mallard Lakes - This project will increase capacity of the roadway by 50% by installing a new lane in each direction to the outside of the existing lanes.
- Stacy Road** – Ridge to SH 121 – Traffic on Stacy Road has increased steadily since it was completed several years ago and is currently nearing capacity for a four lane roadway. This project will increase capacity of the roadway by 50% by installing one new lane in each direction in the median of the existing roadway.
- **SH 5 Construction** – FM546 to US 380 – This roadway is the main commercial corridor for McKinney east of US 75. A separate planning project is currently underway through a partnership between the City, NCTCOG and TxDOT. This project will implement the findings of the study and is anticipated to include paving, median, sidewalk, landscape, lighting and other enhancements.

## TAXES & SPENDING

**Fiscal policy.** Continue to support fiscal restraint in state spending and transparency in budgeting so that taxpayers know exactly what dollars are collected and where they are spent.

**Franchise (margin) tax** –Review and restructure the franchise (margin) tax.

- Business losses. Support authorizing a business's losses on the franchise (margin) tax to be carried forward for up to 10 years.
- Exemption of flow-through funds. Support an exemption from the franchise (margin) tax of all flow-through funds that are mandated by contract to be distributed to other entities.
- Research and development tax credit. Support reinstating the research and development tax credit (provided under the previous franchise tax) and allowing it to be carried forward.

## WATER

Perhaps no other issue is as critical for all businesses in Texas as our water supply. The latest update to the Texas State Water Plan confirms that in drought conditions, Texas businesses do not have the water that is needed to sustain economic opportunity. The report projects that by 2060 water supplies will decrease by 10% while our population will grow by 82%, from 25.4 million to over 46 million and the need for additional water in Texas during drought conditions will reach 8.3 million acre-feet.

Conservation of existing water resources, development of additional cost-effective supplies and sound scientifically-based and economically rational standards for protecting water quality will be key to our ability to continue to attract business opportunity to Texas.

**State Water Plan.** Adequate funding for the implementation of the State Water Plan.

**Water Conservation.** Support efforts to ensure that water users are required to develop and enforce stringent water conservation measures as a condition of receiving any state financial or technical assistance for water resource planning and development.