The Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce continues to be the voice of the business community in the Beaumont area. To that end, we develop a legislative platform prior to every Texas Legislative Session, which is detailed below. The items below can and, if change, depend on actions and activities in the state of Texas.

While these specific items do change, there are several foundational areas that remain constant as they are essential for the success of our business community to be successful, such as the elimination of unnecessary and costly regulations, the elimination or reduction of burdensome taxes and fees, and a focus on improving infrastructure and to assist our community.

Positive outcomes from the last Texas Legislative Session are highlighted in red listing the bill(s) that addressed that issue.

2018-19 Legislative Agenda

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Supports:
- Legislation that incentivizes public school districts, community colleges, technical schools and universities to increase the number of graduates in critical fields including the promotion of dual credit programs and the promoting academic excellence in public schools with emphasis on math sciences, and skills required in the modern workplace as well as the promotion of career and technical education career pathways.

- Adequate funding for Lamar University, Lamar State College - Orange, Lamar State College - Port Arthur, and the Lamar Institute of Technology consistent with their growth and the needs of our future workforce.

ENVIROMENT

Supports:
- Efforts within the State Water Plan that would ensure adequate water supplies throughout the state that does not infringe on South Texas’s growing water rights protections.
- Legislation in water conservation and adequately compensating areas with supply of water resources as part of comprehensive state wide water planning effort.
- State control of the aquifer permitting programs, state control of the permitting programs for new water uses, and legislation to streamline the permitting process to lessen the time for approvals.

- Efforts to restore the hurricanes damaged beaches and coastal wetlands which serve as natural barriers for residential communities and industrial areas.

HEALTH CARE

Supports:
- Legislative action to reestablish an important care facility in Orange County, Texas.
- Non-government efforts to reduce the number of Uninsured Texans. A Texas approach should require personal responsibility, responsible utilization of health care services, promotion of primary care and mental health resources, and should ensure fiscal responsibility and efficient management of public resources. We support a Texas solution to draw down federal healthcare dollars.
- Programs for the mentally ill programs for those developmentally disabled.

INSURANCE

Supports:
- The restructuring of the catastrophic funding mechanisms to equitably spread the risk and the opportunity for affordable insurance rates while working toward private insurance competition in coastal communities.

TAXES

Supports:
- The transitioning of the business tax environment with all state and local taxes.
- Help to ensure unfunded mandates from the state to local taxing entities.

TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY, AND TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Supports:
- Legislation that enhances the competitive position of Texas ports, rail, highways, and pipelines that facilitate international trade.
- The planning, design and construction on our roads including a new interchange at US Highway 69, 69, SR-287, State Highway 73, the expansion of I-10 from Adams Branch to the Louisiana state line and the restoration of the State Highway 87 from Sabine Pass to High Island.
- The Sabine Natchez Waterway Improvement Project.
- A strong and reliable electric utility capable of attracting new business and industry with competitive energy costs.

The Texas Legislature’s continued efforts to modernize, update and streamline communications laws and regulations that should lead to ensuring Texans have access to cutting edge networks and technologies including wire line and wireless IP broadband.