

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a long wooden pier extending into a body of water. The pier is made of dark wood and has a simple railing. In the distance, a person is walking a black dog. The water is calm, and there are several white ducks swimming near the pier. The sky is a clear, light blue. On the left side, there are trees with bright yellow and orange autumn foliage. In the background, there are some buildings and more trees with autumn-colored leaves.

*Taylor
Texas*

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND VISITOR CENTER

2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

A road map of local, regional, state and national priorities on behalf Chamber-member businesses.

THE GREATER TAYLOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 86TH SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE.

Taylor is a rapidly expanding community that has grown approximately 30 percent since the last census. It will continue to grow and thrive as historic farming and ranching concerns intersect with more urban, high technology and artistic influences.

To not only preserve the best of the current Taylor way of life but also encourage well-chosen new businesses to relocate in Taylor, the following priorities are considered to be essential for well planned growth:

LOCAL CONTROL

- Local municipalities and governing bodies are best equipped to define policies and ordinances that promote health and public safety. GTCC does not support legislation that attempts to curtail a municipality's ability to fund its ongoing and future operations
- Reformation of school funding systems to include state contributions of capital necessary to support local school systems equally and sufficiently. Doing so will greatly reduce the property tax burden on all Texans

EDUCATION

Well educated, engaged children are critical to the future health of any community. Not only must they be well educated, but equally important is finding viable career pathways locally so they may build their lives and families here.

To fulfill this promise, GTCC supports efforts to:

- Pass legislation mandating the state provide at least 50 percent of the funds necessary to ensure the education of Texas children. Given the economic power of Texas, which rivals that of Canada, GTCC feels support of this concept is required
- Expand the availability of state funds for private-public partnerships centered on workforce training and development (such as Taylor Works and the Trades Day Career Fair)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

As a growing community, Taylor is aggressively attracting businesses that amplify and enrich its workforce and is doing so in ways that improve quality of life. To that end GTCC supports:

- Expansion of business-ready broadband infrastructure into rural communities
- Expansion of cybersecurity training and the creation of a cyber insurance pool
- Adoption of legislation that enables better rural transportation options, including commuter rail and efficient public transit
- Adoption of legislation making critical infrastructure- roads, water supply, and flood control- dependably available
- Expansion of agriculturally focused state programs, specifically those targeting start-ups
- Elimination of onerous unfunded mandates for small business

ARTS

To support the growing demand for a culturally rich life GTCC supports:

- Increasing state funding for the arts, especially funding targeted for smaller communities with populations less than 25,000
- Increasing the current budgeted appropriation of the Texas Commission on the Arts from \$6.3 to \$9 million and dedicating a significant portion of the increase to smaller and rural communities
- Protected use of Municipality Hotel Occupancy Tax (MHOT) to fund art programs which benefit both Tourism and Economic Development