



**MIDLAND  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**



# Advocacy Agenda

86th Session  
Texas Legislature

# State Advocacy Priorities

## Higher Education – Program Expansion (Including Workforce Development) and Facility Expansion

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Texas is behind the national average in higher education attainment rates. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board issued the following goal: By 2030, at least 60 percent of Texans ages 25-34 will have a certificate or degree. The goal focuses on increasing completion rates of programs with identifiable, marketable skills, while reducing student debt.

### MIDLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE POSITION:

In order to achieve this goal, programs and facilities will require additional funding for expansion. The Chamber strongly supports additional funding for workforce development programs for Midland College and program and facility support for UT Permian Basin and the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center.

## Public Education - Funding and Accountability

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

While some funding and accountability issues were addressed in recent Legislative sessions, funding for Midland ISD has actually decreased due to current economic conditions that impact “recapture” (aka Robin Hood) and other state funding mechanisms. Additionally, the Texas public school testing system was modified successfully for secondary grade levels. This must be expanded to include grades three through eight.

### MIDLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE POSITION:

Advocate for legislation to: 1). Develop and implement a funding formula to mitigate the burden of Texas school districts that may experience dramatic fluctuations in property tax valuations, 2). Provide an effective and efficient school accountability program that utilizes multiple measures to accurately report strengths and weaknesses of campuses and districts, and 3). Continue work on modifying testing system to include grades three through eight.

## Infrastructure & Safety

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Oil & Gas production in the Permian Basin is critical to the economic health of the State of Texas. Further, the industry's growth has yielded significant population increases which have placed additional stress on the area's infrastructure and safety needs in the areas of housing, roads, and adequate healthcare.

### ***Midland Chamber of Commerce Position:***

In order to protect such a critical component of the State's economy, the Midland Chamber of Commerce will support legislation that addresses funding needs for infrastructure and safety improvements in the area. Furthermore, the Midland Chamber will oppose any legislation that poses a threat to the development of the economy, the access to healthcare, or the safety of the population of West Texas.

## Water Supply

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Managing and protecting our water resources is one of the most critical issues facing Midland and the State of Texas. As our population increases, human demands for water will grow. But we still need to ensure that there is adequate water for agriculture, industry and the environment. Decisions made now will have far reaching consequences for the livelihood of our city and our state.

### ***MIDLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE POSITION:***

Support a statewide water plan that treats all regions equitably.

## State of Texas Elected Officials\*

### **Senator Kel Seliger**

District 31

6 Desta Drive, Suite 3360  
Midland, TX 79705  
(432) 620-0436

### **Representative Tom Craddick**

District 82

500 West Texas, Suite 880  
Midland, TX 79701  
(432) 682-3000

# 2018 - 2019 Governmental Affairs Committee

**Dr. Steve Thomas**

*Committee Chair*  
Midland College

**Bobby Burns**

*President & CEO*  
Midland Chamber of Commerce

**Grant Billingsley**

Scharbauer Foundation, Inc.

**Richard Brantley**

University Lands

**Martin Dozier**

Probity SWD

**Robert Rendall**

*Chamber Board Chairman*  
Rendall Sikes

**Kate Williamson**

*Chamber Board, VC Advocacy*  
Basin Hill, LLC

**Becky Ferguson**

Individual Member

**Chuck Hedges**

Fasken Oil & Ranch

**Jay Isaacs**

FirstCapital Bank of Texas

**Scott Kidwell**

Concho Resources

## About the Midland Chamber of Commerce

### *OUR MISSION*

*The Midland Chamber of Commerce will provide resources and services to promote and foster business growth and success for its members.*

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