

Greater Fort Bend County Economic Development Council  
Legislative Priorities

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I. Economic Development

Protect Tax Abatement and TIRZ as a means of Commercial and Employment Growth

Protect the Texas Economic Development Sales Tax

Keep and Maintain Funding for the Texas Enterprise Fund

Protect and Improve Section 313 Value Limitations for School Districts

Increase Skills Development Funding

Protect the Texas Enterprise Zone Program

Keep and Maintain Funding for the Texas Emerging Technology Fund

II. Transportation

End diversions of the gas tax and motor vehicle sales tax and dedicate to the State Highway Fund

Increase annual vehicle registration fees and dedicate to State Highway Fund

Create a new rail district to explore a short line between Rosenberg and Freeport or revise the statutory authority of the current gulf link rail district to restore power of eminent domain.

Capitalize the Railroad Relocation and Improvement fund and allocate up to \$3M for studying rail line option between Freeport and Rosenberg

III. Medicaid Expansion

Support the Texas Way Program under the ACA with a waiver as a consumer based private market alternative to traditional Medicaid for the uninsured population

IV. Higher Education

Support the Transfer of TXDOT land at corner of University and US 59 to University of Houston

Support Tuition Revenue Bonds for the School of Technology Building on UH Sugar Land Campus

Support Tuition Revenue Bonds for TSTC Campus in the Richmond\Rosenberg area

Increase the amount of medical residency slots in Texas

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V. Law Suit Reform

Limit new County Court at Law claim to \$250,000

Require existing County Court at Law courts with limits over \$250,000 to require 12 jurors

VI. Tax Reform

Support Property Tax Reform that reduces School M&O property taxes through additional state funding of schools

Oppose increase in the Homestead Exemption or any other proposal that shifts burden to businesses

Oppose revenue caps

Support the elimination or reduction of the Franchise Tax on Business

Oppose any attempt to change the property tax appraisal rules to remove "fair and equitable" as an allowable standard in commercial property appraisals

VII. Water and Environmental Permits

Support reforms to contested case hearings process for environmental permits to prevent abuse of the process, ensure fairness and reduce timeframes to maintain our competitiveness

Address Texas Groundwater Law to make available increased aquifer storage and recovery options for Texas Water needs