



GRANBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE 2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce (GCC) serves the vibrant town of Granbury and Hood County, Texas, boasting nearly 900 members who represent more than 15,000 employees. In understanding the impact that legislation and public policy issues have on all businesses represented in our community, the Granbury Chamber Government Affairs Committee (GAC) has developed a list of legislative priorities that will serve as an informative guide for our members, local leadership and statewide elected officials through which the GAC will voice the position of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce on public policy issues.

FAIR BUSINESS TAXES

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce advocates for fair business taxes and tax incentives to encourage responsible and timely small, medium and large business growth, which stimulates hiring and increases revenues. The Chamber works to establish policy positions that promote a healthy business climate and sustainable revenue. The Chamber's goal is to inform and educate membership about business tax implications and communicate the opinions, objections and importance to policy makers.

RESPONSIBLE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce works in tandem with local leadership to advocate for policies and initiatives that support strategic economic development for the City of Granbury and Hood County. The Chamber recognizes the importance of supporting legislation and local government action which encourages responsible growth, a strong business climate and thriving economic opportunities. We strongly oppose attempts to override local control in the form of reduced appraisal caps or other government overreach including attempts to reform our stable and reliable Title Insurance industry.

EDUCATION

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce works within the political realm to advocate positions important to education for future economic growth, including adequate funding mechanisms to meet the growth demand of the local educational system. The Chamber supports the Granbury ISD as it continues to provide standards of excellence for educational programs and facilities to prepare its students to be

college or workforce ready. GCC specifically supports the Granbury ISD Top 4 Legislative Priorities as enumerated in attachment (1).

AFFORDABLE AND DEPENDABLE ENERGY

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce recognizes the necessity of affordable, dependable energy to promote economic development and growth. The Chamber provides a voice and advocacy on behalf of business for policies, laws and regulations that promote low-cost and reliable power supplies. Actions are supported that will serve to increase power generation in Texas in the future to accommodate demand growth. Development of clean energy supplies should be promoted without new mandates or other actions that may reduce reliability or increase costs.

HEALTHCARE REGULATION

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce supports innovative, business-friendly solutions to the ever-changing health care environment. The Chamber seeks to promote solutions that decrease cost, expand access, and increase the quality of healthcare for the Granbury business community and its members that will mitigate rising costs and regulations.

TRANSPORTATION

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce supports transportation infrastructure that will serve to improve future economic growth, including adequate funding mechanisms to meet demand and projected growth. Deteriorating roads and traffic congestion has increased the price of doing business through higher maintenance costs, wasted fuel and delayed shipments. Local, State and Federal investment in transportation infrastructure plays an essential role in protecting public safety and promoting commerce at the local level.

WATER REGULATION AND SUPPLY

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce understands the importance of water as it relates to local community growth and the economic health of the region. High quality, affordable and abundant water supply and healthy infrastructure are necessary for the city of Granbury and Hood County's continued growth and expansion. The Chamber supports fiscally responsible policies, laws and regulations at the local, state and federal level that promote expansion and rehabilitation of infrastructure and the availability of water resources. The Granbury Chamber of Commerce works with local and statewide partners to advocate for policies and projects that increase quantity and improve quality of water in the city of Granbury and the region.

Granbury ISD Top 4 Legislative Priorities - 2017

School Finance

We support meaningful changes to the Texas school finance system that decrease the reliance on recapture, provide an adequate education for all students pre-K-12, eliminate unfunded mandates and accurately reflect the cost of education based on the needs of the student populations served.

Vouchers, Taxpayer Savings Grants, or Tuition Reimbursements

We believe vouchers, taxpayer savings grants, savings accounts, tuition reimbursements and other diversions of public money would be detrimental to all Texas public schools. State or taxpayer funds should not be diverted to schools that are not held to the same accountability and transparency standards as Texas public schools.

Assessment and Accountability

We continue to be concerned about state testing and how it is used to label students and districts. We should look beyond high-stakes, multiple-choice, developmentally inappropriate exams and we oppose the A-F campus and district labeling system that ignores the complexity of public schools and pits campuses against each other.

Local Control

We continue to advocate for less intrusive state government as we believe the best outcomes occur when the state partners with locally elected school boards, who are directly accountable to all students, parents, local taxpayers and local businesses.