



**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION

# 2025

**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE  
ACTION PLAN**

Presented to the 119th Congress  
by the 2025 Bryan/College Station  
Chamber of Commerce Delegation

**Economic Development & Fiscal Responsibility • Healthcare  
Transportation, Mobility & Infrastructure • Higher Education & Workforce Training**

# 2025 FEDERAL LEGIS

The Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce has as its foremost mission the continuation and cultivation of a vigorous and diverse local economy. Through its many programs, the Chamber enhances the ability of companies in the Brazos Valley to grow and prosper. One of the most important roles of our Chamber is to take a proactive approach to ensure that those who represent us nationally in Washington, D.C., statewide in Austin and locally in Bryan/College Station learn more about the business interests of our community.

The purpose of this Federal Legislative Action Plan is to summarize the important legislative goals in the areas of concern to over 1,600 members and our community. We respectfully request your support on the issues outlined in this plan.

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A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Castillo'.

Karla Castillo  
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that clearly reads 'Glen Brewer'.

Glen Brewer  
President & CEO

# LATIVE ACTION PLAN

The Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce advocates for businesses at the local, state and national levels. The Chamber uses guiding principles in considering positions on issues. At the heart of these principles is the certainty that the strength of a nation, a state and a community is a reflection of the strength of their economies. Wealth and jobs are created through economic development in a free society by means of free enterprise. Businesses, especially small businesses, are the engines that drive economic growth and rely on an atmosphere conducive to that growth.

"When businesses succeed, our non-profits, schools and civic organizations flourish and our governments provide better services for all of our residents. That is the economic cycle that creates the wonderful community in which we all work and live."

- Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce



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# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We encourage lawmakers to enhance economic success and quality of life by allowing more localized decision making. Federal policies that support economic development are critical. Our membership continues to be concerned about the rate of government spending, along with regulatory and tax burdens which stifle innovation and compromise free enterprise.

**We support:**

**1.FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND TAX AND FINANCIAL REFORM** - Creating policies that are supportive of business, efficient government, and addressing the federal deficit.

**2.ENERGY** - Emphasizing policies that secure energy independence, encourage energy exports, and enable innovation in diverse and emerging energy sources, including nuclear energy. Reducing regulations to increase energy production on federal lands and reopening the Keystone Pipeline.

**3.WORKFORCE** - Building and supporting a qualified workforce by investing funds at the local, state, regional and national levels to meet employers' needs. Preparing for and eliminating supply chain issues.

**4.FEDERAL PROGRAMS** - Maintaining current authorities and increasing federal investment in economic development programs that support local communities. Facilitating the effectiveness of tools that encourage leveraging funds, creating job opportunities and stimulating private investment.





# & FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY



**5.COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING** - Allowing community project funding (CPF) for local development, provided that the overall total of CPFs occurs after the federal budget is established, and the total is limited to no more than 1% of discretionary spending.

**6.INTERNATIONAL TRADE** - Facilitating fair and equitable international trade agreements that create jobs, increase wealth, reduce the impact of supply issues and bolster national security.

**7.IMMIGRATION REFORM** - Protecting our borders and eliminating loopholes that encourage illegal entry. Enacting prioritized reforms, beginning with serious actions to secure the southern border. A nation has the right and responsibility to protect and defend its borders.

**8.DEFENSE** - Investing in the resources necessary to defend the country and deter potential threats.

**9.CYBERSECURITY** - Strengthening national cyber resilience through expanded public-private partnerships to secure critical infrastructure and prevent emerging threats.

**10.FEDERAL COURT DIVISION** - Creating a new Federal Divisional Court named the Bryan/College Station Division, in the Southern District of Texas.



# HEALTHCARE

Americans continue to expect a healthcare system that provides choice for coverage options and providers; focuses on improving the experience of care; improves the health of the population; reduces the per capita cost of healthcare; and ensures financial stability for individuals and businesses. Events like the Covid-19 pandemic have underscored the importance of ensuring access to healthcare, as well as the financial viability of healthcare entities that provide care for the most vulnerable patients.

**We support:**

**1.PROTECTING MEDICARE, MEDICAID AND OTHER FEDERALLY SPONSORED HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS -**

Healthcare systems and providers are struggling under growing workforce costs, staffing shortages, increased supply costs and increased patient acuity. These entities cannot continually be subjected to cuts. Reductions in direct reimbursement or supplemental program funding will lead to decreased access to care for patients as hospitals close facilities and eliminate services that are not financially viable.

**2.ADDRESSING HEALTHCARE WORKER SHORTAGE -** Increase funding of education for nursing school programs focused on acute and critical care to allow them to increase enrollment of healthcare. Buildup of this workforce will be critical to re-build the nurses, physicians, advanced practitioners and other clinicians to sustain the patient load experienced by hospitals.

**3.MEDICAID EXPANSION -** Continue to work with Texas legislative leaders to find ways to improve access by providing health insurance to lower-income Texans, and healthcare coverage for more than 750,000 of Texas' 4+ million uninsured residents.

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**4.PROTECTING RURAL HOSPITALS** - Rural hospitals and health systems are the lifeblood of their communities and are committed to ensuring local access to high-quality, affordable healthcare. At the same time, these hospitals are experiencing unprecedented challenges that jeopardize access and services. Continue working with our elected officials to address the crippling workforce shortages, soaring costs of providing care, broken supply chains, severe underpayment by Medicare and Medicaid, and an overwhelming regulatory burden to rural hospitals.



# TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY & INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation and mobility impact every aspect of daily life. The priority is not only the maintenance of transportation infrastructure, it must also allow for multi-modal innovation and expansion in areas of high growth and in times of rapid economic development. As the Bryan/College Station/Brazos County area continues its rapid growth, it is essential that planning and funding for transportation improvements including new or improved corridors remain a high priority to mitigate future mobility impacts. We applaud our Congressional Delegation for recognizing our priorities by including the I-14 and I-214 language in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

## **We support:**

**1.INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE** - Exercising oversight to ensure that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is fully funded as authorized and implemented expeditiously, fairly and efficiently in a manner that enables Brazos County communities to leverage infrastructure improvements that stimulate economic growth and/or mitigate mobility impacts.

**2.FUNDING FOR BRAZOS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS** - Specific federal appropriations for key transportation infrastructure projects identified by Brazos County, the City of Bryan, the City of College Station, and the Bryan/College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization.

**3.ESTABLISHING A NEW CORRIDOR AND ENHANCING EXISTING FACILITIES FOR FREIGHT MOVEMENT WITHIN THE TEXAS TRIANGLE** - The communities around the deepwater port of Freeport, Brazos County, local elected officials and business owners propose a connection between the Port of Freeport and the Alliance Railyard in Fort Worth via the Texas Triangle Parkway/Thruway consisting of a parallel to SH 36, SH 6 from Hempstead to Waco, and I-35 to Fort Worth.





**4.IMPROVING COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICE** - Bryan/College Station's location within the Texas Triangle necessitates access to multiple modes for intercity travel. Ensure the Federal Aviation Administration and the USDOT support safe and sustainable private commercial air service. We support the introduction of a second commercial airline carrier at Easterwood Airport to enhance operational efficiency, safety, and passenger convenience.

**5. MODERNIZING BRAZOS TRANSIT DISTRICT AND TEXAS A&M TRANSIT BUS FLEET** - Collaborating efforts between Brazos Transit District and Texas A&M University Transportation Services to obtain grant funding to modernize bus fleets, which includes the acquisition of new buses and support facilities. Furthermore, they aim to enhance bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure by leveraging grants and other funding to effectively promote transportation alternatives to mitigate traffic congestion and provide safety for vulnerable road users.

**6.CONSolidATING RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AND RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION** - The Bryan/College Station Transportation Management Area has a significant railroad presence. Coupled with expansive growth, this leads to many conflict points between trains and vehicle/bicycle/pedestrian traffic. Funding safety improvements and railroad crossing eliminations would be impactful for increasing the safety of the traveling public, while also increasing rail mobility by decreasing at grade railroad crossings.

**7.CYBERSECURITY** - Prosperity brings constant cyberattacks on aviation, rail, pipelines, transportation facilities, traffic safety infrastructure, and communications. It is such a concern that Governor Abbott made an emergency item this legislative session creating a Texas Cyber Command Center. We support the development and funding for cybersecurity infrastructure and strategies to detect, neutralize, and prevent cyberattacks.

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# HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE TRAINING

An educated workforce is vital to the economic growth and vitality of American families and every community. The educational partnerships of Blinn College, Texas A&M University, the Bryan/College Station business community, local governments, K-12 education, and nonprofits are working to share the responsibility of developing a dynamic and diverse economy that embraces productive citizens and new technology advancements.

The collaboration among these partners is resulting in a more streamlined approach to identify and provide for our region's educational and workforce needs.

Enhancing federal funding for research, innovation and workforce training not only develops new technologies, but also supports local businesses and creates new jobs. These investments ensure future success of the Brazos Valley.

**We support:**

**1.FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH** – Increasing annual budgets for competitive grants to institutions of higher education conducting top-tier research initiatives that will maintain American competitiveness in the world. In addition, ensuring that the "Facilities and Administrative" costs of research – also referred to as the "indirect costs" of research – remain intact. These expenses, which are essential to conducting research effectively, efficiently, safely, and securely, support the common physical and procedural infrastructure used by all research projects and are therefore critical to conducting world-class research.

**2.STUDENT ACCESS** – Strengthening the commitment to post-secondary education by removing barriers that limit student access to higher education. These barriers can be removed through the prioritization by Congress of access to greater financial aid resources and a focus on policies that increase the completion rates of students.



**3.ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION** – Developing broader commitments from mission agencies for apprenticeship programs, such as Research Security Operations, and increasing funding for the Advanced Technological Education program at the National Science Foundation are imperative to bolster national competitiveness in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.





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