



**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION

# 2026

## FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION PLAN

Presented to the 119th Congress  
by the 2026 Bryan/College Station  
Chamber of Commerce Delegation

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

# 2026 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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Zach Etheridge  
Board Chair



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 to 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, TAX, AND FINANCIAL REFORM:** Creating policies to address the federal deficit and reforming the tax code to support businesses by encouraging investment, innovation, and competitiveness.

**2.ENERGY:** Advance federal policies that strengthen grid reliability, resiliency, and affordability by protecting municipal financing tools, improving disaster recovery programs, and addressing supply chain constraints. Support local market control and streamlined permitting to accelerate essential infrastructure and meet growing demand.

**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.



# & FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY



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

**5.COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING:** Allowing community project funding (CPF) for local development, provided 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 which create American jobs, protect American consumers, reduce the impact of supply issues, and strengthen national security.

**7.IMMIGRATION REFORM:** A well-thought and consistent policy on immigration and border security is essential for national defense and economic stability. A strong economy requires both secure borders and a functioning legal immigration system to address labor shortages.

**8.DEFENSE & CYBERSECURITY:** Invest in the resources necessary to defend the nation, deter emerging threats, and support the domestic industrial base. Strengthen national cyber resilience by advancing strategic initiatives that upskill the workforce, protect our critical infrastructure and government sectors, and bolster national defense.

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# HEALTHCARE

Americans expect a healthcare system that provides choice, access, affordability, quality, and innovation. They expect timely care close to home, transparency in costs, strong local hospitals, prepared public health departments, and compassionate end-of-life care when needed.

**We Support:**

## **1. STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CAPACITY**

- Establishing stable public health funding streams.
- Strengthening disaster response and infectious disease preparedness.
- Addressing growing local mental health needs.
- Evidence-based vaccination protocols.

## **2. PROTECTING HOSPITALS, ACCESS, AND THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE**

- Protecting access to care.
- Removing unnecessary regulatory barriers.
- Advancing value-based care focused on outcomes.
- Addressing workforce shortages, Safety, and Burnout.
- Utilizing ethical use of AI.

## **3. REFORMING THE HEALTHCARE SUPPLY CHAIN**

- Increasing transparency in Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) drug pricing.
  - Reforming Group Purchasing Organization (GPO) practices that constrain competition and innovation.
  - Strengthening supply chain resiliency for pharmaceuticals, supplies, and equipment.
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#### 4. ENSURING QUALITY HOSPICE CARE

- Enhancing transparency and accountability in the Medicare Hospice Program.
- Establishing enforcement that holds bad actors accountable.
- Promoting value-based payment models.
- Ensuring support for caregiver distress.

#### CALL TO ACTION:

**“We urge Congress to support policies that strengthen health systems, protect vulnerable populations, and ensure accountability in care delivery.”**



# TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY & INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation and mobility impact every aspect of daily life. The priority is not only the maintenance of transportation infrastructure, but it must also provide for multi-modal innovation and expansion of capacity to accommodate the existing and projected growth and economic development within the county, region, and the Texas Triangle megaregion which impacts both state and federal commerce. As the Bryan/College Station region continues its significant growth, it is essential that planning and funding for transportation improvements including new and improved corridors, remains a high priority to mitigate future mobility impacts which would affect not only the local regions but also the entire state of Texas and the United States economy.

## We support:

**1. INTERSTATE I-14 AND I-214 FUNDING FOR PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION:** The previous federal transportation bills included a general route for I-14, which TxDOT has begun project advancement. Interstate routes are not just for Texas, they are national assets, and Federal funding for priority segments is needed to accelerate these efforts in order to move freight and people through the United States. We support a long term funding solution, such as the creation of a multi-state future interstate highway formula funding program for Congressionally Authorized Future Interstate (CAFI) roadways of which the I-14/I-214 is one such corridor.

**2. INVESTMENT IN TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE:** Exercising oversight to ensure that the upcoming transportation infrastructure bill prioritizes increased funding for transportation infrastructure in Texas. We advocate for Texas to receive at least 1 cent of federal gas tax for every 1 cent the state sends to the federal government. The State of Texas will positively impact the national economy when funding formulas and models are set to allocate the proper amount of resources to increase transportation capacity by advancing and building projects which are critical for economic growth.

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**3. FUNDING FOR BRAZOS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS:** Specific federal appropriations for key transportation infrastructure projects identified by Bryan/College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Brazos County, the City of Bryan, the City of College Station, Texas A&M University and the System, such as the SH 47 and SH 21 Interchange project adjacent to RELLIS, and a grade separation for non-motorized transportation users along FM 60 (University Drive).

**4. 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 communities and 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.

**5. BRAZOS TRANSIT DISTRICT AND TEXAS A&M TRANSIT BUS FLEET MODERNIZATION:** Collaborating efforts between Brazos Transit District (BTD) 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 to provide safety for the nearly 85,000 college students who travel to and from campus.

**6. IMPROVED 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 Field to enhance operational efficiency, safety, and passenger convenience.

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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.

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**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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For more information, or to receive an electronic copy of this  
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