



# State Agenda

Texas 88th Legislature  
2023



## 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 programs at Midland College, including workforce development, 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 system has been impacted significantly by COVID-19. While accountability remains an important factor, we request that accountability measures for all public Texas school districts be reviewed and revised to ensure optimal support for our public school districts.

#### Midland Chamber of Commerce Position:

- Advocate for legislation to develop and implement a funding formula to mitigate the burden of Texas school districts that may experience dramatic fluctuations in property tax valuations.
- Advocate for legislation to provide an effective and efficient school accountability program that utilizes multiple measures to accurately report strengths and weaknesses of campuses and districts.

### 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, transportation, 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.
- 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.



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## 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.
- Encourage the responsible exploration and advancement of additional opportunities for reclamation and reuse of existing water and educate the legislature on these developments.

## Midland, TX - State Elected Officials

### Rep. Tom Craddick

District 82  
500 West Texas, Ste 880  
Midland, TX 79701  
(432) 682-3000

### Senator Kevin Sparks

District 31  
6 Desta Drive, Suite 3360  
Midland, TX 79705  
(432) 620-0436

## About the Midland Chamber



**The Midland Chamber's mission** is to promote and foster business growth and success for our members and the Midland community.

**We have served** as Midland's voice of business since 1924. Advocating for a favorable business climate at the local, state, and federal levels of government on behalf of our members is one of our top priorities.

**We take an active stance** regarding legislation that will impact our business community. As community advocates, we:

- Actively monitor issues
- Provide updates, including call-to-action updates
- Act as a liaison and voice the position of the Chamber to our elected officials