



METROCREST
CHAMBER

METROCREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THE CHAMBER OF ADDISON, CARROLLTON, & FARMERS BRANCH

89th Legislative Session Results

Advocate. Elevate. Accelerate.

A Message from Michel Gallops

President & CEO, Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce

This legislative session reminded us just how much is at stake for local businesses and the communities they serve. From securing tax relief and supporting child care access to protecting the tools cities use to grow jobs and attract investment, we saw real progress on issues that matter across Addison, Carrollton, and Farmers Branch. The wins outlined in this summary didn't happen by accident—they reflect months of work, strategic partnerships, and a firm belief that the voice of business must be part of every policy conversation.

We also kept a close watch on legislation that would have added costs or limited local flexibility. In several key cases, we successfully stood with our partners to prevent harmful proposals from moving forward. It's a reminder that advocacy means both pushing for what we need and protecting what we already have.

None of this would have been possible without the leadership of our board, the dedication of our Government Affairs Committee, and the support of our Chamber members. I'm especially grateful to Cristal Retana Lule for her work as Chair of Government Affairs, and to the city officials and business leaders who joined us in advocating for policies that help our region thrive.

As we prepare for the next session and continue work during the interim, our focus remains the same: strengthening the business environment, supporting a skilled workforce, and creating a region where innovation and opportunity can grow. We're proud of what we've accomplished—and we're just getting started.

Michael Gallops





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Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce 89th Texas Legislative Session Summary

This legislative session reminded us just how much is at stake for local businesses and the communities they serve. From securing tax relief and supporting child care access to protecting the tools cities use to grow jobs and attract investment, we saw real progress on issues that matter across Addison, Carrollton, and Farmers Branch. The wins outlined in this summary didn't happen by accident—they reflect months of work, strategic partnerships, and a firm belief that the voice of business must be part of every policy conversation.

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Affordable Housing

The Metrocrest Chamber supports policies that reduce zoning and land-use barriers to expand access to affordable and workforce housing. We know that the ability to attract and retain talent depends on the availability of housing options that are both attainable and close to where people work. During the 89th Texas Legislative Session, we supported legislation such as SB 840, which enables mixed-use and multifamily development in commercial zones - creating new opportunities for housing near job centers in Addison, Carrollton, and Farmers Branch. These types of reforms are essential to meeting workforce demands, shortening commute times, and strengthening our local economy. Although several strong housing bills fell short this session, including proposals to create a workforce housing fund and expand development through nonprofit partnerships, the progress made reflects growing momentum. The Metrocrest Chamber remains committed to advancing practical solutions that improve housing affordability, increase housing supply, and support the long-term economic vitality of our region.



- **Support SB 840 (Signed, Effective 9/1/2025, Win):** Allows mixed-use/multifamily development in commercial zones, opening doors for housing and business space solutions.

Business Impact: This win enables more housing options near Metrocrest businesses, supporting talent attraction and productivity.

Other Housing Initiatives We Supported That Failed

- **Support HB 4505 (Did Not Advance):** Proposed a zero-interest loan program for workforce housing, aiding retention for employers like hospitals.
- **Support SB 854 (Did Not Advance):** Allowed religious organizations to build affordable housing to support workers.
- **Support HJR 108 (Did Not Advance):** Proposed a workforce housing fund to keep talent close.



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Reducing Burdens

The Metrocrest Chamber supports legislation that reduces the cost of doing business by cutting unnecessary taxes, streamlining regulations, and improving administrative efficiency. We backed key measures like HB 9, which raises the business personal property tax exemption, and HB 22, which eliminates intangible asset taxation—both of which ease financial pressure on small and mid-sized employers. We also supported efforts to increase transparency in credit card processing, modernize tax filings, and limit duplicative local regulations. These types of reforms allow businesses in Addison, Carrollton, and Farmers Branch to operate more efficiently, reinvest in growth, and remain competitive in a rapidly changing economy.

- ★ **Support SB 29 (Signed, Effective Immediately, Win):** Clarify Texas governance rules, reducing legal uncertainties and enabling Metrocrest businesses to focus on growth.
- ★ **Support SB 1008 (Signed, Effective 9/1/2025, Win):** Limit overlapping local food service regulations, cutting compliance costs for Metrocrest food-related business and allowing reinvestment in operations.
- ★ **Support HB 9 & HJR 1 (HB 9 Signed, Effective 1/1/2026 if HJR 1 Approved; HJR 1 Filed for November Ballot, Win):** Exempt part of equipment value from property taxes, increasing the exemption from \$2,500 to \$125,000, reducing costs for Metrocrest businesses and freeing funds for expansion.
- ★ **Support HB 22 (Signed, Effective 1/1/2026, Win):** Exempts intangible assets like patents from taxation, protecting innovation investments for Metrocrest businesses.
- ★ **Oppose HB 3573 (Did Not Advance, Win):** Proposed eliminating the HUB program; its failure preserves opportunities for small businesses.
- ★ **Oppose SB 1122 & HB 5102 (Did Not Advance, Win):** Aimed to regulate pharmacy benefit managers for cost transparency; their failure prevents regulatory burdens on businesses offering health plans.

Business Impact: These wins save businesses money through tax relief and preserved opportunities, enabling growth, while missed opportunities limit cost savings for retailers and service firms.



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Reducing Burdens continued

Other Reducing Burdens Initiatives We Supported That Failed

- **Support SB 2026 & HB 4124 (Did Not Advance):** Sought to stop swipe fees on taxes and tips, which would have saved restaurants hundreds monthly.
- **Support SB 2056 & HB 4061 (Did Not Advance):** Proposed transparency in credit card fees, protecting small businesses from hidden costs.
- **Support SB 2907/SJR 78 & HB 4083/HJR 174 (Did Not Advance):** Proposed tax exemptions for perishable inventory, benefiting grocery stores, pharmacies, and other retail businesses that store perishables for resale.





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Child Care

The Metrocrest Chamber supports initiatives that expand access to quality, affordable child care - recognizing that reliable care is essential to maintaining a stable workforce. During the 89th Legislative Session, we backed several key measures aimed at supporting working parents, including legislation to increase child care funding, improve access to resources, and enhance reimbursement rates for high-quality providers.

These efforts help reduce absenteeism, improve employee retention, and ensure that businesses across Addison, Carrollton, and Farmers Branch can depend on a workforce that is supported both at home and on the job. By strengthening the child care infrastructure, we strengthen the foundation of our regional economy.



- **Support SB 1265 (Signed, Effective 9/1/2025, Win):** Directs the Texas Workforce Commission to create a childcare resource webpage, enabling businesses to support working parents.



- **Support HB 500 (Signed, Effective Immediately, Win):** Provides \$100 million in childcare assistance, including ~750 new scholarships in North Central Texas, ensuring employees like single mothers in Addison, Carrollton, and Farmers Branch maintain consistent work schedules, boosting reliability for logistics and service firms.



- **Support HB 2294 (Signed, Effective 9/1/2025, Win):** Allow Local Workforce Development Boards to increase reimbursement rates for Texas Rising Star childcare providers, encouraging quality care and helping working parents afford it.



- **Support HB 3963 (Signed, Effective 9/1/2025, Win):** Improves cross-agency data sharing on early childhood programs, allowing policymakers to prioritize ROI while safeguarding privacy and security.



- **Support SB 462 (Signed, Effective 9/1/2025, Win):** Shores up childcare capacity for all working families by creating a priority category for childcare workers to access scholarships for their own children without waiting for months or years on a waitlist.



- **Support HB 117 (Signed, Effective 9/1/2025, Win):** Establishes the Governor's Task Force on the Governance of Early Childhood Education and Care to address operational challenges, develop prekindergarten standards, and improve childcare efficiency and affordability.



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- **Support HB 1035 (Did Not Advance, Missed Opportunity):** Proposed tax exemptions for childcare facilities, supporting working parents employed by local businesses.
- **Support HB 3191 (Did Not Advance, Missed Opportunity):** Offered tax credits and pilot programs for childcare, addressing workforce needs.

Business Impact: These wins expand access to affordable, high-quality child care, particularly for working parents in essential industries, helping Metrocrest employers reduce turnover, boost productivity, and maintain a more stable, reliable workforce. Improved data collection also gives policymakers and businesses better insight into child care gaps, supporting smarter decisions that strengthen overall workforce participation.

Other Childcare Initiatives We Supported That Failed

- **Support SB 211 (Did Not Advance):** Offered tax credits for on-site child-care.
- **Support SB 489 (Did Not Advance):** Tied school tax breaks to employer childcare support.
- **Support SB 2164 & HB 3011 (Did Not Advance):** Offered tax credits and matching programs for employer childcare contributions.



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Workforce Development

The Metrocrest Chamber supports workforce development policies that align education with employer needs, expand access to training, and strengthen partnerships between schools, businesses, and workforce agencies. During the 89th Legislative Session, we backed measures tying community college funding to job placement and improving workforce data systems—ensuring Metrocrest employers have access to skilled, job-ready talent across key industries.

- **Support SB 1143 (Signed, Effective 9/1/2025, Win):** Improve tracking and communication for workforce programs, ensuring effective training for manufacturing and tech roles.
- **Support SB 1786 (Signed, Effective 9/1/2025, Win):** Expand dual credit programs and tie community college funding to job placement, creating skilled workers for employers.
- **Support HB 2768 (Signed, Effective 9/1/2025, Win):** Creates a statewide IT Registered Apprenticeship Program, expanding hands-on training for tech careers in partnership with employers.

Business Impact: These wins improve access to affordable, high-quality child care and expand pathways into high-demand fields like technology—helping Metrocrest employers reduce turnover, fill critical roles, and build a reliable, well-trained workforce.

Other Workforce Initiatives We Supported That Failed

- **Support SB 1114 (Did Not Advance):** Expanded workforce grant access for under-served populations.
- **Support HB 801 (Did Not Advance):** Provided nonprofits direct access to state funding for job training.
- **Support HB 1408 (Did Not Advance):** Allowed community organizations to access training funds for at-risk youth.



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Innovation

The Metrocrest Chamber actively supports policies that encourage research and development, foster innovation, and accelerate the growth of emerging industries such as advanced manufacturing, clean energy, biotechnology, and digital infrastructure. By championing these forward-looking sectors, we aim to position the Metrocrest region as a leader in next-generation economic development, creating high-quality jobs and ensuring long-term regional competitiveness.



- **Support SB 2206 (Signed, Effective 1/1/2026, Win):** Offer tax credits and sales tax breaks for RD, lowering innovation costs for Metrocrest tech firms.
- **Support SB 209 & HB 1268 (Did Not Advance, Missed Opportunity):** Proposed the Texas Technology and Innovation Program, providing matching funds for startups.

Business Impact: This win supports innovation by reducing R&D costs, helping Metrocrest tech firms grow and compete. The missed opportunity limits startup support and access to early-stage funding that could have fueled new business development.

Other Innovation Initiatives We Supported That Failed

- **Support SB 1105 & HB 2678 (Did Not Advance):** Laid groundwork for advanced nuclear energy.



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Economic Development

The Metrocrest Chamber supports policies that strengthen local economies by attracting new businesses, supporting site selection and expansion efforts, retaining existing employers, and creating quality jobs that drive long-term regional growth.



- **Oppose SB 878 (Did Not Advance, Win):** Blocked economic development tools like 380/381 agreements; its failure preserves cities' incentive capabilities.



- **Oppose HB 134 (Did Not Advance, Win):** Reduced city revenue from sales taxes; its failure protects funding for business infrastructure.
- **Support SB 2955 & HB 4659 (Did Not Advance, Missed Opportunity):** Would have allowed Addison to reinvest hotel tax revenue into convention centers.

Business Impact: These wins protect vital local economic development tools and funding for infrastructure that supports business attraction and retention. The missed opportunity, however, limits cities' ability to reinvest in tourism-related assets that drive long-term economic growth.

Other Economic Development Initiatives We Supported That Failed

- **Support SJR 16 (Did Not Advance):** Proposed legalizing casino gaming and sports betting.
- **Support HB 169 (Did Not Advance):** Created a communications office to market Texas globally.



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Higher Education

The Metrocrest Chamber supports initiatives that strengthen the education-to-workforce pipeline by aligning higher education programs with the needs of local employers. This includes expanding access to dual credit, career and technical education (CTE), and workforce-aligned degree and credential programs that prepare students for high-demand careers in industries like healthcare, manufacturing, technology, and infrastructure. Strengthening these pathways helps ensure that our region has a skilled, job-ready workforce and that students have clear, affordable routes to meaningful employment.



- **Support SB 1786 (Signed, Effective 9/1/2025, Win):** Expand dual credit programs and tie community college funding to job placement.

Business Impact: This win strengthens the talent pipeline by aligning community college funding with workforce outcomes and expanding dual credit programs, helping produce more job-ready graduates for local employers.



Photo credit: Branch Herald



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Public Schools

The Metrocrest Chamber supports policies that improve the quality of K–12 education and better prepare students for future careers. This includes strengthening curriculum standards, supporting career and technical education (CTE), expanding work-based learning opportunities, and encouraging partnerships between schools and local employers. By equipping students with real-world skills and foundational knowledge, we help ensure a strong, capable workforce that can meet the evolving needs of Metrocrest businesses.



- **Support HB 2 (Signed, Effective 9/1/2025, Win):** Provides \$8.5 billion in public school funding, including teacher pay raises, special education support, and funding for early literacy and classroom safety.



- **Support HB 120 (Signed, Effective 9/1/2025, Win):** Establishes career exploration and readiness initiatives for middle and high school students, including new tools for parents, counselors, and educators.
- **Support HB 4 (Did Not Advance, Missed Opportunity):** Proposed re-placing STAAR with three shorter assessments for real-time learning adjustments.
- **Support SB 1962 (Did Not Advance, Missed Opportunity):** Ensured timely school accountability ratings for workforce readiness data.
- **Support SB 2252 & HB 123 (Did Not Advance, Missed Opportunity):** Mandated K–3 literacy/numeracy screeners to address early learning gaps.

Business Impact: These wins invest in public education by boosting teacher pay, supporting early literacy, and expanding career readiness initiatives - helping schools better prepare students for future roles in high-demand industries across the Metrocrest region. However, missed opportunities to modernize assessments and strengthen early learning data limit further progress in aligning education outcomes with workforce needs.



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Infrastructure

The Metrocrest Chamber supports investment in essential infrastructure—water, transportation, broadband, energy, and utilities—to ensure businesses have the resources they need to operate, grow, and compete. Reliable, modern infrastructure is critical for site selection, logistics, workforce access, and long-term economic development. We advocate for policies and funding that strengthen these systems, enabling sustainable growth and enhancing the region’s attractiveness to new and existing employers.



- **SB 7 / HJR 7 (Filed for November Ballot, Chamber Supports):** Establishes and dedicates funding for the Texas Water Fund to support long-term investment in water infrastructure.

Business Impact: If approved by voters, this measure will strengthen long-term water infrastructure, ensuring reliable access for businesses and supporting future growth across the region.





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How Your Legislators Voted

The table below shows how each of our Texas House Representatives and our State Senator voted on key bills tracked by the Metrocrest Chamber during the 89th Legislative Session.

- Yea indicates the legislator voted in favor of the bill.
- Nay indicates the legislator voted against the bill.
- NV (No Vote) means the bill did not receive a floor vote in that chamber.
- Absent indicates the legislator was not present for the vote.

Please note: A vote of Yea or Nay is not necessarily an indication of whether the legislator aligned with the Chamber's official position.

Legislative Priority	Bill Number	Chamber Position	Anchia	Bumgarner	Garcia Hernandez	Little	Parker
Affordable Housing							
	SB 840	Support	Nay	Yea	Nay	Nay	Yea
Reducing Burdens							
	HB 9	Support	Absent	Yea	Yea	Nay	Yea
	HB 22	Support	Absent	Yea	Yea	Nay	Yea
	SB 29	Support	Yea	Yea	Yea	Nay	Yea
	SB 1008	Support	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea	Yea
	HJR 1	Support	Absent	Yea	Yea	Nay	Yea
Child Care							
	HB 117	Support	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea
	HB 500	Support	Yea	Yea	Yea	Nay	Yea
	HB 1035	Support	Yea	Yea	Yea	Nay	NV
	HB 2294	Support	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea
	HB 3963	Support	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea
	SB 462	Support	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea
	SB 1265	Support	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea
Workforce Development							
	HB 2768	Support	Yea	Yea	Yea	Absent	Yea
	SB 1143	Support	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Nay
	SB 1786	Support	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea
Innovation / R&D							
	HB 1268	Support	Yea	Yea	Yea	Nay	NV
	SB 2206	Support	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea
Economic Development							
	SB 878	Oppose	NV	NV	NV	NV	Yea
Higher Education							
	SB 1786	Support	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea
Public Schools							
	HB 2	Support	Yea	Yea	Yea	Nay	Yea
	HB 4	Support	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea
	HB 120	Support	Absent	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea
	HB 123	Support	Yea	Nay	Yea	Yea	NV
	SB 1962	Support	NV	NV	NV	NV	Yea
	SB 2252	Support	NV	NV	NV	NV	Yea
Infrastructure							
	SB 7	Support	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea
	HJR 7	Support	Yea	Nay	Yea	Yea	Yea



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Conclusion

The 89th Texas Legislative Session delivered strong outcomes for Metrocrest businesses by advancing policies that reduce costs, support workforce development, and preserve the tools cities need to grow jobs and attract investment. From childcare and education to R&D incentives and economic development, the session reinforced key priorities that help employers across Addison, Carrollton, and Farmers Branch remain competitive.

Equally important, the Chamber helped stop several harmful bills that would have restricted local economic development tools, increased costs, or created new barriers for business operations. These wins protect the foundation of regional growth and allow cities to continue attracting and retaining quality employers.

Despite the progress, several missed opportunities remain. Legislation to improve workforce readiness data, expand early learning interventions, and increase access to capital for high-growth startups failed to move forward. These gaps limit our region's ability to fully prepare talent and support innovation-driven growth.

As we look ahead, the Metrocrest Chamber will continue working closely with legislators, local leaders, and our business community to advocate for smart, pro-growth policies. Our focus remains on building a stronger economy, a skilled workforce, and a region where businesses of all sizes can succeed. The work continues, and so does our commitment.