



# 2023 TOP 10 PRIORITIES

## 88<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION

*The Texas Association of Manufacturers represents over 600 large and small companies from every manufacturing sector, employing more than 897,000 Texans with an average compensation of \$93,000 annually, nearly 40 percent higher than other non-farm Texas workers. Manufacturers in Texas account for 11.9 percent of the total output in the state – more than \$226 billion in 2021. On average, each manufacturing job created provides 5 additional jobs in our communities. Texas remains the number one exporting state for manufactured goods in the United States, now for more than 20 years running.*

### **1 Preserve Authority To Offer Limited, Temporary Property Tax Discounts**

**SUPPORT:** Creating a program to allow school districts to offer limited, temporary property tax discounts to attract manufacturing and other projects – a must-have economic development tool to bolster our national and economic security, supply chain stability, and energy independence.

### **2 Equality In Business Taxation**

**SUPPORT:** Broad-based, low-rate tax policy that treats all taxpayers equally, recognizing that no franchise tax cut is a substitute for a competitive property tax environment.

### **3 Business Personal Property Tax Reform**

**SUPPORT:** Eliminating taxation of Texas business personal property and inventory to attract “advanced manufacturing” employers to Texas and to create a capital investment stimulus for the Texas economy.

### **4 Transportation & Critical Infrastructure**

**SUPPORT:** Policies that will facilitate the flow of both interstate and intrastate commerce, alleviate supply chain disruptions and encourage efficient expansion of our infrastructure network of pipelines, utility rights-of-way, highway and rail corridors that will sustain the quality business environment in Texas.

### **5 Maintain A Reliable, Cost-Effective, And Competitive Wholesale Electricity Market**

**SUPPORT:** Maintaining ERCOT’s competitive market design, evaluating the impact of subsidized renewable generation on reliability and market signals, considering whether intermittent generation should be responsible for addressing

any adverse impacts and directly compensating dispatchable resources—including both generators and demand response providers—for supplying energy, ancillary services, or reserves when the system needs them.

**OPPOSE:** Radical market changes that would unjustly enrich generators at the expense of Texas customers with no meaningful impact on grid reliability.

### **6 Ensure That Monopoly Utility Rates Are Transparent And Fair To Customers**

**OPPOSE:** “Rate riders” that let monopoly utilities increase rates quickly, with very limited review. TAM’s priority is to protect the ratemaking process against ongoing utility efforts to reduce oversight and transparency and to ensure that Texas businesses are not forced to pay more than they should for electricity.

### **7 Career And Workforce Readiness**

**SUPPORT:** Robust career and technical education (CTE) programs and funding in all school districts, as well as a strong system of career, college and military advising beginning in middle school, with a particular emphasis on “return on investment” and a recognition that many careers do not require a 4-year degree, which is often accompanied by crippling student loan debt.

**SUPPORT:** A strong accountability system for both public schools and institutions of higher education, with outcomes being paramount.

**SUPPORT:** High-quality workforce training programs and funding that provide exceptional rate of return for the Texas

economy — programs administered by the Texas Workforce Commission and local workforce boards including: the Skills Development Fund (SDF), Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Program, and learn-while-you-earn apprenticeships.

## 8 Continue TCEQ, Support Commonsense Regulations And Sufficient Funding For Operations

**SUPPORT:** Providing adequate funding for Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to ensure the agency has the resources and staff they need to efficiently process permits, hire additional inspectors, and provide enhanced salaries and training opportunities for TCEQ staff to maintain a qualified, experienced workforce.

## 9 School And Workplace Health

**SUPPORT:** Policies that encourage prevention of infectious disease in schools and the workplace and eliminate attempts to create barriers and access to vaccinations for employees and communities.

## 10 Tax Structures That Promote Economic Growth

**SUPPORT:** A competitive tax climate that incentivizes investment by new and existing businesses, including a robust research and development (R&D) tax exemption and a consistent tax exemption for the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) of general aviation aircraft.



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