



2021 TOP 10 PRIORITIES

87TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Texas Association of Manufacturers represents over 600 large and small companies from every manufacturing sector, employing more than 908,000 Texans with an average compensation of \$87,809 annually. Manufacturers in Texas account for more than 13 percent of the total output in the state – more than \$230 billion in 2018. On average, each manufacturing job created also 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 a dozen years running.

1. Preserve Authority to Offer Limited, Temporary Property Tax Discounts

SUPPORT: Renewing Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code, which provides authority for school districts to provide temporary, limited property tax discounts to attract manufacturing and other projects – a must-have economic development tool considering Texas has the 4th highest industrial property taxes of any state (61% higher than the national average).

2. Pandemic Liability Reform

SUPPORT: State legislation that would protect Texas frontline workers and businesses in against a battery of frivolous personal injury lawsuits related to a pandemic. While TAM is supportive of a federal plan like U.S. Senator Cornyn's [SAFE TO WORK Act](#), Texas cannot simply wait for a federal solution that may never arrive.

3. 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.

4. Business Personal Property Tax Reform

SUPPORT: Eliminating taxation of Texas business personal property and inventory to attract “advanced manufacturing” employers to Texas and to address the current disincentive to capital investment here.

5. Transportation & Critical Infrastructure

SUPPORT: Eminent domain legislation that protects

property rights while ensuring our infrastructure network of pipelines, utility rights-of-way, highway and rail corridors functions and expands efficiently to sustain the quality business environment in Texas.

6. Preserve ERCOT's Competitive Wholesale Market

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

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

7. Ensure Transparency and Oversight of Monopoly Utility Rates

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.

8. Career and Workforce Readiness

SUPPORT: 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.

9. TCEQ Regulations and Funding

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.

10. 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.



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