



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 9, 2025

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## Texas Business Leadership Council Releases Priorities for 89th Legislature

AUSTIN – The mission of the Texas Business Leadership Council (TBLC) is to build a more globally competitive Texas. With each new legislative session there is an opportunity to create and improve public policy that will promote our state's competitiveness, support overall economic health and improve our quality of life. During the 89th Legislative Session, the TBLC will continue advocating for critical issues that our state must address for Texas to continue our growth trajectory, including education and workforce, state infrastructure, and economic development and governance policies.

“When the legislative session kicks off next week, water supply is a top priority for Texas business leaders. In the long-term, it won’t matter what we do to bolster Texas’s economic standing if we don’t have enough water. The substantial budget surplus we have provides a generational opportunity to address our state’s critical water supply needs through a one-time investment as well as establishing a dedicated funding source for the Texas Water Fund,” stated Justin Yancy, President of the Texas Business Leadership Council. “Additionally, we must make strategic investments in Texas students and keep high-performing teachers in the classroom in order to improve outcomes and better prepare the workforce of the future.”

The following are highlights of the TBLC’s 2025 legislative priorities. [Full details are available here.](#)

### EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

- **Support strategic program investments and targeted student funding** to incentivize, resource, and scale data-driven practices to improve student outcomes
  - Expand the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) and Teacher Mentor Allotment to support effective educators
  - Expand the Early Education Allotment and Compensatory Education Allotment to support strong academic foundations and accelerated learning
  - Establish a Teacher Residency Allotment to support high-quality teacher preparation programs and improve outcomes and retention
- **Bolster development and retention of effective educators**
  - Better resource and compensate Texas teachers to make teaching a more sustainable career path and reward and retain high-performing educators
  - Reduce barriers to and incentivize completion of high-quality certification programs and provide notification to parents regarding uncertified teachers in the classroom
- **Advance strong early academic foundations and accelerate learning**
  - Expand the Early Education Allotment to include three- and four-year olds that are eligible for PreK
  - Leverage data-backed strategies to improve reading and math outcomes
  - Maximize implementation of House Bill 1605 (88R) to ensure all districts have access to high quality instructional materials and teachers are equipped to utilize these resources

- **Monitor progress with a strong, transparent assessment and accountability system**
  - Continue utilization of Texas’s system of summative annual assessments to ensure accurate measurement of academic progress and empower decision makers and parents to help close learning gaps
  - Ensure the state maintains a meaningful, fair, and transparent A-F accountability system to accurately evaluate school district performance, define excellence and spur continuous improvement
- **Improve postsecondary readiness to put more students on a pathway to success**
  - Expand quality advising to encourage participation and increase access to programs and courses that lead to better postsecondary outcomes including advanced coursework, career and technical education (CTE), and dual credit
  - Facilitate partnerships between employers, high schools and community and technical colleges to expand access to work-based learning opportunities and career exploration without sacrificing academic standards
- **Maximize postsecondary access and completion aligned with workforce needs**
  - Fully fund the outcomes-based funding formula for community colleges established by House Bill 8 (88R) and expand fundable transfer outcomes to include transfers to Texas private 4-year universities
  - Increase investment in the state’s financial aid programs
  - Maintain the Texas Dream Act
- **Maximize workforce inclusion**
  - Ensure the availability of resources and pathways for reskilling and upskilling and support workforce preparedness for the AI transformation
  - Expand workforce participation by supporting effective long-term solutions for increasing access to affordable, high-quality childcare
  - Increase access to high-quality postsecondary opportunities in Texas prisons and reduce barriers to second chance employment

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

- **Support strategies and cost-effective investments in critical state infrastructure to provide the enabling conditions for a globally competitive Texas**
  - Create a dedicated funding source for the Texas Water Fund
  - Support a one-time generational investment in the Texas Water Fund
  - Support continued fiscal stewardship in managing the corpus of the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT), and implementation of projects included in the State Water Plan
  - Pursue strategies to expand power generation capacity to support population growth and the emerging technology that will drive our future economy

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GOVERNANCE**

- **Continued commitment to policies that foster a business climate for growth and innovation**

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