



## **2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

### **Conroe/Lake Conroe Chamber of Commerce**

### **Governmental Affairs Committee**

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

As a chamber of commerce, we support the interests of business and are committed to those policies and programs that provide Conroe/Lake Conroe area businesses with a competitive advantage over businesses in other states or countries. We continue to support funding of workforce training programs and are concerned with any effort to eliminate tools that we use in the state of Texas to influence and recruit companies to our state and region.

- We SUPPORT keeping the economic development sales tax in its current form and OPPOSE legislation that diverts these dollars away from primary job creation and economic and community development purposes.
- We SUPPORT keeping the hotel occupancy tax in its current form and OPPOSE legislation that diverts these dollars away from promoting tourism and job creation.
- We SUPPORT increased funding for the Skills Development Fund Grant Program administered by the Texas Workforce Commission specifically through its' use by Lone Star College.
- We SUPPORT the continuation of Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code.

#### **TRANSPORTATION/ENHANCED MOBILITY**

Transportation is a core concept to every aspect of daily life in any community, especially a growing community like the Conroe/Lake Conroe area. To maintain a healthy business climate and quality of life, the priority for enhanced mobility MUST focus on maintaining and upgrading, where necessary, existing roadways and include proactive plans.

- We SUPPORT the widening and expansion of Loop 336 South in Conroe from I-45 to State Highway 105 from two to four lanes. We SUPPORT the widening and expansion of FM 3083 from State Highway 105 to Interstate 45 from two to four lanes.
- We SUPPORT improved highways, ports of entry and other infrastructure that helps in the movement of trade, increases the flow of goods and services, promotes tourism and increases in public safety.
- We SUPPORT providing Montgomery County with the necessary tools to plan, design and implement transportation projects that benefit our area.

- We SUPPORT the strict limitations on the use of motor fuel taxes for allocation outside of transportation programs. (Except for constitutionally-mandated allocations to the educational system).
- We SUPPORT transportation projects for the City of Conroe and the Lake Conroe Area that improve mobility.

## **FLOOD MITIGATION**

The Conroe/Lake Conroe Chamber supports targeted studies and specific funding of near-term and long-term flood mitigation strategies that provide meaningful and cost-effective solutions to protect life and property.

## **EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE READINESS**

The Conroe/Lake Conroe Chamber of Commerce supports an education system that prepares students with skills to effectively compete in the workforce. We know that educational institutes in the Conroe/Lake Conroe area must be afforded the opportunity to create curriculum that addresses the needs of our community first.

- We OPPOSE any state mandates imposed on public schools without accompanying state funding.
- We SUPPORT measures that give local school districts the flexibility to meet the needs of their students.
- We SUPPORT legislative efforts to provide tax incentives encouraging business participation in educational initiatives.
- We SUPPORT the 60x30 plan in which 60% of Texans between the ages of 25-34 hold some kind of degree or post-secondary certification by the year 2030.
- We SUPPORT the need for more doctors and nurses coming out of Texas colleges and universities to meet the needs of a growing population.

## **HEALTHCARE**

The Conroe/Lake Conroe Chamber of Commerce advocates for the highest quality healthcare as well as availability and accessibility in our area at the best cost available for both employers who provide health insurance to their employees.

- We SUPPORT the extension of the 1115 Medicaid Transformation Waiver to at least September 2019.
- We SUPPORT legislation regarding the prompt pay of health claims or explanations of payments as long as claims have been processed in a timely manner; providing however, that such statutes do not result in the reimbursement of fraudulent claims.