



**GREATER AUSTIN HISPANIC
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**TEXAS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
87TH REGULAR SESSION**

**Diana Maldonado
President and CEO**

**3601 Far West Blvd.
Suite 204 Austin, TX 78731**



MISSION

To be the leading resource and advocate for the Hispanic Business Community.

GOALS

- Identify advocacy opportunities for GAHCC membership programs
- Prioritize legislative initiatives important to the Austin business community
- Advance the mission of the GAHCC during the 87th Regular Texas Legislative Session

The Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GAHCC) serves as the leading advocate for its members and the Hispanic business community in the Austin area and has done so since 1973. As we enter the 87th Regular Texas Legislative Session, the GAHCC is committed to advocate for its members, guided by its mission and priorities. The chamber looks forward to working with our state lawmakers as we collaborate to advance the Hispanic business community across Texas.

PUBLIC POLICY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



PRIORITIES

Small/Minority Business Development

The Chamber supports pro-business legislation and will champion this agenda on behalf of the Chamber members to provide a vibrant business economy that will allow our business members to thrive. We will work to ensure that our small business members are not burdened with costly regulation that could be detrimental to business development and job creation. Furthermore, the chamber supports legislation that will increase accountability measures for the state's Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) program.

- Support efforts to increase the percentage of contracts awarded to minority-owned businesses
- Support HUBs as a requirement for infrastructure projects
- Support increased accountability measures for the State of Texas HUB program
- Support liability protections for businesses
- Support legislation that assist businesses in COVID-19 related regulations
- Support property and franchise tax reforms that reduce tax burdens for small businesses

Economic Development

The GAHCC supports economic incentives and programs that will keep Texas a competitive destination while promoting the strength of the Latino business community. By having these programs and incentives in place coupled with infrastructure that supports minority businesses, Texas will continue to be a top state around the nation for businesses and will allow the State of Texas to build economic resiliency as we go through the economic downturn caused by COVID-19.

- Support the replenishment of the Texas Enterprise Fund
- Support the extension of Chapter 313 agreements
- Support and advocate for legislation that will continue to keep Texas competitive for businesses who demonstrate a commitment to partner with Hispanic and minority businesses in their community.

Workforce Development/Education

As we continue to adapt to our new normal with COVID-19, the GAHCC supports legislation that will help and support businesses comply with new health guidelines. Additionally, the GAHCC supports efforts that will help schools adapt to a virtual environment and provide students an education that will prepare them for a mid-21st century workforce.

- Support legislation that will help train businesses to comply with new health orders
- Support legislation that promotes workforce upskilling
- Support legislation that will provide assistance to schools to conduct operations virtually
- Support legislation that will promote an education system that aligns with the needs of an ever-changing workforce.

Transportation/Infrastructure

The GAHCC sees that transportation and infrastructure are a vital part of the Texas economy. Therefore, the GAHCC supports legislation that will promote transportation systems that promote economic development and accommodate an increasing workforce. Additionally, the GAHCC supports legislation that inspires innovation and promotes a robust telecommunications network for Texas businesses to participate in the virtual economy.

- Support transportation systems that will promote economic development, accommodate an increasing workforce, and implement anti-displacement measures such as anti-displacement funds and business impact funds
- Support legislation that promotes a robust telecommunications network and expands internet access across Texas

Healthcare

The GAHCC supports legislation that reduces the number of uninsured in Texas and provides affordable healthcare for Texans and Texas businesses. Given the disproportionate impact that COVID-19 has on the Hispanic community, the GAHCC supports legislation that addresses the negative impacts that COVID-19 has on the Hispanic community and their businesses.

Public Safety

The GAHCC understands that public safety is imperative for a strong economy. Therefore, it is important that any legislation regarding public safety ensures justice, equality, and respect for all and fosters a safe environment for small businesses and consumers.

Racial and Social Equity

As a premier advocate for the Hispanic business community, the GAHCC is aware of the challenges that our minority communities face when it comes to systemic racism and obstacles in accessing capital, lending opportunities, and building generational wealth. Therefore, the GAHCC supports legislation that reverses and dismantles systems and policies that discriminate against minority communities. The GAHCC also calls on our lawmakers to ensure proposed policies are presented through the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Oppose

Oppose unnecessary regulations or legal requirements which increase cost, reduce consumer choice, hamper innovation and limit technology advancement and availability.

An aerial photograph of a city skyline at sunset, with a river in the foreground. The sky is a deep orange, and the buildings are illuminated from within, creating a warm, golden glow. The text is overlaid on the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

GAHCC PUBLIC POLICY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THANK YOU

For more information, please contact:

John Espinosa

Manager of Public Policy and Economic Development

[jespinosa@gahcc.org](mailto:jespinos@gahcc.org)

**3601 Far West Blvd.
Suite 204 Austin, TX 78731**