

Legislative Priorities - 86th Session of the Texas Legislature

The Irving Convention & Visitors Bureau's 2019 Legislative Priorities are focused on making sure Irving remains competitive, not only on a local level, but on a state and national level as well. The City of Irving has made considerable investments in its visitor economy in order to support its residents and its corporate tenant base, its commercial office occupancy and one of its largest employers in that visitor economy. It is imperative that we capitalize on all the resources available to us to protect those investments, to assure competitiveness, and to insure long-term success. In addition to the items prioritized below, we will also work closely with our civic partners (City of Irving, Irving Arts & Culture Department, Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce, The Las Colinas Association) and our industry partners (such as Texas Hotel & Lodging Association, Texas Restaurant Association, Texas Travel Industry Association, Texas Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus) to support priorities and initiatives that can result in a better and stronger Irving and Texas.

- Support retention of the state Tourism Public Improvement District authority, Chapter 372 of the Texas Local Government Code.
- Support legislation to enable Irving to develop a Tourism Public Improvement District.
- Oppose legislation that is destructive to Irving's economic viability and that of its Visitor Economy, including but not limited to any bill that would be viewed as discriminatory or otherwise damage Texas' reputation as a business-friendly state.
- Support and protect the current provisions of the Texas Tax Code, Chapter 351, regarding the authorized use of Hotel Occupancy Taxes, including those distinctions provided for Irving.
- Oppose legislation that allows local hotel tax to be used for non-tourism purposes.
- Support the reinstatement of full funding for State Tourism initiatives.
- Preserve state funding for beneficial travel and tourism programs at Texas Parks & Wildlife, Texas Historical Commission, Texas Department of Transportation and Texas Commission on the Arts.
- Support retention of State Event Trust Fund authority, which allows the utilization of incremental state taxes directly attributable to support the recruitment of these events to Texas.
- Support legislation that allows Texas cities to govern their own local affairs.
- Support adequate funding for the Texas Enterprise Fund.
- Promote initiatives to promote better mobility and better accommodate/facilitate "last mile" opportunities.
- Support continued policy of no diversions of transportation tax revenues from their intended purposes.
- Support sufficient funding for mental health services to assure the safety and security of our residents, industry and visitors, including outpatient care programs and inpatient facilities that can serve this community more efficiently than emergency rooms and jails.