

San Marcos, Texas Chamber of Commerce

Government Relations & Advocacy

Guiding Principles for 2025

The following are the government advocacy policy statements of the **San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce** as authored by the **Government Relations Council** and approved by the **Board of Directors**. These policies are deemed to be of utmost importance to local businesses and the economic health of the community and region. Chamber members are encouraged to take an active role and be involved in government affairs. The Chamber exists to be the “voice of business” at the local, state and federal level, but members need to stay active by submitting input to the GRC and Board and encouraging all employees to be informed voters in elections.

This list of statements is not placed in order of importance nor does it necessarily exclude others, which the Chamber Board may state at a later time.

Job Growth & Business Recruitment

Recognizing that a healthy economy will serve to encourage a positive economic impact and quality of life, the San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce supports legislation that encourages diverse businesses and industries to locate in Texas, such as (1) controlling excessive and burdensome taxes; (2) providing incentives for business recruitment, retention and expansion; and 3) workforce education funding and initiatives. We encourage local units of government to be aggressive in using incentives that have been provided through state and federal legislation.

Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness

Recognizing that to maintain a positive quality of life, low crime rates and public safety must be a top priority for citizens and businesses; the San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce supports the efforts of the police and sheriff departments in our community. The Chamber supports efforts for enhanced flood prevention and mitigation standards.

Transportation & Infrastructure

Recognizing that the economic well-being of the business community is dependent upon the ability to efficiently transport people and products, the Chamber promotes initiatives that improve transportation opportunities and facilities. We encourage efforts to improve and facilitate more efficient movement of goods and people by road, rail, and air. The Chamber acknowledges the regional airport in its critical role in enhancing connectivity and fostering economic growth in the region.

Health Care

Recognizing that cost-effective health care for businesses and families is an essential element for business success and a healthy community, the San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce supports policies that protect employers from legislation that increases health care costs. We support initiatives to encourage wellness and healthy lifestyles.

Education

Recognizing that the ability of tomorrow's workforce to succeed depends on the educational foundation we lay today, the San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce supports programs, processes, activities and facilities that promote a strong local education system that, together with business and community leadership, prepares students for productive careers.

We support the protection of funding for public schools, and we support legislation and programs that provide career awareness, exploration and experiences for all students through activities that involve businesses, schools and community in partnerships.

Housing & Development

Recognizing access to affordable housing is a cornerstone of thriving communities, economic stability, and individual well-being, the San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce supports local policies that prioritize the development and preservation of housing options for residents of all income levels. Meaningful progress requires the active participation of community members, policy makers, and stakeholders at all levels. We advocate for inclusive decision-making processes and community-driven solutions.

Water

Recognizing that water is crucial to the continued vitality and growth of our city and region, the Chamber supports strategies that include but are not limited to the conservation of existing water supplies, the identification and development of new, cost-effective supplies, and the further exploration of re-use strategies.

Inclusivity and Equality

Recognizing the responsibility of all business and civic leaders to participate in efforts to remove barriers to inclusivity; we support programs and initiatives that strengthen inclusion and equal access for all citizens.

Media Production & Creative Industries

Recognizing the economic impact and importance of creative industries in our region, the San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce advocates for the growth of media production and creativity in Texas. We support increased and improved grant legislation and economic incentives to grow the media production industry in Texas.

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