

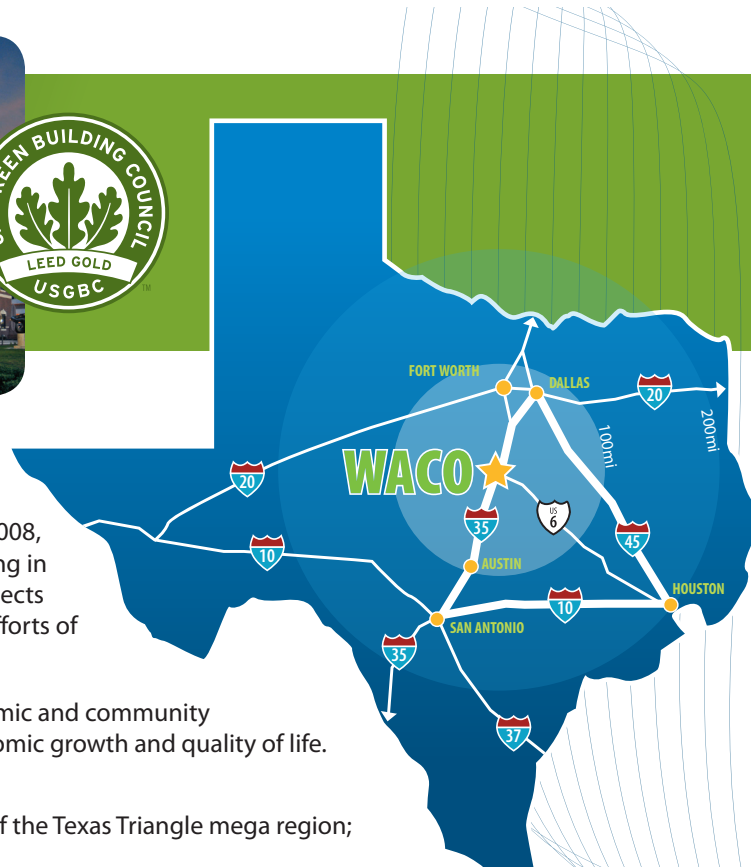


Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce began in 1899 as the Waco Business Men's Club. In 1916 the charter name was officially changed to the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce. On June 6, 2008, the Greater Waco Chamber opened the first green Chamber building in America. The organization's record of service since its inception reflects the unselfish leadership of many distinguished Wacoans and the efforts of hundreds of its members.

The Greater Waco Chamber is a well-respected, high-profile economic and community development organization advancing a visionary agenda for economic growth and quality of life.

- ◆ Service Area: Greater Waco, Texas
- ◆ Location: 100 miles from Dallas/Fort Worth and Austin; heart of the Texas Triangle mega region; within 200 miles from 80 percent of the state's population
- ◆ Budget: \$3.4 million
- ◆ Members: 1,600+ dues-paying businesses and non-profit organizations
- ◆ Board of Directors: 30 elected and 10 appointed directors
- ◆ Executive Committee: 6 members
- ◆ Staff: 21 full-time employees and 2+ interns throughout the year
- ◆ Facility: \$4.3 million first green chamber building in America (LEED-Gold) opened in 2008
- ◆ Organizational Structure: A comprehensive approach to mission fulfillment.
 - Economic Development, includes housing and staffing for:
 - Waco McLennan County Economic Development Corporation
 - Waco Industrial Foundation
 - McLennan County Spaceport Development Corporation
 - Foreign-Trade Zone #246 Administrator
 - Organizational Development
 - Public Policy



The Greater Waco Chamber Mission:

To envision, prepare and market the Greater Waco region for the businesses and jobs of the future and an outstanding quality of life.

- ◆ We will be the most livable and economically vibrant mid-market region in Texas.
- ◆ We will educate, attract and retain the workforce businesses and institutions need to succeed.
- ◆ We will develop creative and results-oriented public-private partnerships to be competitive.
- ◆ We will market Greater Waco to attract talent, growing companies and investment.
- ◆ We will be a model for sustainability—economy, ecology and equity.

Key Areas of Strategic Focus:



Economic Development

Workforce & Talent

Public Policy & Strategic Partners

Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Downtown & Riverfront

Image Building

GREATER WACO CHAMBER

2016

Federal Policy Priorities



GREATER WACO CHAMBER™
WacoChamber.com
254.757.5600



2016 | Federal Policy Priorities

Public Policy Initiative

As an organization dedicated to the economic well-being of McLennan County, the Greater Waco Chamber actively seeks to promote policies that are conducive to the further development of this region.

Our public policy initiative includes establishing positions on issues that impact our members and the overall community and economic development of the area; educating elected and appointed officials about these issues; actively educating the membership and the community on possible policy impact; and encouraging membership involvement in the Chamber's advocacy efforts and programs.

The Public Policy Committee provides a voice for Chamber members in economic, legislative and policy issues that impact community and economic development. The role of the committee is to be a liaison for our business community with local, state and federal officials and various government entities. Listening to our members, we inform, educate, engage and advocate for businesses to our legislators on issues of importance for a thriving business environment for our community. While this work will always be non-partisan, it is political in nature. We work to engage elected and appointed officials of any party to educate and advocate for our community.

Public Policy Committee: Working for Business and Our Community

Informing, educating, engaging and advocating for the Greater Waco business community regarding relevant public policy for community and economic development and growth.

2016 Public Policy Committee

- David Lacy**, *Committee Chair / Community Bank & Trust*
- Tate Christensen**, *Chairman of the Board, Greater Waco Chamber / Barsh Construction*
- Jessica Attas**, *Director of Public Policy, Greater Waco Chamber*
- Michael Baldwin**, *Oncor*
- Kris Collins**, *Senior Vice-President of Economic Development, Greater Waco Chamber*
- Mayor Malcolm Duncan**, *City of Waco*
- Brett Esrock**, *Providence Healthcare Network*
- Rochonda Farmer-Neal**, *Baylor University*
- Judge Scott Felton**, *McLennan County*
- Dale Fisseler**, *City of Waco*
- Kimberly Hilley**, *TXU/Luminant*
- Adam Hutchison**, *Texas State Technical College*
- Debbie Keel**, *Past Chair / AT&T*
- Stewart Kelly**, *Chair, Waco Business League / Kelly Realtors*
- John Kinnaird**, *City of Waco*
- Ryan Lindsey**, *Oldcastle Materials, Inc*
- Dr. Johnette McKown**, *McLennan Community College*
- Dr. Jerry Maze**, *Region 12 Education Service Center*
- Matt Meadors**, *President & CEO, Greater Waco Chamber*
- Mark Reynolds**, *Chair-Elect, Greater Waco Chamber / Extraco Banks*
- Glenn Robinson**, *Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest Medical Center*
- Scott Salmans**, *WRS Group*
- Tom Salome**, *M. Lipsitz & Co.*
- Rick Sheldon**, *Sheldon Real Estate*
- Dr. Sharon Shields**, *County Superintendents*
- Terry Stevens**, *Chair, McLennan County Spaceport Development Corporation*
- Michael Street**, *Atmos Energy*
- Jeffrey Stubbs**, *McLennan County Chamber Alliance / Hewitt Chamber of Commerce*
- Josh Tetens**, *McLennan County Chamber Alliance / Bellmead Chamber of Commerce*

2016 Focus Issues

- Economic Development
- Education
- Healthcare
- Transportation
 - Air Services
 - Infrastructure
 - High-Speed Rail
- Water & Natural Resources

Economic Development

Workforce

- Support opportunities under the newly reauthorized Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to reboot sector-based partnerships that are employer led and advocate for demand-driven workforce development and training programs.
- Observe and adopt successful policies and programs at the state, regional and local levels to ensure a dynamic workforce development system for the future.

Tax & Regulatory Reform

- Support permanent or long-term extension for tax credit programs that promote development and innovations, including New Market Tax Credit.
- Address tax reform with key goals of significantly reducing the corporate tax rate to levels comparative with international competitors and reducing the cost of compliance allowing companies to reinvest in themselves and workers.

Small Business & Entrepreneurship

- Greater support for programs and agencies that aid small businesses and entrepreneurs, including SBA, EDA, USDA, and NIST.
- Advance legislation that provides greater access to capital, as well as continuing support in FY2017 for existing access to capital programs like SBA's 504 and 7(a) programs.

International Opportunities

- Fully and permanently fund the SelectUSA program to support foreign direct investment in local economies across the US.
- Seek out new ways, including trade agreements, to expand access to foreign markets for American made goods and services and continue to grow our exports.
- Support immigration reform that leads to expanded access to student, worker and investor visas.

Transportation & Infrastructure

- Support a permanent fix to make the Highway Trust Fund solvent and fund the complete expansion of the Interstate 35 corridor through Waco to support the transportation of international and national goods.
- Advocate for federal policies that encourage private sector investment in public infrastructure.
- Advocate for sub-allocation of Metropolitan Mobility funding through the Surface Transportation Program, without qualification based on arbitrary population cutoff limits.
- Advocate for policies that support disbursements reflecting changing population trends and growth.
- Advocate for a consistent funding stream that offers long-term planning potential across all modes of transporting goods, people, and services.
- Advocate for discretion in the Airport Improvement Program funding, as well as the SOARS Act, to allow for increased spaceport funding.
- Include broadband and energy infrastructure in the federal investment portfolio.
- Support programs that support and fund vital infrastructure projects.
- Advocate for the Greater Waco area's best interests in high speed rail access.

Water & Natural Resources

- Oppose Section 2014 of S. 601 in the Water Resources Development Act which gives the Army Corps of Engineers unprecedented discretion to adjust reservoir operations without Congressional authorization.
- Oppose efforts to implement or enforce the federal Waters of the United States final rule, which broadens the jurisdiction of the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act to include "other waters" located in isolated places at the "Waters of the U.S." without requiring case-specific evaluation.
- Ensure the EPA evaluates the economic impact and job loss in its regulations, as is required by all major environmental laws, advocating for balancing critical investments in infrastructure along with environmental protections.
- Monitor water supply, ownership, and quality concerns, including property rights issues and drought management policy.

Education

Higher Education

- Support the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and focus on reforms that strengthen business engagement and ties between community colleges and local businesses, maintaining flexibility to better prepare youth and adults for careers aligned to local industry needs.
- Support adequate funding to support inflationary increases to the Pell Grant maximum award without limiting eligibility and extend lifetime Pell eligibility to 14 full-time equivalent semesters.
- Reinstated the year-round Pell Grant to reflect today's student populations, allowing students to complete their degrees and enter the workforce more quickly.
- Support the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act to support student access and success by improving student aid programs, granting institutions the ability to limit borrowing; revise cohort default rates by incorporating the percentage of students who borrow; excluding Pell Grant and SEOG funds from Pell Grant eligibility; simplifying the FAFSA; ensuring accurate and complete measurements of student success; reducing regulatory burdens; improving institutional support; and rejecting any proposal for institutional student-loan risk-sharing.

Public Education

- Support funding for high quality preschool for eligible families.
- Support efforts to improve and expand access to quality Early Childhood Education programs, to ensure children arrive at kindergarten school-ready, laying the foundation for future workforce-readiness.
- Support implementation of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, with an emphasis on state accountability systems and providing for more local flexibility to make educational decisions.
- Oppose limiting the flexibility of local school boards to make decisions that serve the best interests of their districts.
- Support equitable and adequate funding for Texas public schools.

Health Care

- Support regulatory implementation of the Affordable Care Act that protects businesses and provides flexibility.
- Support Graduate Medical Education funding to ensure the training and availability of doctors, nurses and other health care providers in order to meet the growing demand of patient care.
- Support renewal of the 1115 Waiver to fund the patient population being served.
- Oppose reduction of 340b eligibility, so safety net hospitals and care providers may continue to provide assistance to low-income and indigent populations.