



2023 Federal Legislative Program

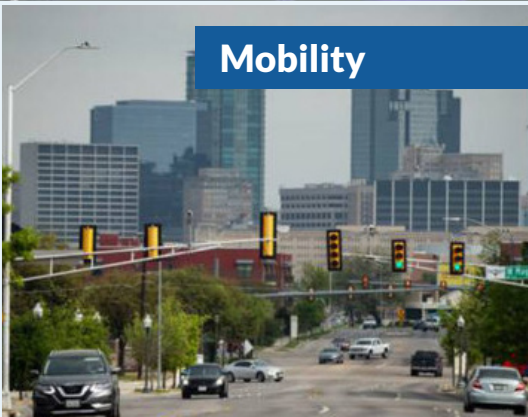




Community development



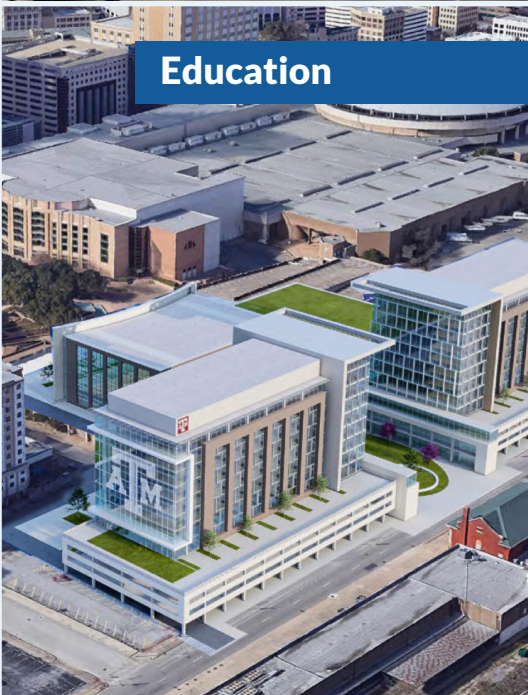
Defense economy



Mobility



Public safety



Education



On behalf of Fort Worth, Texas – thank you for your service as we work to move our state forward in 2023. I look forward to working with you on behalf of our great state.

As one of the fastest-growing cities in the country, Fort Worth continues to play a leading role in shaping the future of Texas. We are currently the 5th largest city in Texas and the 13th largest city in the U.S. With a population rapidly approaching the threshold of one million residents, Fort Worth is truly a city to watch.

As a rapidly growing city, we continually strive to maintain a local government that is responsive, accountable, and fiscally responsible for the residents we serve. Our federal legislative focus continues to include priorities that help maximize the success of those initiatives. As Mayor of Fort Worth, my focus will continue to be on economic development, mobility solutions, education opportunities, thriving families, and safe, prosperous neighborhoods.

In this booklet, you will find a list of legislative priorities that will be most effective for Fort Worth. We hope this information will be a useful reference for you during this legislative session.

As we go forward together, I am confident our partnership will lead to another fantastic year for the City of Fort Worth and the great State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Mattie Parker
Mayor

Fort Worth City Council



Carlos Flores
District 2



Michael D. Crain
District 3



Alan Blaylock
District 4



Gyna Bivens
District 5



Jared Williams
District 6



Leonard Firestone
District 7



Chris Nettles
District 8



Elizabeth M. Beck
District 9

General Legislative Policy

As a general policy, the City of Fort Worth seeks to **Preserve** its authority to responsibly govern the city, its citizens and its property.

The City **Supports** any legislation viewed as advancing the City's Comprehensive Plan or the City's Strategic Goals; or that improves the health, safety and welfare of its citizens; or that reduces the cost of governing the City.

In addition, the City will **Oppose** any legislation viewed as detrimental to its Comprehensive Plan or its Strategic Goals; or that is contrary to the health, safety and welfare of its citizens; or that mandates increased costs or decreased revenues; or that would diminish the fundamental authority of the City.



2023 Federal Administrative Priorities

Pursuing Community Development and Renewal

- Education Opportunity Programs
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC)
- Second Chance Act
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP/WAP)
- Expanded LIHEAP Eligibility Documentation Requirements: Voter ID
- HOME Grants
- Low Income Housing Tax Credits
- Housing Choice Vouchers: Budgetary Increases for FWHS
- Affordable House and Rental Assistance Programs
- Support and Expansion of Fair Housing
- Support for Whole Health Community Clinic Expansion
- Healthy Communities Initiative – Mortality and Life Expectancy
- Employment Non-discrimination Initiatives
- Energy and Sustainability Grants
- FEMA Designations and Flood Insurance Premiums
- Fund “non-FEMA Flood Plane” Flooding Recovery
- Fund Universal Broadband Coverage—Building Access
- Support for existing and future broadband funding opportunities to develop middle-mile and last-mile broadband infrastructure, as well as subsidy programs like the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) that help families acquire broadband service and internet devices.
- Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR)
- Land and Water Conservation Full Funding for Green Spaces
- Museum and Library Funding (IMLS Reauthorization)
- East Lancaster Transit Corridor Project
- Increased Funding Sources for Homeowner Lead Removal
- Stormwater and Sewer Remediation Funding

2023 Federal Administrative Priorities

Exploring Economic Development Opportunities

- Home Ownership Focused Community Development Funding
- Municipal Debt Income Tax Exemption
- State and Local Tax Deductibility
- Collection of Remote Sales Taxes
- Internet and Wireless Tax Authority
- Municipal Bond Access and Liquidity
- Federal Aviation and Contract Tower Funding Increases
- Management and Collection for use on Local Rights of Way
- Wet Weather Facility
- Juvenile Entrepreneurship Funding
- Federal Assistance with Invasive Species (Egret Population)
- Support for Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act
- Youth Internship Initiative

Fighting for Public Safety Funding and Support

- Emergency Services Funding
- Oversight Funding for Procedural Justice, Implicit Bias, Reconciliation, and Community Policing
- Emergency Responder Funding for Prevention and Care of Dangerous Exposure Related Illnesses
- Emergency Management Preparedness Grants (EMPG)
- Homeland Security Top 10 Re-Designation for Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) funding
- CASA Funding (innovative weather satellite pilot)
- Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)
- Broadband Spectrum for First Responders
- Opposition to Federal Collective Bargaining Legislation

2023 Federal Congressional Priorities

Fighting for Mobility & Connectivity Improvements

Summary: Traditional and alternative forms of transit are essential to Fort Worth's current and planned investments in economic growth and community development. Fort Worth is completing transformative infrastructure improvements that will increase access to jobs and encourage new residential and business developments. Support for ongoing mobility and connectivity improvements—including support for more favorable federal, state, and local grant formula requirements, money to elevate I-35 at critical junctions, increased capacity in key corridors, such as Lancaster Ave., robust high-speed passenger rail that spans the city, expansion of TEXRAIL to additional stops in southwest Fort Worth, including the medical district, enhanced public transportation systems, and alternative transit opportunities will be continuing priorities in the 1st Session of the 118th Congress.

Support for Educational and Career Development

Summary: Fort Worth's continued growth and economic success depends in large part on our city's ability to deliver quality educational opportunities for our future workforce. Families in our community deserve access to youth development initiatives and programs that provide a diverse continuum of educational resources with particular emphasis on workforce development, especially in STEM/R&D. Supporting high school programs that encourage workforce preparedness, better equipping students for the needs of today's job market, will remain a priority in our federal engagement in 2023. Additionally, early childhood education programs, nutritional development, and access to health services are critical to the long-term success of Fort Worth's school aged children. Identifying opportunities to enhance and create programs that increase access to quality early childhood education and care through "flexible," locally distributed federal funding dollars will continue to be a key priority in the 118th Congress. Also, the City is committed to partnering with the Texas A&M University System on the expansion of the A&M campus in Fort Worth.

Supporting "Central City" Flood Control

Summary: Fort Worth is one of the fastest growing large cities in America. The "Central City" flood control project is a key element in managing and modernizing the "Fort Worth Federal Floodway" levee system, essential to protecting our rapidly expanding population and economy. The "Central City" flood control plan will protect people and businesses north and east of our current downtown while providing much needed economic security and certainty to these flood prone communities. Continued modernization of the Trinity River levee system will depend greatly on additional and sustained federal funding and administration support for the "Central City" flood control project and is a key priority for 2023.

2023 Federal Congressional Priorities

Supporting Our Local Defense Economy

Summary: Fort Worth's economic growth and development is inextricably tied to the health of America's military and defense industries. The Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NASJRB) and Fort Worth's synergistic relationship with top military contractors in the United States are models for many cities across our nation. Continuing support for NASJRB as well as sustaining the growth of our defense contracting industries through federal 2024 budget and appropriations support will be a key priority. Additionally, Fort Worth is home to a large and growing population of active duty and reservist military personnel as well as veterans of all ages. Honoring and supporting those who have served and continue to serve our country through federal support for veteran owned enterprises, increased veterans services, and the establishment of a US Veterans Memorial in Fort Worth will be a key priority in the 118th Congress.

Calling on Congress to Reform America's Broken Immigration System

Summary: The City of Fort Worth is a large and growing community, deeply rooted in diverse and multicultural Texas traditions. For more than 140 years, laws governing and regulating immigration to our country have been the exclusive responsibility of the United States Congress. As a community that chooses to stand united, the City of Fort Worth calls on the United States Congress to fulfill its duty to the American public and pass immigration reforms in 2022 that strengthen our nation's rule of law and sovereignty, beginning at our national borders, while also treating all people, regardless of their origin, with the dignity and respect our nation's shared values and principles of democracy demand.

* *Chy Lung v. Freeman*, 92 U.S. 275 (1875)

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