



2019 **FEDERAL AGENDA**



**SAN ANTONIO CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**



ADVOCATING FOR ISSUES THAT MATTER TO SAN ANTONIO

For 41 years, the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce has traveled to Washington, D.C., to promote and drive important initiatives that benefit San Antonio's business community and ensure the city remains the best place to live, work, and play.

To learn more, visit sachamber.org

AEROSPACE	2
CYBERSECURITY	2
EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	4
ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY	6
HEALTHCARE & BIOSCIENCES	7
INTERNATIONAL TRADE	7
MILITARY AFFAIRS	8
TRANSPORTATION	9
TOURISM & HOSPITALITY	9
WATER	10
GENERAL BUSINESS	11



AEROSPACE

1. Supports authorizing and appropriating additional funding to improve Department of Defense (DoD) military readiness rates and reduce the maintenance backlog in tactical aviation in our military services.
2. Supports additional engineering, maintenance, and modification work to support the Department of Defense (DoD), military missions, and commercial aviation industrial work in San Antonio, thereby leveraging San Antonio's excellent capability, capacity, and competitive rates.
3. Supports a comprehensive strategy for the recapitalization of Kelly Field, including the development, funding, and construction of an alternate runway to provide redundancy, enhance reliability, and encourage future growth for military, industrial, and general operations.
4. Supports extension of the public private partnership between the Department of Defense and Boeing on sustainment of the C17 aircraft, thereby leveraging 20 years of expertise and efficiency to ensure continued military readiness and long term cost savings to the United States Government and taxpayers.

CYBERSECURITY

1. Supports enhanced information sharing and strengthening, protecting, and funding of critical infrastructure, including:
 - ▶ Chemical; communications; commercial facilities; critical manufacturing; dams; defense industrial base; emergency services; energy; financial services; food and agriculture; government facilities; healthcare and public health; information technology; nuclear

reactors, materials, and waste; transportation; and water and wastewater.

2. Supports implementing acquisition reform and strengthening national security through:

- ▶ The Federal Acquisition Supply Chain Security Act of 2018;
- ▶ Integrating Section 809 panel's recommendations into the Federal government;
- ▶ Enforcing the Data Breach Prevention and Compensation Act; and
- ▶ The Evaluation of Agile or Iterative Development of Cyber Tools and Applications, which directs CYBERCOM to conduct an evaluation of alternative methods for developing, acquiring, and maintaining software-based cyber tools and applications for DoD.

3. Supports critical cybersecurity efforts through:

- ▶ Continued support of 24AF and 25AF missions and Federal partners in San Antonio, including JIOWC, FBI, and NSA in Texas;
- ▶ Securing funding from:
 - The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack (CCTA) to the San Antonio metropolitan area, in addition to adjusting the formula to weigh risk profiles of metro areas.
 - The DHS Cyber Incident Response Teams Act of 2018.
 - The HR 1344 State Cyber Resiliency Act.
 - Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment for Supplier Development DFARS/ NIST Cybersecurity Training.
 - Department of Defense - Office of Economic Adjustment for compatible land use projects through Joint Land Use studies.

4. Supports modernizing government information technology by:

- ▶ Fully funding the Army Futures Command in Austin, Texas;



- ▶ Continuing to implement and fund the Modernizing Government Technology (MGT) Act.
5. **Supports creating and funding a cyber infrastructure investment zone in San Antonio that stretches across the state of Texas and serves as a national cyber innovation and research corridor.**

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

1. **Supports legislation that establishes a permanent solution allowing DACA participants to receive lawful, permanent status and continue their contributions to the United States.**
2. **Supports enhanced FY20 funding for our nation's academic health centers through increased appropriations to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Defense (DoD), the Health Research Services Administration (HRSA), and other related federal agencies, an action which will benefit health education, research, and patient care in San Antonio, the South Texas Border Region, and beyond.**
3. **Opposes any reduction in overall education funding including any title program funding. We support action that:**
 - ▶ Maintains adequate funding levels for all Title programs under ESSA;
 - ▶ Funds the SSAE grant at no less than the authorized appropriated level (\$1.6 billion for each of Fiscal Years 2018-2020);
 - ▶ Provides flexibility to states and districts in how federal funds are spent to provide student support and academic enrichment;
 - ▶ Avoids any unnecessary spending requirements.
4. **Supports improving flexibility in Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by allowing additional exceptions for efficiency, reduction**

of funds, and extraordinary circumstances. We support legislation that:

- ▶ Allows Local Education Agencies to demonstrate a gain in efficiency as an allowable reduction to the level of expenditures.
 - ▶ Recognizes a reduction of local/state funds as an allowable reduction to the level of expenditures.
 - ▶ Recognizes that there may exist other extraordinary circumstances that require an exception to MOE.
- 5. Supports maintaining funding of GEAR UP and TRIO programs. The goal of both programs is to increase disadvantaged students' high school completion and enrollment in higher education by providing a variety of academic, counseling, and college preparatory services. GEAR UP includes a scholarship component, while TRIO provides financial aid counseling and work-study employment.**
- 6. Supports a Pell Grant Bonus and the Job Training Federal Pell Grant Program, allowing for industry certifications to be among the approved used for these grant funds.**
- 7. Supports increased funding for all Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), specifically Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), through Title V, that strengthens undergraduate and graduate education with HSIs.**
- 8. Supports simplifying the following financial programs:**
- ▶ FAFSA by reducing the number and complexity of questions and developing user-friendly formats for easier filing;
 - ▶ Grants, loans and other financial aid programs higher education institutions offer students; and
 - ▶ Increased funding available for institutions that provide dual credit or concurrent enrollment opportunities for high school students to earn college credit.



9. Supports streamlining the income-based student loan repayment process and preserving the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.
10. Supports implementing policies, rules, and regulations that allow for the investment in successful workforce development programs such as:
 - ▶ Federal incentives to businesses that offer internships and apprenticeships;
 - ▶ Adult education and training programs;
 - ▶ Veteran training programs;
 - ▶ Expanded Opportunity Youth program funding; and
 - ▶ Educator development programs.

ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY

1. Supports additional funding and federal support for marginal nonattainment areas to reach and maintain attainment before additional regulations are necessary under a moderate classification.
2. Supports legislation that provides guidance/ requires EPA to recognize the impact of transport, background ozone, as well as anthropogenic sources, on a region when promulgating the next ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS).
3. Supports allowing marginal nonattainment areas to have five years to reach attainment in order to provide an adequate period of time to comply before more regulations are enforced.
4. Supports continued reliance on the robust federal framework established by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), Department of Energy (DOE), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as the primary mechanism to promote information

sharing and protect the electric grid and connected infrastructure from cyber and physical threats.

5. Supports industry and regulatory efforts to enhance and maintain a resilient electric grid through generation diversification and the modernization of the grid.

HEALTHCARE & BIOSCIENCES

1. Supports increased funding for prevention and treatment of substance use disorders.
2. Supports preserving the 340B Drug Discount Program as a vital tool for keeping drugs affordable and supporting the health care safety net.
3. Supports federal Medicare Graduate Medical Education (GME) policies that will increase the number of physician residency training slots in Texas.
4. Supports increased access to affordable health insurance coverage for uninsured Texans.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

1. Supports restoring full functionality and approval of a full board of directors to the Ex-Im Bank.
2. Supports passage of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.
3. Supports reducing tariffs that would create a barrier to trade.



MILITARY AFFAIRS

1. Supports Defense Health Agency Basing initiatives as DHA begins assumption of administrative and management responsibilities of hospitals and clinics as part of the Military Health System reforms mandated by Congress.
2. Supports the location of Cross Functional Teams of the Army Futures Command in San Antonio leveraging San Antonio's Cyber and Medical innovation assets.
3. Supports the multi-domain operations for the cyber, intelligence surveillance, and reconnaissance missions conducted by 24th and 25th Air Forces supporting the National Defense Strategy in San Antonio.
4. Supports extension of Intergovernmental Support Agreements to a 20-year term.
5. Supports authorizing the Air Force to allow Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) to retain a portion of the savings generated by Intergovernmental Support Agreements and supports allowing DoD to take credit for acquisition of goods and services from local small business through Intergovernmental Support Agreements with local government.
6. Supports streamlined transfer of funds from Military Departments to allow Joint Bases to receive support from tenants for mission-critical facilities and infrastructure.
7. Supports continued and increased funding of Impact Aid, which makes up a significant part of the total budgets for Lackland Independent School District (ISD), Ft. Sam Houston ISD, Randolph Field ISD.
8. Supports Military Construction investment for Child Development Centers.
9. Supports the 149th FW mission through upgrades to Block 40/50.
10. Supports continued efforts for licensing and

certification reciprocity and equivalency for Military Spouses.

11. Supports San Antonio's selection to host the Department of Defense Warrior Games in 2020.

TOURISM & HOSPITALITY

1. Supports full funding for Brand USA in the current budget, and provide certainty of funding through 2027.
2. Supports renaming and Expanding the Visa Waiver Program.
3. Supports increased resources to market Trusted Traveler programs to better secure America's airports.

TRANSPORTATION

1. Supports a federal transportation (infrastructure) initiative and/or the next federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill with:
 - ▶ Robust and sustainable multi-modal funding including highway, transit and rail;
 - ▶ Expanded federal authority regarding public-private partnerships;
 - ▶ Continued streamlining/simplification of environmental processes; and
 - ▶ Elimination of donor state status for Texas.
2. Supports the continued functions of the Federal Transit Administration and federal funding of transit programs, including the Capital Improvements Grant program.



3. Supports congressional changes to Perimeter Rule (49 U.S. Code 49109) and Slot Rule (14CFR93.123) in order to secure a Non-Stop Flight from San Antonio to Washington Reagan National (SAT-DCA).
4. Supports Federal Aviation Administrative plans to develop alternative funding sources to improve our nation's airport infrastructure and the passenger experience.
5. Supports stability and funding of the Federal Aviation Administration Contract Tower (FCT) program in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2019.
6. Supports an increase in the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding and greater flexibility for the use of AIP funds and raising or eliminating the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) cap of \$4.50.

WATER

1. Supports securing reimbursement funds for the Mission Reach in the FY 20 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill and the associated FY 20 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Work Plan from within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction General Account for reimbursing Bexar County for advancing a portion of the federal share of the San Antonio Channel Improvement Project (Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project). Bexar County advanced \$61.3M and has presently been reimbursed approximately \$35.3M leaving \$26.0M remaining to fulfill the federal funding obligation.
2. Supports securing \$1.1 million for Preliminary Engineering and Design of the Westside Creeks Ecosystem Restoration Project through the FY 20 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Work Plan based upon the funding available through the FY 20 Budget for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

General Investigations Account provided through the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill.

3. Supports amending the tax code to make water conservation rebates exempt from federal income tax in order to increase participation in water-efficiency retrofit programs to encourage sustainable water use in Texas.
4. Supports full funding for water infrastructure financing tools to address aging water and wastewater infrastructure.
5. Supports ongoing studies by the Army Corps of Engineers and for regulatory flexibility for the Mitchell Lake project, a unique reclamation project that transformed a former wastewater discharge area in San Antonio into a tranquil international refuge for shore birds and waterfowl.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Supports further consideration of the decennial census that includes a citizenship question in order to determine the question's effect on response rate and potentially detrimental fiscal impacts to Texas.



2019 LEADERSHIP

SA to DC Co-Chair Juan Antonio Flores

Executive Vice President of Government Affairs
Port San Antonio

SA to DC Co-Chair Kathy Garcia

Vice President of Government Relations, Regulatory
Affairs, and Public Policy
CPS Energy

Paula Gold-Williams

Chair of the Board
San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
President & CEO
CPS Energy

Richard Perez

President & CEO
San Antonio Chamber of Commerce



2019 SPONSORS



AT&T

AMROCK



BOEING



**SAN ANTONIO
RIVER AUTHORITY**

Leaders in Watershed Solutions



StandardAero

