

Agenda of a Joint Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting

The Board of Trustees Waco Independent School District

An Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Waco Independent School District, Waco City Council, McLennan County Commissioners, McLennan Community College Trustees, and Texas State Technical College Board of Regents will be held on December 13, 2016, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Waco Convention Center Bosque Theater, 100 Washington Avenue.

The subjects listed below are for discussion only. Items do not have to be taken in the same order as shown on this meeting notice. No action will be taken at this meeting.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ESTABLISH QUORUM
- III. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Community/Legislative Issues for the 85th Legislative Session, Including Community Priorities 2
 - B. Priorities and Issues Concerning Education; Health Care; Local Government; and Economic Development
 - C. Discussion of Federal, State and Local Priorities with Legislators
- IV. Adjournment

The notice for this meeting was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meeting Act on:

at _____

For the Board of Trustees

Waco's Community Priorities - 2017 Legislative Session

To ensure the continued growth and success of the Greater Waco area and all of its residents, local leaders have identified the following priorities among issues likely to be considered during this legislative session:

EDUCATION (PreK-12)

- Fund full day Pre-Kindergarten for all qualifying students.
- Oppose vouchers or other proposals that reduce funding to public schools unless and until the Texas Legislature, as recently advised by the Texas Supreme Court, implements “transformational, top-to-bottom school funding reforms that amount to more than Band-Aid on top of Band-Aid.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Increase funding for community and technical colleges to ensure the accomplishment of the 60X30TX higher education strategic plan, enabling colleges to provide strong pathways from high school to careers.
- Support debt-free certificates and degrees for Texas students by providing additional resources for dual credit, comprehensive student support, and new transfer opportunities to Texas four-year institutions.
- Fully fund the Texas Tuition Equalization Grant to ensure opportunities for all Texans.

HEALTHCARE

- Support expanded access to healthcare coverage to ensure the burden of uninsured care does not fall on local communities (Counties, Cities, hospitals, physicians, or other health care providers).
- Support renewal of the 1115 Waiver in a way that does not disadvantage mid-sized communities who are neither rural nor major metropolitan areas.
- Support legislation that encourages preventative and behavioral healthcare, encourages people to be more involved in their health, and encourages education on and transparency of health care costs and fees.
- Support state funding of additional medical residency slots over additional funding for medical schools. Support funding more robust nursing programs in order to increase the number of highly-trained qualified nurses.
- Support public health infrastructure funding to ensure local health departments can respond appropriately and prepare and protect the public from threats such as the Zika virus.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Fully fund reconstruction and expansion of Waco's eight-mile section of Interstate 35.
- Support local control of local concerns such as dedicated rights of way, water rights, and watershed protection.
- Support legislative changes beneficial to local governments on equity appraisals and oppose those that cap appraisals or diminish existing local authority on the appraisal or collection of ad valorem taxes.
- Oppose unfunded mandates or cost shifting such as the Texas Driver Responsibility Program.
- Support high-speed rail with a stop in Waco.
- Support increased highway funding, including additional funding mechanisms.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support funding of the Texas Workforce Commission's Skills Development Fund and the Comptroller's Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) program.
- Support funding for partnerships among universities, community and technical colleges, businesses and industries, and local ISDs in the flexible design and implementation of career and technology education.
- Support the State Deal-Closing Fund and expand accessibility for existing Texas businesses.
- Develop Aerospace Incentive Funding and permanently fund the Spaceport Trust Fund at a minimum of \$15 million per biennium.
- Maintain Chapter 313 for large capital investment projects.
- Protect the Economic Development Sales Tax (Type A, Type B).
- Support Funding for Innovation and Technology Development.
- Advocate for statute reform for the payday lending industry.