



**GREATER HOUSTON  
PARTNERSHIP**

# 2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



Bolstering a thriving business environment that fosters economic development is critical to making Houston greater. In order to advance the Houston region, the Greater Houston Partnership works to pursue policies that create a business environment attractive to leading global companies and skilled talent. As we approach the 2019 State Legislative Session, the Partnership will focus on this impact agenda that addresses the most pressing issues facing the business community and the Houston region. We invite you to join us in advancing these solutions and other measures critical to the long-term growth and upward economic mobility for the region. Together, we make Houston greater.

## EXECUTIVE PRIORITIES

### PUBLIC EDUCATION AND GOVERNANCE



A strong public education system is vital for the long-term prosperity of our region and state. Our current education system is not consistently graduating students who are ready to attend college or enter the workforce. The Partnership supports a well-funded, accountable and equitable public education system that serves all children and supports our talent pipeline.

### FLOOD RESILIENCY



The deficiencies of Houston's flood control infrastructure became apparent in the wake of Hurricane Harvey and recent flood events over the last several years. The billions of dollars in damages resulting from these events highlighted the vital need for improved regional flood resiliency infrastructure. The Partnership supports significant investments in infrastructure designed to protect both the economy and people from future storms.

## ISSUES

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Competitive economic development tools are critical to bringing new businesses to the region and growing our economy. The Partnership supports re-authorization of the Chapter 312 property tax abatement program available to cities and counties.

### MUNICIPAL ISSUES



Some municipalities are imposing burdensome regulations on private employment practices. The Partnership opposes ordinances which infringe upon employer-employee contractual agreements.

### EMINENT DOMAIN



Building the infrastructure needed to move energy, freight and people across the state is vital to economic growth. The Partnership supports preserving existing eminent domain statutes, while respecting the rights of private landowners.

### ENVIRONMENT



Houston businesses have led the way in taking steps to improve the region's air quality over the last two decades. To advance that progress, the Partnership supports funding the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan.

### HEALTHCARE



The Partnership supports sustainable policies relating to dependable funding options for hospitals and patient care.

### TRANSPORTATION



Economic prosperity relies upon the ability to efficiently move goods and people. The Partnership supports maintaining existing local transportation funding options.

### HIGHER EDUCATION



Becoming a leader in the digital economy requires significant improvements to our higher education systems. The Partnership supports policies that will further improve higher education quality and outcomes.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Qualified and skilled workers are vital to the success of Houston's industries. The Partnership supports programs that provide for training of Houston's workforce in the skillsets required for rewarding, high-demand careers.

The Greater Houston Partnership works to make Houston one of the best places to live, work and build a business. As the economic development organization for the region, the Partnership champions growth across 11 counties by bringing together business and civic-minded leaders who are dedicated to the area's long-term success. Representing more than 1,000 member organizations and approximately one-fifth of the region's workforce, the Partnership is the place business leaders come together to make an impact.