



2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Texas Downtown Association represents the interests of more than 300 members from across the state, comprised of municipal governments, small businesses, economic development organizations, downtown management districts, professional services firms and more. As such, the organization supports measures that encourage economic development, strengthen small business, ensure historic preservation, enhance tourism and protect cultural heritage.

PRO

Economic Development

PRO

Historic Preservation

PRO

Small Business

PRO

**Tourism, Culture,
Arts & Recreation**



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Downtown development is economic development. TDA maintains the following positions on items affecting the economies of our member-communities:

- Support the renewal of tax abatement legislation and continuation of film and music industry production incentives
- Support laws that maintain municipally-created downtown revitalization programs and local control over budgeting and funding for these programs
- Support municipal zoning rights that protect the interests of neighborhoods, downtowns and their citizens, regarding permitted uses
- Support favorable scoring of adaptive re-use of historic buildings in TDHCA affordable housing tax credit applications
- Oppose municipal tax ceilings and unfunded mandates that disadvantage rural and small communities

SMALL BUSINESS

Small business is the backbone of America. TDA favors policies that protect and strengthen 'mom-and-pop' businesses, including:

- Support legislation requiring TxDOT to undertake practices that mitigate the effect of construction projects impacting downtowns
- Support agriculture programs aiding farmers markets and the marketing of Texas-made products (i.e. Go Texan)
- Oppose taxation policies that place Texas at a competitive disadvantage (e.g. state minimum wage; 12 percent sales tax)

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

TDA supports robust resource allocation to the Texas Historical Commission, including:

- Continuation of state historic tax credit program and inclusion of appropriate supportive language in insurance tax law
- \$35 million funding for Courthouse Preservation Program
- Additional funding to ensure appropriate staffing of THC programs and State Historic Sites

TOURISM, ARTS, CULTURE, & RECREATION

TDA supports measures to strengthen downtowns as the cultural centers of their communities to attract locals and visitors, alike. These include:

- Restoration of the full \$10 million original allocation to Texas Commission of the Arts Cultural District programming
- Continuation of the 15 percent Hotel Occupancy Tax allowance for the arts
- Allocation of additional \$500,000 for Heritage Tourism Programs
- Continuation of current permissible uses of Hotel Occupancy Tax, regardless of a municipality's population