



Helping your business... *that's what we do.*

## **2017 Legislative Priorities**

The Coppell Chamber of Commerce (CCoC) serves over 500 members who we represent as a voice for business in Coppell, Texas.

The 2017 Public Policy Agenda serves as a public policy guide to inform our members, our elected officials and the community at large the position of the Coppell Chamber of Commerce on issues that impact businesses in Coppell and North Texas.

### **COPPELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – MISSION STATEMENT**

The Coppell Chamber of Commerce works to promote, enhance and foster the growth of business in Coppell and the surrounding community.

## **Business Priorities**

### **Advocate for Fair Business Taxation, Economic Development, Local Control, Education, Energy, Healthcare, Transportation and Water.**

- CCoC supports Economic Development Programs that continue support for state and local tools used to compete for corporate expansions, relocations and job growth, such as the Texas Enterprise Fund, the Texas Enterprise Zone Fund and the tax incentives available under the Texas Economic Development Act.
- CCoC supports legislation that supports local control and flexibility in the use of tax abatements, tax increment financing, reinvestment zones and other incentives to promote economic development and job creation.
- CCoC supports legislation that gives our school district the flexibility to meet the needs of their students, support at-will employment for teachers, and removing the state from setting the terms and conditions of employment.
- CCoC supports legislation that enables healthy economic growth in Texas by promoting the production of adequate supplies of all forms of energy at competitive prices.
- CCoC opposes increased taxes and fees on energy sources with the exception of fees that will be dedicated to regulatory programs that will improve the oversight and approval of energy development projects. Eliminate tax inequities between energy sources. Discourage the use of subsidies that distort market economics. Encourage the conservation of resources. Balance environmental quality objectives against the actual impacts of energy production and usage and the public welfare benefits of lower energy costs.
- CCoC opposes any measure that increases healthcare costs for Texas employers and their employees and families. The high cost of health care services and health insurance is a primary contributor to the number

of uninsured and to the rising percentage of budgets that households, businesses and government spend on health care. Support measures that would increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of healthcare services and health insurance.

- CCoC supports legislation that maintains franchise tax relief for small businesses.
- CCoC opposes any measure that would limit, reduce or remove the local control that the City of Coppell has today regarding their ability to govern, finance, or otherwise make decisions on behalf of the businesses and community they serve. This includes but is not limited to any proposed change to operate red light traffic cameras for the purposes of enhancing public safety. It is often said that the best government is that which is closest to the people. There is no level of government effort closer to the public than locally elected officials who represent municipalities and other local political subdivisions. What works for one municipality does not necessarily work in another. The locally elected mayors and city council members are best suited to make decisions on behalf of their respective communities.
- CCoC opposes any proposed change in the sourcing of sales tax remittance from the current origin of sale method to any method that would include destination as the manner in which sales tax remittance is calculated. Changes to Sales Tax Sourcing will effect the efficiency of the City of Coppell to provide the necessary public safety services that are so important to our businesses.
- CCoC supports fully funding public education at the rate of population plus inflation growth and appropriating all collections made from recapture to fund public education. In addition, oppose vouchers, taxpayer savings grants, tax credits, tuition reimbursements or additional programs that circumvent public accountability and transparency requirements as required by the state legislature to public school districts and divert valuable resources from our public schools.
- CCoC supports legislation relating to the local control of tax rates approved in Tax Rate Elections so that our school district can be locally accountable to taxpayers by having the ability to modify taxes within a voter approved tax range.
- CCoC opposes any legislation that attempts to dissolve Dallas County Schools without a viable option that does not adversely affect our School District and our business taxpayers. It is estimated that dissolving Dallas County Schools will place a financial burden of up to \$1 million more per year on our taxpayers. More importantly, we oppose any legislation that adversely affects the safety of our students and the reliability of their transportation.
- CCoC supports all non-education diversions from the state gas tax, the dedication of vehicle sales taxes to the State Highway Fund 06, return to pay-as-you-go funding for new roads and repairs, transparency in TXDOT, a safe statewide multi-modal transportation system for movement of people and goods.
- CCoC supports the implementation of the State Water Plan to provide for the next 50 years, which is locally driven and promotes conservation, outlines infrastructure improvements while balancing public need, property and water rights. All regulation should be required to apply rules and regulations consistently and fairly.