



## East Texas Coalition Day in Austin February 24-26, 2019

The Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce will hold East Texas Coalition Day in Austin on Sunday February 24-Tuesday February 26, 2019 to meet with our appointed and elected officials in conjunction with the upcoming state legislative session. This special event will provide an opportunity for the business men and women of the Tyler area to meet and discuss issues and legislation with the officials. This session we will be hosting several functions with the communities of Longview and Kilgore as well as other East Texas cities in an effort to show unity in East Texas.

Attendees will be responsible for their own travel arrangements. There is a block of rooms at the Intercontinental Stephen F. Austin, 701 Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78701. Block rates are available by calling 800-235-4670 and asking for the block under the "East Texas Coalition" or registering online at <https://bit.ly/2viU3nH>. These rooms have been reserved at the rate of \$199 + tax single/ \$219 double occupancy per night for the nights of Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup> and Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. **The cut-off date for accepting reservations in this block is Wednesday February 1st.**

### Trip at a Glance:

#### Sunday, February 24th

\*Tyler Dinner at Moonshine

\*Optional Capitol Tour w/ Sen. Hughes

#### Monday, February 25th

\*Breakfast with Guest Speaker

\*Morning & Afternoon Briefings

\*Luncheon with Guest Speaker

\*Evening Reception

#### Tuesday, February 26th

\*\*Breakfast & Briefings with State Reps & Senator at the hotel

\*Recognition on House & Senate Floor

\*Picture at Capitol

### **Registration Information**

**General Registration with payment on or before December 15, 2018**

**\$275**

**After December 15, 2018**

**\$300**

**Tuesday Morning Breakfast & Briefings with State Representatives & Senator Bryan Hughes at hotel**

**Before December 15<sup>th</sup>**

**\$30**

**After December 15<sup>th</sup>**

**\$50**

Number of General Registrations:	_____ at \$ _____	= \$ _____	
Number of Tuesday Morning Registrations	_____ at \$ _____	= \$ _____	
Total Due with registration		\$ _____	

Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CC#: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with check or credit card information to: Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, Attn: Henry Bell, 315 N Broadway, Tyler Texas 75702; or email: [hbell@tylertexas.com](mailto:hbell@tylertexas.com); or fax to: 903-593-2746.

## **2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

### **TYLER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

#### **ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

- Support the development of local energy resources such as natural gas, oil and lignite.
- Support balanced development of other energy resources based on cost effectiveness, competitive prices and positive economic impact on the East Texas region.
- Support competitive electric markets in all areas of the state to spur fair competition in the best interest of all consumers, energy producers and businesses.
- Support retaining the investment tax credits for production of high-cost natural gas.
- Continue to support the locally approved ½ cent sales tax for economic development and infrastructure.
- Continue to support increasing the relief on franchise taxes.

#### **EDUCATION:**

- Support measures that give school districts the flexibility to meet the needs of their students for Pre-k to 12.
- Support career and technology education in conjunction with public schools and community colleges where appropriate to meet the needs of Texas employers.
- Protect the College Career Military Readiness indicator formula in the Texas public school accountability system that promotes elements of HB5, effective job related instruction, and the student experience in Career Technology Education
- Monitor proposals impacting how public schools, colleges and universities in Texas are funded.
- Support efforts to give veterans credit for military experience and training.

#### **EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS:**

- Oppose legislation that would erode employment-at-will as a right for all Texas employers and employees.
- Support efforts to maintain employers' prerogatives to control the workplace; thereby, creating a safe, satisfying and harmonious working environment.
- Support efforts to reform the wage and hour laws by allowing more flexibility for employers and employees in hours worked during a pay period before mandating overtime pay.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY:**

- Support legislation that protects the rights of East Texas to maintain control of historical water rights and allows for market-based solutions to Inter-Basin transfers.
- Continue support of the state permitting programs and environmental issues.
- Support efforts for the development of Lake Columbia.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- Support anti-fraud insurance legislation and enforcement.
- Support high tech business development in East Texas.
- Support programs to increase awareness of how small- and medium-sized businesses can protect themselves from cybersecurity threats.

#### **HEALTHCARE:**

- Support an extension of the 1115 Medicaid Transformation Waiver.
- Support legislation to increase access and choice of health care programs by supporting market-driven health policies that maximize consumer and public benefit and allow for the continuation of employer-sponsored voluntary health care coverage.
- Oppose any measure that increases costs for Texas employers and their employees and families.
- Support greater transparency related to services provided at freestanding emergency rooms to ensure consumers understand the scope of services provided, potential costs and network participation.
- Support legislation to insure timely healthcare payments to all parties.
- Support legislation to stop providers from waiving or discounting co-payments for insured patients, in whole or in part, and encourage enforcement of existing laws.
- Support residency spots for psychiatry and funding for behavioral health services outpatient and inpatient for community hospitals.
- Support Tobacco 21 raising the legal age permitted to purchase tobacco products to 21.

#### **TAXES & SPENDING:**

- Support maintaining franchise (margin) tax relief for small business; businesses that have sales less than \$3 million.
- Support elimination or reduction of local inventory taxes.
- Oppose mandatory price disclosure on commercial real estate transactions.
- Support legislation that promotes budget certainty and budget savings at the state level.
- Seek federal flexibility to maintain control of state spending in Medicaid and CHIP.

#### **LEGAL AND JUDICIAL REFORM:**

- Support protecting the comprehensive tort reform measures passed by the Texas Legislature that have gone a long way to building a fair, balanced civil justice system in Texas.
- Continue to support the election of local, district, and state judges in Texas.

#### **TRANSPORTATION:**

- Support improved highways, ports of entry and other infrastructures that improve the flow of goods and services, promote tourism and increase public safety and funding.
- Increase transportation funding for MPO's and for rural connectivity (i.e. Interstate and Texas Trunk system routes).
- Support the continued funding and development of expanded rail service and infrastructure, both passenger and freight, in East Texas.
- Support the continued authorization and construction of toll roads.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

THE MISSION OF THE TYLER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS TO ENHANCE THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING, AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE TYLER AREA.

#### **VISION STATEMENT**

DRIVING THE TYLER AREA'S ECONOMIC VITALITY

The Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce  
315 N. Broadway Avenue  
Tyler, Texas 75702