



BEAUMONT • BRIDGE CITY • GROVES • NEDERLAND • ORANGE • PORT ARTHUR • PORT NECHES • VIDOR  
**GOLDEN TRIANGLE DAYS**

*Austin!*

# LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

2021

"ADVANCING TOGETHER...A UNIFIED VOICE  
ADVOCATING FOR AN EXPANDING ECONOMY"

Beaumont - Bridge City - Groves - Nederland - Orange - Port Arthur - Port Neches - Vidor

GOLDEN TRIANGLE DAYS IN AUSTIN IS A DELEGATION OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

## HISTORY OF GOLDEN TRIANGLE DAYS IN AUSTIN

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The Golden Triangle is made up of three main communities, Beaumont, Port Arthur and Orange. Before 2007, each community would hold an event in Austin during the session of the Texas State Legislature, which meets bi-annually, to lobby for support and change in each community. There was a realization that combining the events would create synergies allowing for increased participation.

The birth of Golden Triangle Days in Austin happened in 2007 when the leadership from the three Chambers joined together as a unified group. This bold and effective bond created a larger and stronger presence in Austin to lobby for regional issues and change. It has proven to be a smart decision and one that continues to be utilized in every way possible.

*Sabine River Ford is the proud sponsor of the 2021 Golden Triangle Days Legislative Agenda. Sabine River Ford is locally owned and operated by the Smith Family. Sabine River Ford is the number 1 Ford dealership in Orange County. The dealership has this distinction, because their team makes you and your vehicle needs their top priority. Sabine River Ford and the Smith Family are very active and involved in the community. They believe what stays local grows local.*



# FACTS ABOUT THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

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- \$54 Billion in expansion projects.
- Proposed expansions to existing refineries would make the Golden Triangle the nation's largest refining complex.
- Represents \$30.1 billion in annual gross product and \$1.24 billion in annual taxes for the state of Texas.
- Represents 1.53% of the GDP and receives less than 1% of the state's budgetary allocation and an even smaller percentage based on tax revenue collected.
- Home to 4 major crude refiners including the # 1 refiner in North America.
- Produces 13% of the US transportation fuel.
- Home to 2 DOE Strategic Petroleum Reserve intake facilities accounting for 57% of US crude oil reserves.
- Home of the largest methanol facility in the US.
- Producer of 23% of the shrimp consumed nationwide.
- The Sabine Neches Waterway, our ship channel highway:
  - ✓ Is the # 1 LNG exporter in the nation with 2 other major facilities under construction
  - ✓ Is home to 2 Strategic Military Ports
  - ✓ Is 2nd in the US for Waterborne Commerce
  - ✓ Handles 22% of Texas' commerce and 4.7% of US commerce



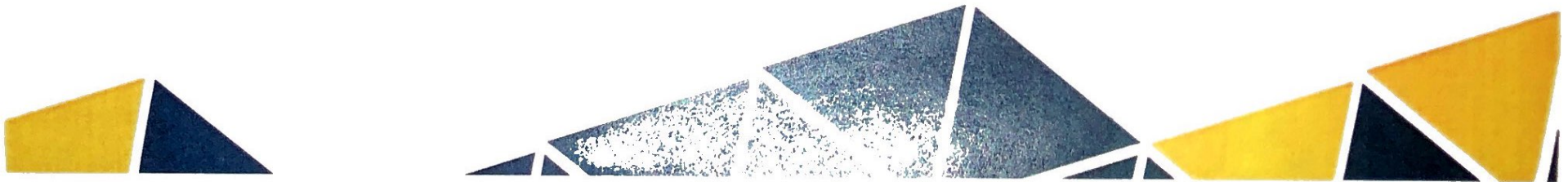
# FACTS ABOUT THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

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- Collects \$5 billion in taxes for the state and \$9 billion in federal revenue annually
- The Intercoastal Waterway is a valuable marine transportation asset that connects Texas to the Florida Coast for interstate commerce.
- Home to 3 major petroleum products pipelines supplying the entire mid-continental US (except New England) with transportation and heating fuel.
- Home to over 35 chemical and petrochemical facilities.
- Home to the Lamar Educational System with over 28,000 students enrolled.
- Home to the #1 Best Community College in Texas (2018 niche.com).
- Home to the only institution in Southeast Texas to provide a Maritime Program to prepare new and experienced mariners for work in their industry.

We have structured our agenda into **six major categories** which are listed on the following pages.

We believe that with support in Austin on these items, the Golden Triangle will continue to grow and serve both the state and our country on critical economic issues.



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**Support:** Continuation and revision of the Ch. 313 tax code to enable Texas to compete for major, capital intensive, projects.

**Support:** Expediting the permitting process through TCEQ, TxDOT, GLO, USACE and other state entities to move projects forward thereby creating jobs and allowing for upgrading infrastructure.

**Support:** Governor's Broadband Development Council's recommendation that the Texas Legislature create a state broadband plan; establish a broadband office and incentivize expansion of coverage into rural areas.

**Support:** The development of upgraded water and sewer services throughout Jefferson and Orange County to serve the industrial, commercial and residential expansion needs of the area by ensuring that SETX communities qualify for available funding.

**Support:** Further expand incentives used for business attraction and retention including: The Texas Enterprise Zone Program, Texas Enterprise Fund, tax incentives under the Texas Economic Development Act (with focus on School Value Limitation), the use of tax abatements, tax increment financing, reinvestment zones, R&D tax credits and the \$1 million small business franchise tax exemption all of which promote economic development and job creation.



# **EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

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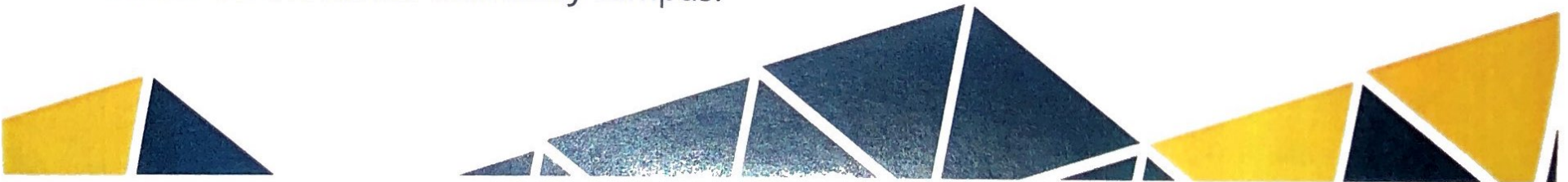
**Support:** Legislation that provides for enhanced local decision-making of local education agencies including increasing the 2.5% revenue caps imposed on school districts to 4% or higher.

**Support:** Legislation that temporarily reduces state standardized testing requirements and suspend or adjust the accountability standards to reflect the loss of instructional time due to COVID-19.

**Support:** Adequate funding for Lamar University, Lamar State College - Orange, Lamar State College - Port Arthur, and Lamar Institute of Technology consistent with their growth and the needs of our future workforce. This includes parity in the funding formula for our State Colleges to match what is received by other 2-year college peers in Texas.

**Support:** Legislation that incentivizes public school districts, community colleges, technical schools and universities to increase the number of graduates in critical fields including the promotion of dual credit programs and the promoting academic excellence in public schools with the emphasis on math, science, and skills required in the modern workplace as well as the promotion of career and technical education as career pathways, leading to job placement.

**Support:** Funding for the establishment of a Carbon Technology Commercialization Center on the Lamar University campus.



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & STEWARDSHIP

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**Support:** Restoration of our ecological system which serves as natural barriers for residential communities, industrial assets and marine economy.

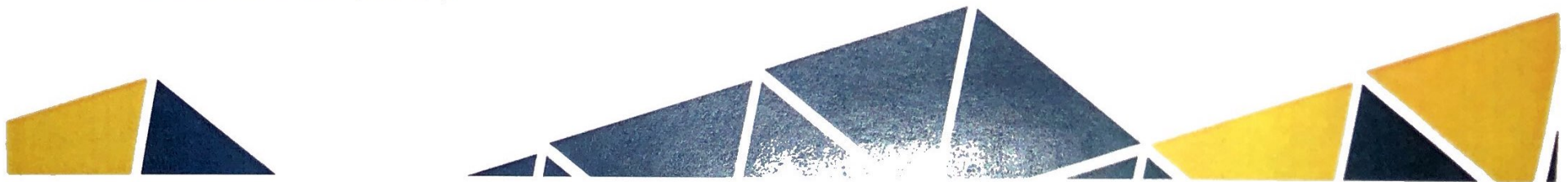
**Support:** Promote water reuse incentives and sustainability initiatives developed by industry.

**Support:** Maintain and fund cost-effective programs like Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) that are critical to reduce air emissions and reach attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards. On a cost per ton basis, TERP is the most cost-effective way to obtain emission reductions.

**Support:** The use of clear and consistent regulations when assessing administrative penalties for violations of environmental regulations and the assignment of Compliance History ratings.

**Support:** Efforts within the State Water Plan that would ensure adequate water supply throughout the state that does not infringe on Southeast Texas; preserving junior water rights protection from legislation on water resources and adequately compensating areas with surplus water resources as part of a comprehensive state water planning effort.

**Support:** Efforts to create and fund, a voluntary program that addresses Carbon emissions through grants and rebates similar to the Texas Emission Reduction Plan (TERP).



# HEALTHCARE

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**Support:** The expansion of healthcare services into underserved and rural communities and the development and construction of a hospital in Orange County.

**Support:** Legislation that preserves hospitals' base [Medicaid] medical payment rates and the enhanced rates for trauma, rural, and safety net hospitals.

**Support:** Increased funding for mental health services for inmates.

**Support:** Programs for the mentally ill and programs for the developmentally disabled thereby reducing burden on Criminal Justice system.

**Support:** Increased funding to ensure timely and appropriate access to inpatient and outpatient, community-based services and supports for Texans with a behavioral health diagnosis.





# INSURANCE & TAXES

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**Support:** Help to insure no unfunded mandates from the state to local taxing entities.

**Support:** Continued work toward private insurance competition in coastal communities.

**Oppose:** Any increase of windstorm rates or expansions.

**Oppose:** Legislation imposing a revenue and/or tax cap on cities and counties.



# TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

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**Support:** The actual funding of the Sabine Neches Waterway Channel Improvement Project, as created by the 86th Legislature.

**Ensure:** That the Sabine River is included in the Maritime 69 designation.

**Support:** To continue the TxDOT rider on the state's budget including rail connectivity.

**Support:** For adequate funding for transportation infrastructure vital to industrial development.

**Support:** Expanding and/or restructuring SH87/82 and SH73 to Sabine Pass according to TxDOT Commercial Carrier Standards to support the tax base for state and local industrial growth.

**Support:** An improved interchange at State Hwy 87 and State Hwy 62.

**Support:** Traffic flow improvement around FM1006 for proposed Industrial growth.

**Support:** An improved timeline for TXDOT projects in SETX to shorten timeline between groundbreaking and construction completion.



# TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

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**Support:** Support the creation of The Gulf Coast Protection District as the State Levee Board and maintain equitable representation on the board.

**Support:** To fund proposed levee system in Orange and Jefferson County and create necessary entity to manage and regulate.

**Support:** Additional funding to TXDOT to improve drainage along State Highways in Orange County.

**Support:** Legislation that enhances the competitive position of Texas ports and consider allowing funds from the Port Access Program to be allocated for infrastructure projects inside the gates of a port.



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