

CITY OF ARLINGTON

2025-2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



ARLINGTON, THE AMERICAN DREAM CITY

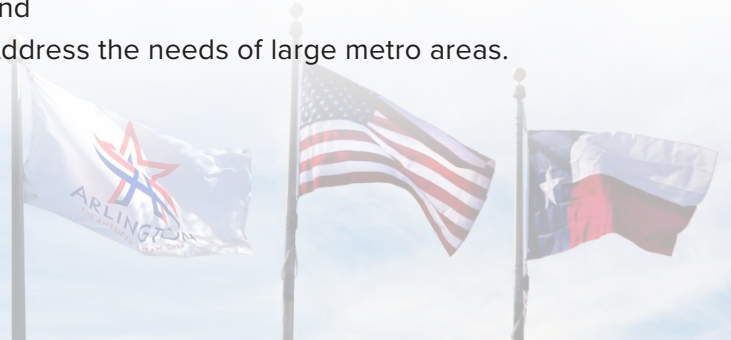
Arlington, located in the center of the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metro area, is The American Dream City. We are home to the Texas Rangers' Globe Life Field, the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium, the General Motors Arlington Assembly Plant, D.R. Horton's corporate headquarters, Six Flags Over Texas, Choctaw Stadium, Texas Live!, The University of Texas at Arlington, the Tarrant County College Southeast Campus and National Medal of Honor Museum as well as a host of global, domestic and family-owned businesses. The American pride in our 400,000 culturally diverse residents is undeniable.



LEGISLATIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As a general policy, the City of Arlington seeks to maintain decision-making in the hands of local elected leaders and preserve the wellbeing of its residents and economy. Arlington residents have the ability to influence decisions impacting their home through the election of council members, participating in public hearings and attending town halls among other things. This adopted legislative agenda directs the work of the City's intergovernmental relations team and other City staff during the 89th Texas Legislative Session. Collaboratively, the City will seek legislative solutions which:

- Maintain municipal decision-making authority in the areas of public health and safety, public property, conservation, revenues and economic development;
- Eliminate or reduce the impact of unfunded mandates; and
- Address the needs of large metro areas.



HISTORY OF ARLINGTON'S HOME RULE

Arlington residents originally approved the City Charter during an election on Jan. 17, 1920, under the Texas Constitution's Home Rule Amendment. The charter outlines Arlington's municipal powers, including the City's ability to levy taxes and incur debt as well as establishes the power and duties of the city manager and city council. Home rule has allowed the city to grow and prosper, from the creation of Lake Arlington and the Entertainment District to policies that help attract major employers such as General Motors and support the growth of UT Arlington.



EDUCATION

Understanding the importance of the need for a robust education system and the role it plays in workforce development, the City maintains strong, supportive partnerships with UT Arlington, Tarrant County College, and Arlington, Mansfield, Kennedale and HEB Independent School Districts. The City of Arlington supports:

- Fully funding a sustainable public school finance system;
- Providing resources, financial or otherwise, to local law enforcement agencies and ISDs for school safety;
- Strengthening current law and penalties related to fake school violence threats; and
- Reducing high stakes accountability for evaluating school performance based on student performance measures.

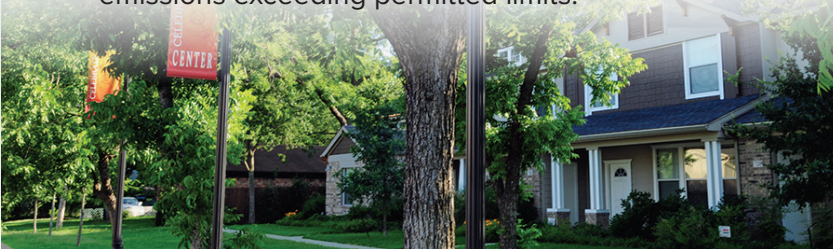
As the State Legislature considers school choice policies, Arlington advocates for transparent and uniform accountability across all institutional environments and for policies that ensure access to transportation and special education.



LAND DEVELOPMENT

The increasing complexity of land use issues can challenge the need for housing and stable residential environments at all income levels. The City of Arlington supports:

- Flexibility for cities related to the establishment of minimum lot size, and carve outs for existing single-family zoned neighborhoods;
- Discretion to regulate accessory dwelling units and short-term rentals;
- Processes that allow cities to inspect dorm-style housing and enforce regulations;
- Increased state licensing, certification and regulation of group homes serving people with varying disabilities/care needs;
- Requiring jurisdictional consent for housing finance corporations to operate in a jurisdiction where they were not created; and
- Allowing cities to regulate and require monitoring of emissions exceeding permitted limits.



TRANSPORTATION

The City of Arlington is committed to enhancing the effectiveness, safety and cleanliness of its transportation system to bolster the economy and improve residents' quality of life. The City Council supports solutions that improve and expand transportation funding while ensuring the flexibility to develop, implement and enforce the City's transportation plans.

The City of Arlington supports legislation that:

- Improves mobility and reduces roadway fatalities;
- Provides additional funding for municipal general aviation airports, including funding for electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft and vertiports, as well as designated funding for space ports; and
- Supports TxDOT's efforts to improve the safety and cleanliness of state roadways across multiple management districts in a single metro area, including legislation that would increase funding for this critical mission.



PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In order to provide responsive, quality public safety and emergency management services to its residents, the Arlington City Council supports legislation that:

- Modifies requirements for open records requests including the removal of the license plate confidentiality requirement for motor vehicles depicted in video recordings held by a governmental body;
- Measures to provide increased, sustainable funding for 9-1-1 services; and
- Updates continuing education curriculum for telecommunicators.



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

The City of Arlington recognizes the need for municipalities to create an environment where its local economy thrives. For this reason, the City Council supports:

- The conservation and continued flexibility of municipal economic development tools;
- Continued support for the Major Events Reimbursement Program and Events Trust Fund;
- Protecting UT Arlington against state university system consolidation and preserving its role in Arlington's economic vitality;
- Legislation that enhances workforce training and pipeline development;
- Expanding the definition of "debt" to include certificates of obligation issued to fund a self-insurance program;
- Preserving the flexibility of election dates for municipalities to hold bond elections; and
- Limiting one-off excepted uses for hotel occupancy taxes and continued discretion of use purposes.





CITY OF ARLINGTON ELECTED OFFICIALS



The Mayor and Districts 6, 7 and 8 are elected at-large and represent the entire city.

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