

2025 State Legislative Agenda

Infrastructure Investment

- **Highway Infrastructure:**
 - Advocate for increased funding to expand and maintain I-35 and other key areas including FM 1472, addressing high traffic volume due to Port Laredo and trade-related activity.
- **Water Infrastructure:**
 - Request state support for water system expansions, improvements, and sustainability initiatives to address population growth and ensure long-term water security.
- **Border Security Infrastructure:**
 - Secure funds for enhanced facilities and technology at border crossings to improve efficiency and safety.

Economic Development

- **Port Laredo Investments:**
 - Secure funding for modernization of the Port of Laredo, including technology upgrades to improve logistics efficiency and trade volume handling.
- **Workforce Development:**
 - Advocate for state-supported training programs in logistics, healthcare, and renewable energy to align with local industry needs.
- **Affordable Housing:**
 - Request state incentives for affordable housing developments to meet workforce and population growth demands.
- **Small Business Support:**
 - Propose state grants and tax incentives for small businesses in Laredo, particularly those in logistics, trade, and manufacturing sectors.
- **Technology and Innovation Hub:**
 - Seek funding to develop Laredo as a logistics and technology innovation hub, fostering public-private partnerships to modernize trade operations.
- **Grid Vulnerability and Economic Risk**
 - Advocate for targeted grid infrastructure improvements, including the expansion of transmission capacity and the integration of energy storage solutions, to meet increasing industrial and residential demand

- Advocate for prioritization of infrastructure upgrades in high growth areas such as Laredo.

Public Safety

- **Border-Specific Support:**
 - Seek additional funding to expand law enforcement and emergency medical services, addressing unique challenges faced by border cities.
- **Emergency Preparedness:**
 - Advocate for state support to improve disaster and emergency response infrastructure and resources.
- **Community Policing Initiatives:**
 - Request funding for localized, relationship-based strategies to improve public trust and reduce crime rates.
- **Border Health and Safety:**
 - Advocate for integrated emergency response centers near border crossings, equipped to handle health and security emergencies related to cross-border activity.
- **Funding for First Responders:**
 - Push for state programs to support recruitment and retention of law enforcement and emergency personnel in border cities.

Healthcare Access

- **Expanded Services:**
 - Push for state investment in healthcare infrastructure, including behavioral health facilities, to meet Laredo's growing and underserved population needs.
- **Cross-Border Health Initiatives:**
 - Advocate for collaborative health programs addressing shared public health concerns with neighboring regions.
- **Mental Health Expansion:**
 - Advocate for funding streams to establish mental health centers and resources in Laredo and surrounding areas.
- **Healthcare Workforce Incentives:**
 - Advocate for state-funded incentive programs aimed at attracting and retaining medical professionals in Laredo.

- **Medical Examiner and Forensic Services Funding:**
 - Request state funding to enhance forensic and medical examiner services in Laredo to ensure timely and efficient handling of investigations, addressing critical needs in medical examination and forensic operations.

Environmental Sustainability

- **Air Quality Improvement Programs:**
 - Partner with the state on initiatives aimed at reducing air pollution, particularly from trade-related activity and vehicular emissions.
- **Water Sustainability Projects:**
 - Request funding for innovative water conservation programs and infrastructure to ensure sustainable access for future generations.
- **Urban Sustainability Development:**
 - Advocate for state incentives for green urban development, including tree canopies, mixed-use projects, and eco-friendly building codes.
- **Public Education on Conservation:**
 - Propose state-funded campaigns to educate residents and businesses about water conservation and sustainability practices.
- **Urban Heat Mitigation:**
 - Seek funding for urban heat reduction initiatives, including reflective pavements, shaded bus stops, and community cooling centers.

Governance and Funding Flexibility

- **Amend Budget Growth Cap Legislation:**
 - Advocate for a population growth adjustment or border city exemption to the 3.5% cap, allowing Laredo to generate sufficient revenue to meet service demands.
- **Flexible Use of Taxes:**
 - Support legislation combining the sports venue and 4B taxes for more efficient and versatile allocation of funds.
- **Service Delivery Burdens:**
 - Advocate for legislation to reduce the financial burden of unfunded state mandates on municipalities like Laredo.

Education and Workforce Development

- **Workforce Pipeline Development:**
 - Support the development of vocational education partnerships with local community colleges to provide certifications and skills training for high-demand jobs in the area.