

## 2025 State Legislative Agenda

### *Infrastructure Investment*

- **Highway Infrastructure:**
  - Advocate for increased funding to expand and maintain I-35 and other key highways, 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.

### *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 mental 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.

### ***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.