



# **88th Session Legislative Priorities**

# Top Priorities

1. Ensuring professors, staff, and students are not required to affirm an ideology in order to participate in any university activity.
2. Oppose public funding being used to support the work of an employee, committee, department, or office dedicated to promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) or related woke, anti-American ideas.
3. Repealing or eroding tuition “deregulation.” For example, capping or freezing the amount public colleges and universities can raise tuition and fees to the previous year’s rate plus inflation.
4. Increasing parental choice in education, preferably through the implementation of education savings accounts in which funding follows the student to the education services of his or her parents’ choosing.
5. Banning taxpayer-funded lobbying.
6. Oppose any government program designed to award corporate welfare or engage in cronyism by creating winners and losers in the market.

# Top Priorities

7. Any legislation that protects children from being exposed to sexually explicit content or activity—such as drag shows, online porn, or sexually explicit material in libraries and schools—in any public or private entity.
8. Banning doctors from performing medical “gender transitions,” including through the use of surgery, hormone therapy, and puberty blockers, especially on those under the age of 18.
9. Improving border security through strategically increasing the amount of DPS troopers and Texas National Guard presence, constructing fences and barriers where lawfully accessible, and investing in and implementing new technologies.
10. A measure to eliminate property taxes or put us on a pathway to eliminate property taxes, preferably by using general revenue surplus to buy down rates. The school maintenance and operations tax should be most prioritized.

# Higher Education\*

**\*This applies to Public Institutions**

## Favor:

- Holding universities accountable for enforcing campus free speech laws.
  - Ensuring professors, staff, and students are not required to affirm an ideology in order to participate in any university activity.
  - Repealing or eroding tuition “deregulation.” For example, capping or freezing the amount public colleges and universities can raise tuition and fees to the previous year’s rate plus inflation. <sup>[1]</sup>
  - An appropriations rider requiring any cuts in higher education funding be taken from research and administrative overhead as opposed to core undergraduate teaching functions.
  - Shifting a large amount of the state’s appropriated money from individual universities to the TEXAS Grant Program. <sup>[2]</sup>
  - Conducting an efficiency audit of public colleges and universities.
  - Holding universities accountable for programs of study that yield high debt-to-earnings ratios and reward universities for programs of study that yield low debt-to-earnings ratios.
  - Requiring universities to communicate to students and their parents the typical income earned by graduates with each major.
  - Shifting career-focused programs at post-secondary institutions to an employment outcomes-based funding model.
  - Transparency in mandatory fees imposed on students at public institutions of higher education.
  - Transparency in budgeting, especially to show how much funding is allocated to administration and other expenses rather than teaching and research.
  - Requiring institutions of higher education to accept the Classic Learning Test, <sup>[3]</sup> or other high-quality alternatives to the SAT and ACT, as an acceptable standardized test in college admissions.
  - Eliminating any so-called “gun-free zones” still in place at public universities.
  - Increasing innovation in higher education through accreditation reform.
  - Reforming tenure practices so tenure is granted based on job performance.
- Political beliefs should be excluded from consideration.

# Higher Education\*

**\*This applies to Public Institutions**

## Oppose:

- The restriction of the time, place, and manner of speech and assembly beyond what is absolutely necessary to protect normal academic and institutional activities.
- Public funding being used to support the work of an employee, committee, department, or office dedicated to promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) <sup>[4]</sup> or related woke, anti-American ideas.
- Using race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual preference as a factor in determining either acceptance or the amount of state scholarship or grant dollars a student will receive. <sup>[5]</sup>
- Using race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual preference as a factor in selecting the beneficiaries of any privilege for students, professors, and staff.
- The current requirement mandating a certain portion of each student's tuition be set-aside for financial aid.
- Tuition Revenue or Capital Construction bond packages.
- In-state tuition rates and all financial assistance for illegal immigrants.
- The "Top Ten Percent" Rule and any other automatic admission policies.
- Universities lobbying with tax dollars, student fees, or tuition dollars.
- Any attempt to weaken or eliminate the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

# K-12 Education

## Favor:

- Increasing parental choice in education, preferably through the implementation of education savings accounts in which funding follows the student to the education services of his or her parents' choosing.
- Increasing transparency of curriculum, classroom activities, and district initiatives and financials.
- Prohibiting the teaching of radical gender theory and other ideas contrary to the definitions of natural man and woman.
- Requiring educators and students be identified by the pronouns related to their natural, biological sex.
- Eliminating Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) programs in schools. <sup>[6]</sup>
- Protecting students from obscene and sexually explicit material in schools.
- Ensuring public school curriculum (and any other classroom activities) teach the principles espoused by the American founding documents, western civilization, and Christian values.
- Prohibiting an activity from counting towards an educator's required professional development hours if it promotes critical theory or Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).
- Eliminating the use of property taxes for public school maintenance and operation funding.
- Ensuring school districts are directing more of their budgets to classroom teachers and student instruction.
- Giving school districts the flexibility to review and dismiss underperforming teachers.
- Continuing to do away with the one-size-fits-all approach to education by increasing options for students to pursue careers in skilled trades by earning training and workforce certifications demanded by the local market.
- Eliminating the Texas Education Agency and giving its responsibilities to the State Board of Education.
- Legislation protecting teachers' and staff's ability to effectively manage classroom and school environments and enforce consequences for disruptive behavior, while ensuring that childish misbehavior is not unreasonably punished.
- Improving programs which allow educators to conceal carry on campus.

# K-12 Education

## Oppose:

- Government interference with the educational programs of private schools.
- Measures limiting the authority of homeschooling parents or discouraging parents from homeschooling their children.
- Any restriction of the exemptions from public school vaccine requirements.
- Any increase in funding for education that does not accompany structural reform. <sup>[7]</sup>
- State regulations that will necessitate school districts increase spending.
- The “minimum salary schedule” for teachers. Compensation should be tailored to the individual based on merits and results.
- Expansion and increased funding to pre-kindergarten in public schools.
- Limiting food choices in public schools for “nutritional” purposes.
- The universal implementation of federal curriculum standards.
- The teaching of hateful curricula or incorrect curricula such as Critical Race Theory or other forms of discriminatory content in public schools.
- The infusion of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), critical theory, or other Marxist values into school district policies.

# Culture and Civics

## Favor:

- Protecting the lives of unborn children through legislation that further limits abortion in Texas, including abortion enabled by mail-in abortion pills and negligent law enforcement.
- Legislation that protects children from being exposed to sexually explicit content or activity—such as drag shows, online porn, or sexually explicit material in libraries and schools—in any public or private entity.
- Legislation that restricts someone from accessing pornography, especially those under the age of 18.
- Requiring that a person's state identification reflects their biological sex.
- Requiring that state laws reflect the true definition of marriage: the natural union of one man and one woman.
- Legislation that limits no-fault divorce.
- Eliminating the Texas State Lottery.

## Oppose:

- Regulations and fines against private entities that refuse to provide services they object to for religious or personal reasons.
- Texas' "hate crimes" laws and laws that give preferential treatment to particular segments of society.
- Expanding regulated gambling, including resort gambling, in Texas.
- Legislation that enables discriminatory hiring practices, such as affirmative action.
- Restricting Texas' ability to utilize capital punishment where appropriate and necessary.



# Defending Liberty

## Favor:

- The Expansion of Second Amendment rights, including the complete elimination of so called “gun-free” zones on public property, loosening the restrictions on a law-abiding citizen’s ability to purchase guns and ammunition, and expanding constitutional carry and LTC to everyone 18-years old or older.
- Legislation protecting the rights of a student to possess a firearm in their dorm room or apartment on a college campus.
- Legislation protecting an individual who uses a weapon in self defense from unreasonable punishment.
- Exempting intrastate-produced firearms from federal firearms laws and the authority of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE).
- Any legislation that prevents municipalities and counties from enacting overbearing regulations that encroach on personal liberties, employment, and property rights.
- Protecting private property rights by limiting the government’s power of eminent domain, protecting against eminent domain corruption and abuse, and ensuring that property owners receive full compensation for the value of their property.
- Abolishing civil asset forfeiture or reforming civil asset forfeiture preferably by raising the burden of proof and shifting the burden of proof to the government.
- Protecting law-abiding citizens from having their privacy violated online, including by data collection techniques, by the government or private entities.
- Allowing the direct sale of automobiles to Texans.
- Returning the statewide legal purchasing age of tobacco and nicotine products to 18 years old.
- Reforming zoning laws such that the building of residential properties is better enabled and more Texans can access and afford housing.
- Ensuring due process rights for police officers that district attorneys put on the Brady List. <sup>[8]</sup>

## Oppose:

- Any effort to restrict unreasonably the ability of law-abiding citizens to film police officers while in commission of their duties.
- Any restrictions of religious liberty on private entities or individuals.

# Fiscal

## Favor:

- “Truth in Budgeting.” The Legislature should fully balance the biennial budget without the use of deception and/or accounting tricks.
- A constitutional amendment requiring a zero-based budget and any legislation requiring agencies to also use the zero-based budgeting method.<sup>[9]</sup>
- A constitutional amendment requiring that no political subdivision raises spending by more than the combined growth of population and the rate of inflation.
- A constitutional amendment requiring two-thirds approval of both chambers of the Legislature for any new tax or fee increase.<sup>[10]</sup>
- A measure to eliminate property taxes or put us on a pathway to eliminate property taxes, preferably by using general revenue surplus to buy down rates. The school maintenance and operations tax should be most prioritized.
- Abolishing the franchise tax.
- Legislation that allows homeowners to protest their property tax assessments remotely rather than in-person.
- Eliminating government waste.
- Eliminating or limiting the expansion of government welfare programs that disincentivize independence, work, earned income, best financial practices, or other virtuous behavior such as marriage and family building.
- If a new government program or type of public assistance is introduced, we support it incentivizing virtuous behavior.

## Oppose:

- The budget growing by more than the combined growth of population and rate of inflation; ideally the budget shouldn't grow at all.
- The creation of any new taxes or fees.
- Diverting dedicated funds from their specified purposes.
- Any government program designed to award corporate welfare or engage in cronyism by creating winners and losers in the market.
- So-called “green” energy tax breaks, including carbon emission taxes and dividends, electric car subsidies, and wind energy subsidies.
- Any regulations that unnecessarily burden business or reduce incentives for expansion.
- Any investment of state funds in companies that consider ESG<sup>[11]</sup> scores or similar factors when making investment decisions.
- Any investment of state funds in companies that purchase single family housing en masse with the intention of renting them out.

# Healthcare

## Favor:

- Legislation allowing innovative, cost-efficient models of care delivery or coverage.
- Expanding scope of practice for all medical professionals to the fullest extent of their training.
- Allowing APRNs to practice independently, and reforming the current convoluted prescriptive authority model for APRNs.
- Interstate compacts to allow for more choice in insurance providers.
- Increasing transparency in healthcare costs, especially in a way that makes costs readable and easily digestible to the consumer and increases the consumer's ability to use the prices to shop for the most efficient care.
- Banning doctors from performing medical "gender transitions," including through the use of surgery, hormone therapy, and puberty blockers, especially on those under the age of 18.
- Revising the dispute resolution process in Texas Health and Safety Code 166.046, especially the 10-day rule, to give more rights to patients and their decision-making surrogates.

## Oppose:

- Expanding Medicaid or any attempt to further socialize the delivery of healthcare and medicine.
- Increasing taxes or fees to fund public healthcare programs.
- Excessive regulations that limit patient access to quality, affordable healthcare, including insurance coverage mandates and regulations that encourage industry consolidation.
- Price controls of prescription drugs.
- Government healthcare mandates which force violations of the sincerely held principles or beliefs of healthcare providers, private religious institutions, entities, businesses, and individuals.
- Taxpayer-funded contraception.

# Immigration

## Favor:

- Improving border security by strategically increasing the amount of DPS troopers and the Texas National Guard presence, constructing fences and barriers where lawfully accessible, and investing in and implementing new technologies.
- Increasing efforts to detain illegal immigrants within Texas' borders and return them to ports of entry.
- Requiring all employers to use the "E-Verify" system during the hiring process.
- Fully enforcing laws requiring documentation of legal status in the U.S. to receive a driver's license.
- Requiring that all licenses issued to non-citizens expire when the individual's legal status in the U.S. terminates, and for that expiration date and residency status to be clearly noted on their licenses.
- Declaring an invasion at the border.
- Allowing officers of the law to inquire about legal status during a lawful stop, detention, or arrest.
- Fully enforcing laws requiring proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote.

## Oppose:

- Illegal immigrants receiving any state- or locally-funded benefits, including entitlements, healthcare, or education.

# Government & Ethics

## Favor:

- Banning taxpayer-funded lobbying.
- Preventing the state and political subdivisions from using taxpayer-funded resources to send the dues of public employees to private organizations, and any other legislation that ensures taxpayer money is not used to support unions or partisan politics. YCT favors empowering individual employees rather than public-sector unions.
- A constitutional amendment that would enable the Texas Legislature to be called into special session with a petition of 2/3rds of the members of each house of the Legislature.
- Reforming the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 and any legislation that would limit executive overreach. YCT favors requiring that any declaration of emergency made by the Governor lasts a maximum of 30 days unless extended by the Legislature.
- Ensuring public and transparent record voting for all committee, subcommittee, and floor votes taken.
- Increasing the ability to hold accountable—including by removal from office or disbarring—rogue district attorneys who fail to execute their ethical duty to enforce the law and prosecute criminals.
- Banning racial, ethnic, and gender preferences in hiring, promotion, and contracting by state agencies and other political subdivisions of the state.
- Conducting a comprehensive review of all Texas roads and highways for the purpose of improving safety.
- Requiring all property tax increases above the no-new-revenue rate to gain taxpayer-approval via an election at the unified November election date.
- Ensuring only conservative republican committee chairs.
- Moving school board and local elections to the unified November election date.
- Strengthening election integrity by enforcing existing election laws, expanding audits, restoring the penalty for voter fraud to a felony, granting the Attorney General jurisdiction to prosecute election fraud cases, eliminating voting by mail, securing the integrity of absentee voting, and any other measures that eliminate voter fraud.

## Oppose:

- Allowing collective bargaining by public employees, or any measure to erode the state's "Right to Work" laws.
- Taking redistricting out of the hands of a democratically-elected legislative body.
- Shifting to a system of appointing, rather than directly electing, judges.
- Efforts to cap campaign contributions or spending.
- Targeting of individuals and organizations for political purposes through campaign finance law or expanding the reach of the Texas Ethics Commission.
- Municipalities annexing land without the consent of the affected residents.

# Footnotes

- [1] “The tuition deregulation experiment has failed. Since the Legislature placed the power to raise tuition in the hands of unelected bureaucrats in 2003, tuition has risen rapidly statewide. The Legislature should act immediately to limit tuition increases.”
- [2] “Toward EXcellence, Access and Success Grant Program (TEXAS Grant). Allowing state funds to follow students will increase competition in higher education, thus increasing the effectiveness of universities in Texas.”
- [3] The Classic Learning Test is a standardized test that is more rigorous than the SAT and ACT and is grounded in the classical, liberal arts tradition. Classical education restores education to its true meaning: forming the soul and teaching students to love the true, the good, and the beautiful. Classical education is a solution to the woke curriculum taught in many schools and should, at the least, not be discouraged. <https://www.cltexam.com/>
- [4] DEI is code language for policies and ideas that view people primarily as their race or gender/sexual identity, rather than as individuals. DEI is a rejection of merit and overcoming adversity; instead, it promotes coddling those who the woke class consider disadvantaged).
- [5] By creating quotas or giving preferential treatment to specific segments of society, the most empirically deserving are often deprived of opportunities that have otherwise been earned through their own hard work. YCT has long opposed affirmative action in college admissions and would rather see a system in place where a sequential number was used through the entirety of the process so to ensure that no identifying information itself was used to decide admissions.
- [6] The goal of CSE is to prepare students for sexual activity. It promotes unethical contraception and abortion, and does not teach correct sexual ethics such as reserving sex for marriage. Link: [https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/report\\_downloads/demystifying-data-handouts\\_0.pdf](https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/report_downloads/demystifying-data-handouts_0.pdf)
- [7] The problems with public education are structural, not fiscal. Education can be improved through market reforms, not increased spending. The bulk of education spending needs to be moved from administrative bureaucracy to the classroom.
- [8] The Brady List is a public database with information including police misconduct.
- [9] Zero-based budgeting is a method of budgeting in which the budget is crafted from a base of zero, thus ensuring that all budget items and amounts are actively considered each budget period.
- [10] Fees refers to required payments as a way for the government to raise revenue; it does not refer to penalties used as a way to prevent certain undesirable behavior.
- [11] ESG stands for Environmental, Social, and Governance. An ESG score rates a company's policies and practices often according to woke standards, such as contribution to climate change or diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).