

For additional information:
Brittney Rodriguez
Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
512.577.1089
brodriguez@gahcc.org

The Texas Hispanic Chambers of Commerce Stand In Unity on Voting

We, the undersigned Hispanic Chamber of Commerce CEOs, unequivocally stand committed to the need to safeguard the fundamental right of voting for all Texans. Recent efforts by the Texas Legislature, specifically those reflected in House Bill 6 and Senate Bill 7, aim to erode this inalienable right. As Hispanic business leaders representing state-wide communities driving innovation and economic development, these bills threaten to establish barriers for citizens to vote. Gaining a legislative foothold under the guise of election integrity, these and other bills aim to restrict access to absentee ballots, limit extended early voting hours, prohibit drive-thru voting and complicate voting-by-mail initiatives. As leaders of Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, we are small and minority-owned business advocates. Our unique perspective as business and cultural stewards informs our recognition of these legislative initiatives as deeply concerning, strategically restrictive, and harmful to forward progress.

Adoption of these laws will significantly and severely impact the future of the Texas economy. Similar legislative initiatives in other states, focused on voter suppression, are concerning indicators of what could await the Texas economy during a time of pivotal recovery. Additionally, proposed voter suppression legislation is poised to affect women and minority-owned small business owners and employees most. The small business communities with whom we work are known to employ full and often unconventional schedules that rely heavily on vital initiatives such as early voting, which provide voters greater flexibility and accessibility. As such, the detrimental economic impacts of this proposed legislation pose a very real risk to the future vitality of the Texas economy. The latest estimates indicate that implementation of voter restriction measures will lead to an overall decrease in business activity, from lower earnings and employment losses, to reduced statewide household purchasing power by -\$14.7 billion, by 2025.

According to the Texas State Demographer, Latinos will represent Texas' largest demographic as of mid-2021. As members of this deeply influential and powerful Latino business community, whose voices cannot be silenced, we are acutely aware of the historical marginalization that communities of color have faced, especially with regard to voting rights. These historical disparities continue to propagate current economic inequity. By constructing these legislative barriers to voting, the Texas Legislature will continue to perpetuate economic inequity and deny essential demographics the right to equal representation.

Therefore, we strongly urge our legislators to vote against these types of legislative initiatives.

Signed,
The Texas Hispanic Business Community and Chamber of Commerce CEOs

