

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE August 5, 2022

TO Honorable Members of the Workforce, Education, and Equity Committee

SUBJECT **WEE Legislative Priorities**

The 88<sup>th</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature will convene in January 2023 and many issues affecting local governments will be considered. This memorandum provides information on recommendations submitted to the Office of Government Affairs for possible inclusion in the City of Dallas Legislative Program. Items included in the adopted legislative program will be communicated to the Texas Legislature.

## **Workforce**

- Increased access and pathway to citizenship for immigrants including recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Temporary Protected Status and Humanitarian Parolees (OEI)
- Legislation that supports clean energy job creation and training (OEQS)
- Developing programs that include shoring up ID, birth certificate, food, security, housing employment for successful reentry into society (OCC)
- Funding for job training in any census tract with poverty level 35% or more and willing applicants. (OCC)

## **Equity**

- Protections for renters or any other policy intervention to increase renter rights in eviction cases (OCC/OEI)
- Requiring evictions be removed from credit reports when the tenant wins the case (OCC/OEI)
- Addressing income discrimination in renting (OCC/OEI)
- Investing \$300B in unspent ARPA funds into rental assistance/housing stabilization (OCC/OEI)
- Promote funding for farmers markets, double dollars programs, and other programs that help lower-income residents of food deserts access nutritious food and leverage available benefits (OCC)
- Continuing TDCJ funding allocation to Dallas and Houston for re-entry service (OCC/OEI)
- Increasing access to citizenship for immigrants including recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Temporary Protected Status and Humanitarian Parolees (OEI)
- Any regulation of predatory lenders - such as payday lenders and auto title (OCC)
- Advocating for the removal of the "period tax" (OCC)
- Increasing WIC Benefits (OCC)
- Extending "notice period" for renters regarding Notices to Vacate to 21 days (OEI)
- Amending state's Texas Fair Housing Act to include "Source of Income" as a protected class that will include Section 8 vouchers as a legal protected source of income (OEI)
- Amending state's Texas Property Statute to include penalties for landlords engaging in retaliatory action if a tenant seeks to exercise their rights pursuant to the lease agreement and/or if a tenant seeks protection from a regulatory or enforcement agency such as Code Compliance or a fair housing agency (OEI)

- Requiring housing provider/owner to inform tenants of the sale of property at least 60 days in advance of the sale (OEI)
- Adopting a “Rent Stabilization” statute that protects tenants from inflationary conditions and wild swings in the economy (OEI)

### Education

- Protecting first amendment rights of Texans in school, public, and academic libraries (LIB)
- Texas State Library & Archives Commission-affordable e-resources for work and study (LIB)
- Board-funding for grants to develop Open Educational Resources and expand usage of OERTX and OER (LIB)
- Expanding cooperation between ISDs and Cities (OEI)
- Digital Equity (CMO)
- Providing online educational programs for youth in school (OEI)
- Funding increase for Social, Emotional Learning efforts (OEI)

The Office of Government Affairs is currently reviewing recommendations from all City departments. The final program will be presented to the full Council during the first quarter of FY23.



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