

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

Good Jobs at Home

Hardworking Texans have the right to good jobs to support their families and invest in their future. Texas Democrats understand we must have an economy that works for all, not just the wealthy. The Texas Republicans reckless reductions in state funding for education at all levels will leave us vulnerable in attracting the jobs of the future. To this end we propose the following as the correct approach to providing the jobs to make our communities strong and resilient long into the future:

- We support requiring a minimum wage that is at least \$15-an-hour that is indexed to keep it from eroding again. No longer should corporate profits be subsidized by letting corporations pay poverty-level wages that leave the taxpayer footing the bill for public benefits to their employees.
- We support the ability of individuals to come together collectively and negotiate their wages, healthcare and work conditions to improve job safety and eliminate the stagnation of wages and reduction of benefits. We oppose anti-union laws and policies, such as so-called “right-to-work” laws, and support laws and agencies that protect the safety of workers and the payment of prevailing wages for public projects.
- We support working with our friends in Labor to maintain the social safety nets that Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid provide, stop attacks on public sector workers and assist in the fights to restore a sound banking system, reinstate Glass-Steagall, and make homes, healthcare and college affordable again.
- We oppose discrimination in employment and support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.
- We categorically oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership.
- We also categorically oppose so-called “free trade” proposals which hurt American jobs and workers, the environment, and the American consumer. We support fair trade deals to bring back and protect Texan and American jobs. Trade policy must combat child and slave labor, sweatshops, environmental degradation and other practices that turn global trade into a race to the bottom. Trade policy should “level up” wages and working conditions by ensuring that foreign workers share in their country’s economic gains and become customers for American products.
- We support eliminating tax policies that reward businesses for shipping jobs overseas and encourage reform that strengthens investment in domestic job creation and protection.
- We support strengthening small business by replacing the Republican “margins tax” with a fair business tax.
- We urge our energy sector to transition to a much needed balance between fossil and renewable energy.

- We support appropriate regulation of utilities, banks and insurance to assure affordability and stability;
- We support holding individuals in Wall Street, big business and government personally accountable to prevent mortgage, antitrust, loan and insurance abuses and to protect workers' retirement pensions and savings;
- We oppose foreign practices that effectively restrict access to markets for American businesses;
- We support promotion of and assistance for the arts and music;
- We oppose foreign-owned U.S. toll roads that require Americans to contribute to the balance-of-trade deficit when they travel on local roads.
- We support a complete overhaul of our infrastructure to bring roads, bridges, utility and internet services, schools, ports, parks and public buildings up to appropriate standards and the capital investment needed for such an undertaking.
- We support the U.S. space program, including both manned and unmanned flight using the U. S.-developed and built CST-100 Space Transportation System, and the revitalized International Space Station.
- We urge governmental entities to “Buy Texas” and Buy America” and we support investigation into the speculative manipulation of food, fuel and metal markets.