



Greater Austin Hispanic
Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 87th Texas Legislative Special Session Summary

1st Legislative Special Session (July 8th, 2021 - August 6th, 2021):

For the duration of the State's first Legislative Special Session of the 87th Texas Legislature, the GAHCC monitored bills considered most impactful to the business community, Latino business community and advocacy for GAHCC members.

On July 30th, 2021, the GAHCC partnered with its fellow Multi-Ethnic Chamber Alliance (MECA) Chambers and issued a joint statement in opposition of restrictive legislation for state voting rights. Please see the statement attached [or view here](#). The Austin Business Journal further provided even greater visibility for the statement in [this feature](#).

Additional legislation monitored by the GAHCC included:

- **SB 1:** Relating to election integrity and security, including by preventing fraud in the conduct of elections in this state; increasing criminal penalties; creating criminal offenses; providing civil penalties.
 - GAHCC Position: **Against**
 - Status: **Did Not Pass**

- **SB 26:** Relating to the extension of the expiration of certain parts of the Texas Economic Development Act.
 - GAHCC Position: **For**
 - Status: **Did Not Pass**

- **HB 3:** Relating to election integrity and security, including by preventing fraud in the conduct of elections in this state; increasing criminal penalties; creating criminal offenses.

- GAHCC Position: **Against**
- Status: **Did Not Pass**

For more information regarding this and other GAHCC legislative initiatives, please contact

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About the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GAHCC):

Established in 1973, the GAHCC is a 501(c)6 nonprofit organization whose primary goal is to continue the advancement and progression of a strong and stable economic culture for Hispanic Businesses. Our Board and Members represent diverse industries from corporations, small businesses, nonprofits, to governmental agencies that touch all corners of the Greater Austin area. The mission of the GAHCC is to be the leading resource and advocate for the Hispanic business community.



We, the Multi-Ethnic Chamber Alliance, believe the expansion of free enterprise is directly related to the freedom of its citizens. Freedom is preserved within our democracy when we provide citizens free and fair access to elections that protect the fundamental rights of all Texans.

We believe wholly that Texas elections should provide for convenience, transparency and security for all Texans.

We believe the right to vote is inalienable and sacred. We further believe that our democratic process is strengthened and most prosperous when citizen participation is increased.

We stand unified, as a nonpartisan coalition, in our call to elected leaders across Texas to support reforms that make democracy more accessible. We oppose any proposed changes that restrict eligible voter access to the ballot.

We urge business and civic leaders to join us in our call upon lawmakers to uphold the ever-inclusive foundational democratic principle of equality.

In supporting a stronger, trustworthy democracy, we will ensure the progress and ongoing elevation of our economy.

Signatories:

