



# The 2019 Liberty Action Agenda

## PROSPERITY FOR ALL TEXANS

### 1. *Adopt a Conservative Texas Budget for 2020-21:*

Pass a Conservative Texas Budget that limits spending increases to less than population growth plus inflation, in order to continue the economic prosperity in Texas.

### 2. *Limit the Growth of State Government and Cut Property Taxes in Half:*

- Restrict the growth of appropriations of state funds to approximately 5% per biennium.
- Return the resulting surplus state revenue to taxpayers by buying down the “Robin Hood” school property tax.
- Require voter approval for any increase of property tax revenue of more than 2.5 percent or population growth plus inflation, whichever is less.

### 3. *Limit the Growth of Local Governments:*

By law, limit the growth of the Texas local government budgets to no more than 4 percent or population growth plus inflation, whichever is less.

### 4. *Eliminate the Texas Business Margins Tax:*

Spur economic growth and create more jobs in Texas by eliminating the Texas business margins tax.

### 5. *Let Markets Lower Energy Costs and Improve Grid Reliability:*

End state and local subsidies for all energy sources to promote a free enterprise approach to energy production and improve long-term reliability for the grid.

### 6. *Expand Texas Water Markets:*

Protect the seniority of water rights transferred between basins to keep Texans supplied with water.

### 7. *Bring Competition to the Texas Title Insurance Market:*

Eliminate Texas’ price fixing of title insurance policies that costs Texas consumers as much as \$186 million per year by letting companies set prices in the market.

## EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL TEXANS

### 8. *Create a Student-centered School Finance System*

Strengthen public education solvency and improve public education by re-designing the school finance system to be student-centered, thereby ensuring true choice in education and portability of funds.

### 9. *Expand Charter School Opportunity:*

Remove barriers to entry for high-performing charter school operators.

### 10. *Prioritize American History/Civics Education for All Texans:*

The Texas Legislature should restore the true intent of existing law that requires, in universities and K-12 schools, the teaching of American history and government, not the weak substitute courses that have become commonplace; the Legislature should also focus on strengthening civics education in every Texas secondary school. Similarly, State Board of Education and university regents should reform our history and civics curriculum to ensure students learn basic American history, government, economics, and Western civilization.

**11. *Provide Greater Workforce Training Options:***

Improve coordination between high schools, community colleges, and industry to provide technical training and education opportunities tied to needs in the market.

**12. *Restore Freedom of Speech at Texas Universities:***

Eliminate restrictive speech codes on campuses to protect the free flow of ideas regardless of ideology or viewpoint.

## ACCOUNTABILITY FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

**13. *End Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying:***

Ensure that taxpayers do not fund the special interests in Austin by ending government funding of lobbyists.

**14. *Protect State Pensions & Taxpayers:***

Convert state pensions from defined-benefit plans to defined-contribution plans, a cash balance system, or a hybrid system.

**15. *Require Voter Approval for City Annexation:***

Expand existing protections to all Texans by requiring voter approval before any municipalities can annex new land.

**16. *Require Full Transparency of all Government Spending:***

By law, require a clear, accessible report of all government spending including, but not limited to, federal spending flowing into any local or state government in Texas.

**17. *Enhance Government Efficiency:***

Implement a Texas-style Grace Commission to root out waste and inefficiency in all levels of Texas government, including federal government regulations that affect Texas.

**18. *End Government Collection of Union Dues:***

Protect taxpayers from the inappropriate collection of union dues for state employees.

**19. *Protect Texans' Assets from Unjust Government Takings:***

Stop governments from taking citizens' property through civil asset forfeiture without a criminal conviction.

**20. *Enact Grand Jury Reform:***

Reign in overzealous prosecution of Texans by reforming Texas' grand jury system.

**21. *Promote Accountability and Transparency in State Government:***

Require elected officials to disclose all sources of income from government entities and require state officials, rather than private citizens, to disclose lobbying gifts/expenditures.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES FOR ALL TEXANS

**22. *Free Texas Medicaid from Washington Control:***

Use waivers to free Texas Medicaid—and Texans' healthcare—from control by Washington, D.C. Pass a resolution calling for full, clean block grants of non-expanded Medicaid to states for cost savings.

**23. *Increase Access to More Medical Practitioners:***

Expand nurse practitioners' scope of practice.

**24. *Protect Parental Rights:***

Respect parents and protect children by ending excessive state interference into families.

**25. *Make Foster Care Safer for Children:***

Expand decentralization of foster care system to all regions in the state.