



# The LIBRE Initiative

## 2023 Texas Legislative Agenda

### BUILD A THRIVING ECONOMY

*Hispanics and all Texans continue to struggle with the negative economic impacts of government overspending, overregulation, and unfettered printing. These actions have created barriers to economic growth, stability, and freedom. Our community thrives when we are empowered to reach our financial goals and dreams. The Texas Legislature should support policies that foster innovation, remove barriers to opportunity, and enable everyone to improve their lives and communities.*

71% of Texas Hispanics agree that property taxes are a major burden for them and their families.\*

### The Solution

- **Eliminate school district Maintenance & Operation (M&O) property taxes using surplus dollars from the budget**
- **Spending cap limit on local governments to population growth + inflation**
- **Appraisal District Reform**
- **Certificate of obligation reform (COO) to level the playing field for taxpayers**
- **Housing Policy Reforms**
  - \* Eliminating Unnecessary Bureaucratic Delays that Drive up Housing Costs
  - \* Allowing the Free Market to Finance More Housing
  - \* Utilizing Carrots to Incentivize Approval of More Building Permits for Developers
  - \* Ensuring Local Laws are Not Hurting Local Business and Housing Needs
  - \* Cut red tape and waive outdated regulations by using regulatory sandboxes.

### K-12 Education

Hispanic families understand the life-changing value of educational opportunity. Hispanics in Texas see education as the number one issue the Texas Legislature should address.

Research that surveyed more than 2,000 registered voters on the concept of educational freedom found 77% of Hispanics support educational choice. 68% of democrats and 82% of republicans support.\*\*

We know that when families have more options from which to choose the best education for their child, everyone wins. We can make such outcomes possible by:

### The Solution

- **Education Savings Accounts for all Texas students**
- **Advocating open enrollment policies**
- **Expanding the means by which families can choose the right education for their child**
- **Promoting charter schools**
- **End discrimination against charter schools through local zoning ordinances**

\* <https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/press-release/new-research-from-new-american-economy-underscores-the-crucial-role-the-hispanic-population-plays-in-texas-labor-force-population-growth-and-economy/>

\*\* <https://www.federationforchildren.org/new-poll-72-support-for-school-choice/>

## REIMAGINING HEALTHCARE

Latinos are worried about not being able to afford the cost of health care. Far too many families are confronting the challenges of high health care costs, few options and feeling overwhelmed by an incredibly complex health care system. It shouldn't have to be this way.

To thrive, people need an approach to health care that increases access to quality, affordable care.

Twenty-two percent of Hispanics went without care over the course of a year due to cost.\*\*\*

### The Solution

- **Resisting expansion of government-controlled health care**
- **Improving access to personal health care options**
- **Expand choice, improve quality, lower costs, and reduce the barriers to innovation**
- **Empower out-of-state providers to deliver telehealth**
- **Allow Assistant Physicians to Practice if they don't match with a residency**
- **Expand Direct Primary Care model to ALL medical care**
- **End barriers on telepharmacy**
- **End Pharmacist/Pharmacy Technician Ratio Requirements**

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

A just criminal justice system treats everyone equally, punishes crime proportionally, and affords due process under the law to all. It also recognizes the potential of all people to transform their lives and contribute to society, ensures that the opportunity for rehabilitation accompanies punishment and provides second chances to those who deserve them.

Unfortunately, today's criminal justice system is far from that ideal. It criminalizes poverty and disproportionately harms minorities and low-income communities. We want to change that. We're working toward a system that keeps communities safe, puts behind bars only those people who should be there, and ensures the punishment fits the crime.

### The Solution

- **Bail reform constitutional amendment - allow judges the ability to deny bail when there is a serious threat to the public.**
- **Raise the burden of proof in civil asset forfeiture proceedings**
- **End Omnibase (fines and fees)**
- **Occupational Licensing Reform.**
- **Second Look for juvenile offenders eligible for parole**
- **Automation of presumption orders OND**
- **Expansion of Non-Disclosure**
- **Criminal Justice Data Reform**

\*\*\* <https://www.kff.org/infographic/health-and-health-care-for-hispanics-in-the-united-states/>