

# 2010-2011 PUBLIC POLICY GUIDE



**GREATER IRVING-LAS COLINAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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# 2011 Legislative Priorities & Policy Guide

## Table of Contents

<b>A Message from Chamber Leadership</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chamber Legislative Affairs Contacts</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Board &amp; Executive Committee</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>State Priorities</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Federal Priorities</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Federal Elected Officials</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>State Elected Officials</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>County Elected Officials</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>City Elected Officials</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>State Agencies</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Policy Resources</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>About the CIVBI</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Irving Key Facts</b>	<b>19</b>

With more than 1,600 members who represent 145,000 employees, the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce is among the largest Chambers of Commerce in North Texas. Serving Irving, the third largest employment center in North Texas, and the surrounding region, we are proud to be the first Five-Star Accredited Chamber in Texas.

This Public Policy Guide was created to inform our members, our elected officials and the community at large the position of the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber on the issues that impact businesses in Irving and North Texas. This guide also includes contact information for your elected officials who represent Irving at the local, state and federal levels. In addition to this resource, your Chamber has launched its updated Legislative Action Center – your one-stop destination online for updates on legislative matters during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislature.

You can find it at [www.irvingchamber.com](http://www.irvingchamber.com) by clicking the Legislative Action Center link. The site is designed to present detailed information about important issues and to provide action steps to assist our members in sharing their opinions with city, county, state and federal officials.

Thank you for your continued support as we are hard at work every day fulfilling our mission to create economic activity for Irving, to advance our member businesses and to promote the Irving business community.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Wallace".

Chris Wallace



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Martinez".

Robert Martinez



[www.irvingchamber.com/  
comGovAffairs.html](http://www.irvingchamber.com/comGovAffairs.html)

# Chamber Legislative Affairs Contacts



**Rudy Martinez**  
**Board Vice Chairman, Governmental Affairs**  
**Regional Director – External Affairs**  
**AT&T**  
**Phone: (817) 794-5247**  
**Email: rx5778@att.com**

Rudy Martinez is Director-External Affairs for AT&T and holds the position of the Chamber’s Board Vice Chairman, Government Affairs.

As Director-External Affairs, Rudy directs AT&T’s initiatives in the areas of community relations, legislative and public affairs, education and economic development. His primary areas of responsibility include Irving, Arlington, Grand Prairie and territories in south and west Tarrant County.

Rudy is an active community member, and leads efforts in producing cost-effective and operationally-efficient results for his communities, customers and company. He specializes in bringing value to government relations initiatives to the Chamber, and to other community groups. Rudy is also an active member of the Super Bowl XLV Host Committee.

Rudy is a graduate of St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, where he attended on a baseball scholarship. In addition, he served in the Army and retired as a Captain after an 8-year stint. Rudy is the proud father of three great kids: Heather, Justin, and Scott.



**Trudy Hester**  
**Vice President, Legislative Affairs**  
**& Programs**  
**Phone: 214.217.8470**  
**Email: thester@irvingchamber.com**

As Vice President of Legislative Affairs and Programs, Trudy Hester oversees issues management, grass roots advocacy and government relations. She also oversees the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee along with the Sister Cities International Program.

Hester joined the Chamber staff in May, 2010 after serving as Senior Vice President of Administration at Dean International, Inc., where she was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the public policy consulting firm. During her career at Dean International, Inc. she was responsible for the annual Transportation & Infrastructure Summit held in Irving each August and the T&I Convention held in D.C. each spring. With this responsibility was the execution of all programs as well as sponsorships. Prior to working at Dean International, Inc., Hester worked for City Government for 18 years.

Hester is a native Texan, born and raised in North Texas. She and her husband John have two daughters.

**Chairman**

**Robert Martinez**, Cotten, Schmidt & Abbott, LLP

**Immediate Past Chairman**

**Rick Lindsey**, Dean International, Inc.

**Treasurer**

**Bill Brown, CPA**◊

Kyle Ahlfinger, Flowserve Corporation◊  
John Arnott, WaveTwo  
Dr. Dana Bedden, Irving ISD\*  
Lisa Bormaster, Dallas Business Journal  
Brent Brown, Cotten, Schmidt & Abbott LLP  
Dr. Bobby Burns, CFB ISD\*  
Rose Cannaday, City of Irving\*  
James Cassels, Irving CVB\*  
Rene Castilla, Irving Hispanic Chamber\*  
Christopher Converse, Gardere Wynne Sewell, LLP  
Alicia Dare, Wells Fargo Advisors◊  
Thom Davis, Omega Environmental Technologies  
Tracy DePadova, ExxonMobil  
Mark Dickenson, TIAA Realty  
Max Duplant, City of Irving\*  
Phillip Dye, Larson Dye Architects  
Paul Fulchino, Boeing (Aviall Services)  
Bob Galecke, University of Dallas\*  
Maura Gast, Irving CVB\*  
Dr. Herlinda Glasscock, North Lake College\*  
Jo Ann Goin, Glory House◊  
Tommy Gonzalez, City of Irving\*  
Steve Hemperly, Citi Mortgage  
Gary Huddleston, Kroger Stores  
Luana Hulse, NRG-Reliant Energy  
Gregg Imlach, Imlach & Collins◊  
Gail Jackson, Hilton Garden Inn – DFW

Jeri Johnson, Microsoft Corporation  
Willie Leggett, Frito Lay  
Sean Liu, Barlow, Garsek & Simon LLP  
Ken Lockwood, Fluor Corporation  
John Loyack, Optim Energy, LLC  
Bill Lucia, HMS  
Simon Lumley, DeVry University\*  
Bill Mahoney, Boteler, Mahoney & Gray◊  
Rudy Martinez, AT&T◊  
Joe McCormick, Allstate Insurance Company  
Kerri Miene, State Farm Insurance Agency  
Michael Newcombe, Four Seasons Resort & Club  
David Park, Atmos Energy◊  
Rakesh Patel, Patel Law Group, PLLC  
Stacey Price, TXU Energy  
Vernon Proctor, MART, Inc.  
Shelia Renzulli, Coldwell Banker Realtors◊  
Tom Sanchez, Research in Motion  
Cindy Schamp, Baylor Medical Center-Irving  
Luis Spinola, Azteca-Omega Group  
Ricky Stephenson, Rick's Independent Car Kare◊  
Teddie Story, Irving Cares\*  
John Suzuki, EF Johnson Technologies  
Tom Trotter, IBM-Retired◊  
Gary Underwood, Time Warner Cable  
Daryl Walker, Xerox Corporation◊  
Chris Wallace, GILCC\*◊  
Al Zapanta, Paz Energy LLC

\*Ex-Officio Non-Voting Board Member  
◊2010 Executive Committee (Subject to Vote)

# State Priorities

## Transportation and Infrastructure

Current funding mechanisms come nowhere close to providing the level of support needed to maintain our current infrastructure system with the state's projected growth. A flexible, reliable transportation system is essential to the stability and the growing economic development, and to provide transportation for our future businesses and employees. **The Chamber will continue to support legislation that would provide funding to properly maintain current infrastructure systems and fund expansion projects. Through its recently-formed Transportation Management Association (TMA), the Chamber will also support an alternate transportation program such as ride sharing** (e.g., improved and expanded carpooling and vanpooling options and availability) for a more immediate solution to reducing the cost of employee work commute, reduction in emissions and congestion as well as to remain competitive without overtaxing businesses.

## Education / Workforce Development

Texas' education system must accelerate student improvement gains, provide thorough educational programs and require standards which prepare students to graduate with the education and skills to enter into the workforce or attend post-secondary education without need for remediation. The state should continue with the accountability system approved in the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session.

**The Chamber will continue to support legislation which:**

- furthers pilot programs for dropout prevention, high school success, as well as college and workforce readiness in public schools;
- gives school districts more local control pertaining to the needs of their students;
- supports flexibility for school districts in the requirements that grades K through 4 are comprised of no more than 22 students to one teacher, allowing school districts to use the 22:1 mandate as a district average.

## Economic Development / Business Recruitment

**The Chamber will continue to encourage full funding or increased funding for state development–incentive programs, in order to remain competitive and bring more jobs and businesses to Texas.** We will also support local control and flexibility in the use of tax abatements, tax increment financing, reinvestment zones and other incentives to promote economic development and job creation.

## Health Care

Texas continues to rank #1 in the number of uninsured residents and as our state’s health care costs continue to rise at an unsustainable rate, **the Chamber will continue to support legislation regarding the reduction of the uninsured population.** The impact of new federal laws will not be fully understood for some time. At a minimum, it appears that there may be subsidies available for small businesses that have not previously been able to afford insurance for their employees. We recommend maintaining our advocacy similar to the health-care agenda for the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session until we understand in what ways, positive and negative, the federal law will impact employers, employees and providers in Texas.

## Film Incentives

**The Chamber supports the existing Texas Moving Image Incentive Program.** The Chamber recognizes the important role film and television plays in economic and artistic life of Texas and the City of Irving. With a strong existing infrastructure and talent base, Irving has been a hub of production. Film and video projects financially benefit businesses by providing services such as housing, food, beverage, clothing, dry cleaning, construction supplies and tourism.

# State Priorities

## Water

Texas is one of the fastest growing States. From 1950 to 2008, population in the state grew from about 8 million to 24 million. According to Texas Water Development Board projections, the number of people living in Texas will reach 40 million by 2040 and 46 million by 2060. Rapid growth combined with Texas' susceptibility to drought makes water supply a critical issue. In this regard, **the Chamber will continue to support Texas' statewide water plan, adopted by the Texas Water Development Board in 2007, and will monitor throughout the session to avoid any changes that might negatively affect the Irving area.**

## Air Quality

**The Chamber supports continued funding for state programs that fund air quality improvements, traffic congestion relief and technological investment to reduce pollution.** We would carefully review new proposals that further impose costs on business – either fees or regulatory compliance costs – to determine if the costs are worth the benefit.

## Franchise (Margin) Tax

With the passage of HB 4765 during the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session the threshold to qualify to file a No Tax Due Report has increased to \$1 million. **The Chamber will support a graduated approach to the franchise (margin) tax for businesses that have sales tax less than \$1 million. The Chamber will also continue to advocate for legislation to include authorizing a business' losses on the franchise tax to be carried forward for up to 10 years and will support an exemption from the franchise (margin) tax of all flow-through funds that are mandated by contracts to be distributed to other entities.**

## Property Owners Associations

**Any bills which would have a negative impact on the Las Colinas Association and the Valley Ranch Association will be opposed by the Chamber.** These property owner associations are instrumental in maintaining the quality of Irving's important two master-planned communities.

## Telecommunications

**The Chamber will continue to support legislation which promotes meaningful investment, competition, job creation and the development of advanced technologies** in their importance to overall economic growth and in close comportment with the principles of free enterprise.

## Casino Gambling

The Chamber will support legislation for a limited number of strategically located **high-end destination-type casinos/hotels** that will economically benefit the State of Texas.

## Redistricting

The state population increased from 20.8 million in 2000 to an estimated 24.8 million in 2009 or 18.8 percent. With this in mind, redistricting is definitely one of the top issues for the state during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session. **The Chamber will continue to monitor legislation pertaining to redistricting during the legislative session. The Chamber will support single representation for Irving, however will not be opposed to additional representation.**

# Federal Priorities

## Immigration

Although the Chamber realizes that immigration is a federal issue, these issues continue to be a concern for DFW businesses, foreign governments and academic institutions as they engage talent from around the world to remain competitive in an increasingly global economy. **The Chamber supports immigration reform which will give employers access to legal workforce to meet legitimate business needs in all sectors of the economy.**

In regards to the principles for immigration reform, the Chamber supports:

- Securing our borders.
- Creating an efficient temporary worker program.
- Creating a fast, reliable employment verification program.
- Affirming employers' accountability for hiring employees with legal status.
- Developing a process to deal with the illegal immigrants who are already in the United States.
- Reform that strengthens national security by providing for the screening of foreign workers and creating a disincentive for illegal immigration.
- Reform that strengthens the rule of law by establishing clear, sensible immigration laws that are efficiently and vigorously enforced.
- Reform that ensures that U.S. workers are not displaced by foreign workers.
- Reform that ensures that all workers enjoy the same labor law protections.

## 1099 Reporting

H.R. 5297 would repeal the onerous paperwork burdens imposed on business by the new health care law. Unless this section is repealed, government, non-profits, and businesses of all sizes would be subject to data collection and information filing (1099 reports) on virtually all non-credit card purchases from businesses totaling \$600 or more in a year. **The Chamber supports a repeal of data collection and paperwork burdens placed on small businesses under the new health care law.**



**Kay Bailey Hutchinson (R)**  
**U.S. Senator**

**Washington Office**

284 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-4304  
Phone: (202) 224-5922  
Fax: (202) 224-0776

**Dallas Office**

10440 N. Central Expressway  
Suite 1160  
Dallas, Texas 75231  
Phone: (214) 3613500  
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**John Cornyn (R)**  
**U.S. Senator**

**Washington Office**

517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-2934  
Fax: (202) 228-2856

**Dallas Office**

5001 Spring Valley Road  
Suite 1125E  
Dallas, Texas 75244  
Phone: (972) 239-1310  
Fax: (972) 239-2110



**Pete Sessions (R)**  
**U.S. Congressman**

**Washington Office**

2233 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-4332  
Phone: (202) 225-2231  
Fax: (202) 225-5878

**Dallas Office**

Park Central VII  
12750 Merit Drive, Suite 1434  
Dallas, Texas 75251-1229  
Phone: (972) 392-0505  
Fax: (972) 392-0615



**Kenny Marchant (R)**  
**U.S. Congressman**

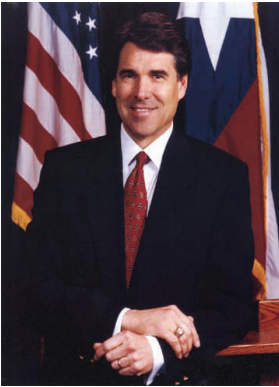
**Washington Office**

1110 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-6605  
Fax: (202) 225-0074

**Irving Office**

9901 E. Valley Ranch Pkwy.  
Suite 3035  
Irving, Texas 75063  
Phone: (972) 556-0162  
Fax: (972) 409-9704

# State Elected Officials



**Rick Perry (R)**  
Governor of Texas

**Office of the Governor**  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711-2428  
Phone: (512) 463-2000  
Fax: (512) 463-1849



**Florence Shapiro (R)**  
Texas Senator

**Austin Office**  
Texas Senate  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711  
Phone: (512) 463-0108  
Fax: (512) 463-7579

**District Office**  
5000 Legacy Drive, Suite 494  
Plano, Texas 75024  
Phone: (972) 403-3404  
Fax: (972) 403-3405



**Chris Harris (R)**  
Texas Senator

**Austin Office**  
Texas Senate  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711  
Phone: (512) 463-0109  
Fax: (512) 463-7003

**District Office**  
2001 E. Lamar Blvd., Suite 150  
Arlington, Texas 76006  
Phone: (817) 461-9109  
Fax: (817) 469-9652  
Toll Free: 1-866-469-9652



**Linda Harper-Brown (R)**  
**Texas Representative**

**Austin Office**

Room E2. 212, Capitol Extension  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (512) 463-0641  
Fax: (512) 463-0044

**District Office**

100 Decker Court, Suite 100  
Irving, Texas 75062  
Phone: (972) 717-2871  
Fax: (972) 717-2893



**Rodney Anderson (R)**  
**Texas Representative**

**Austin Office**

Room E1. 424, Capitol Extension  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (512) 463-0694  
Fax: (512) 463-1130



**Rafael Anchia (D)**  
**Texas Representative**

**Austin Office**

Room E2. 818, Capitol Extension  
P.O. Box 290  
Austin, Texas 78768  
Phone: (512) 463-0746  
Fax: (512) 473-0738

**District Office**

1111 West Mockingbird Lane, Suite 1330  
Dallas Texas 75247  
Phone: (214) 943-6081  
Fax: (214) 920-9996

# County Elected Officials



**Clay Jenkins**  
**Dallas County Judge**

Phone: (214) 653-7949



**Mike Cantrell**  
**County Commissioner**  
**District 2**

Phone: (214) 653-6100  
Fax: (214) 589-7090



**Maurine Dickey**  
**County Commissioner**  
**District 1**

Phone: (972) 247-1735  
Fax: (972) 406-0615



**Elba Garcia**  
**County Commissioner**  
**District 4**  
**(Representing Irving)**

Phone: (214) 339-8381  
Fax: (214) 337-9558



**John Wiley Price**  
**County Commissioner**  
**District 3**

Phone: (214) 653-6671  
Fax: (214) 653-7057



**Herbert A. Gears**  
**City of Irving Mayor**

City of Irving  
825 W. Irving Blvd.  
Irving, Texas 75060  
Phone: (972) 721-2410  
mayor@cityofirving.org



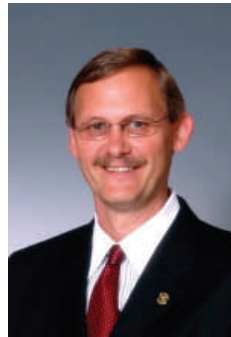
**Michael E. Gallaway**  
**Council Member, Place 1**  
Phone: (214) 629-9567  
mgallaway@cityofirving.org



**Rose Cannaday**  
**Mayor Pro Tem, Place 5**  
Phone: (972) 871-0019  
rcannaday@cityofirving.org



**Roy Santoscoy**  
**Council Member, Place 2 (at large)**  
Phone: (214) 629-9596  
rsantoscoy@cityofirving.org



**Rick Stopfer**  
**Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, Place 6**  
Phone: (214) 876-7172  
rstopfer@cityofirving.org



**Allan E. Meagher**  
**Council Member, Place 3**  
Phone: (972) 313-0808  
ameagher@cityofirving.org



**Gerald Farris**  
**Council Member, Place 7**  
Phone: (972) 754-6547  
gfarris@cityofirving.org



**Lewis Patrick**  
**Council Member, Place 4**  
Phone: (972) 790-6478  
lpatrick@cityofirving.org



**Joe Philipp**  
**Council Member, Place 8 (at large)**  
Phone: (972) 650-8382  
jphilipp@cityofirving.org

# State Agencies

## **Attorney General**

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
300 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (512) 463-2100  
Fax: (512) 475-2994

## **Department of Agriculture**

1700 N. Congress, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (512)-463-7476  
Fax: (888) 223-8861

## **Department of Economic Development & Tourism**

221 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (512) 936-0100

## **Department of Housing & Community Affairs**

221 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701-2410  
Phone: (512) 936-7000

## **Department of Information Resources**

300 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Suite 1300  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (512) 475-4700

## **Department of Insurance**

333 Guadalupe  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (512) 463-6169  
Fax: (800) 578-4677

## **Department of Licensing and Regulation**

920 Colorado  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (512) 463-6599  
Fax: (512) 475-2871

## **Department of Motor Vehicles**

4000 Jackson Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78731  
Phone: (888) 368-4689

## **Department of Parks and Wildlife**

4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744  
Phone: (512) 389-4800

## **Department of Public Safety**

5805 North Lamar Blvd.  
Austin, Texas 78752-4422  
Phone: (512) 936-6701

## **Department of Rural Affairs**

1700 North Congress Street  
Suite 220  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (512)-936-6701

## **Department of State Health Services**

1100 W. 49<sup>th</sup> Street, M646  
Austin, Texas 78756  
Phone: (512) 458-7111  
Fax: (512) 458-7624

## **Department of Transportation**

125 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: 1-800-558-9368

## **Health and Human Services Commission**

Brown-Heatly Building  
4900 N. Lamar Blvd  
Austin, Texas 78751-2316  
Phone: (512) 424-6500

## **Public Utility Commission**

1701 N. Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78711-3326  
Phone: (512) 936-7000

## **Railroad Commission**

1701 N. Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (877) 228-5740

## **Secretary of State**

The Honorable Hope Andrade  
1100 Congress  
Capitol Bldg. Room 1E.8  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (512) 463-5600

## **Sunset Advisory Commission**

1501 N. Congress Avenue  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Robert E. Johnson Bldg.  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (512) 463-1300  
Fax: (512) 463-0705

**Chamber’s Legislative Action Center:**  
**[www.irvingchamber.com/com\\_gov\\_affairs.html](http://www.irvingchamber.com/com_gov_affairs.html)**

**Other Local Resources:**

***To Locate City Council Information and Agendas:***

Go to [www.ci.irving.tx.us](http://www.ci.irving.tx.us)  
Click on “Departments” - middle of the page  
Click on “City Council”

***To Locate County Commissioner’s Court Information and Agendas:***

Go to [www.dallascounty.org](http://www.dallascounty.org)  
Click on “Commissioners Court” – middle of page

**State Resources:**

***To Locate Information on the Governor’s Initiatives:***

Go to [www.governor.state.tx.us](http://www.governor.state.tx.us)

***To Locate Information on the Texas State Senate:***

Go to [www.senate.state.tx.us](http://www.senate.state.tx.us)

***To Locate Information on the Texas House of Representatives:***

Go to [www.house.state.tx.us](http://www.house.state.tx.us)

**Federal Resources:**

***To Locate U.S. Senate Information & Committees:***

Go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

***To Locate U.S. House of Representatives Information & Committees:***

Go to [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

**Affiliated Issue Advocacy Organizations:**

North Central Texas Council of Governments: [www.nctcog.org](http://www.nctcog.org)  
Texas Association of Business: [www.txbiz.org](http://www.txbiz.org)  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce: [www.uschamber.com](http://www.uschamber.com)  
Texas Prosperity Project: [www.txprosperity.com](http://www.txprosperity.com)

**Tracking and Researching Legislation:**

Texas Legislature: [www.legis.state.tx.us](http://www.legis.state.tx.us)  
Thomas (Federal Legislative Information): <http://thomas.loc.gov>

# About the Committee to Inform Voters on Business Issues (CIVBI)

## *What is CIVBI?*

The Committee to Inform Voters on Business Issues was developed to foster and support good government which will enhance the economic well being of the Irving community and its citizens.

## *What is the purpose of the CIVBI?*

### **The purpose of the CIVBI is:**

To support ballot issues which support a healthy economy, favorable business climate and high quality of life. Ballot measures may include bond elections, referendums and advisory questions.

To provide an opportunity for individuals and organizations interested in promoting good government and preserving and furthering the private enterprise system, and demonstrate belief in the principles to which the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce is dedicated.

## *Who can contribute to the CIVBI?*

Any individual or business with the exception of public officials, City, County or State employees can join the CIVBI. A \$25.00 minimum annual contribution is all that is required to be a participant.

## *How can I find out more information?*

To join or find out more information about the CIVBI, please contact Trudy Hester, Vice President, Legislative Affairs and Programs, at 214.217.8470 or [thester@irvingchamber.com](mailto:thester@irvingchamber.com)

## **Population: 215,893**

### **Location**

- Located in the center of the Dallas/Fort Worth Region (4th largest metropolitan area in U.S.; 6.23 million population) in Central Time Zone
- Home to DFW International Airport, the world's third-busiest airport

### **Transportation**

- All roadways lead "to and from" Irving-Las Colinas
  - ⇒ SH-114, SH-183, SH-161, I-635, Loop 12 with easy access to I-35, I-30, I-20, I-45
  - ⇒ Access within minutes to I-35, I-30, I-20, I-45
- Trinity Railway Express (commuter rail) connecting downtown Dallas and Fort Worth via two South Irving rail stations
- Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) light rail expansion
  - ⇒ Into Las Colinas Urban Center (2012) connecting downtown Dallas and Las Colinas Urban Center with DFW International Airport (2014)

### **Types of Developments**

- Home of two world premier master-planned business & residential communities: Las Colinas and Valley Ranch
  - ⇒ Las Colinas is the Largest Metroplex Office Park in North Texas (ranked number 1 of 25) based on square footage
- Foreign Trade Zone and downtown historic district undergoing active redevelopment

### **Corporate Presence**

- Home to 9,000 businesses, with a presence of more than 40 *Fortune* 500 corporations
- Five *Fortune* 500 company global headquarters
  - ⇒ ExxonMobil ⇒ Commercial Metals ⇒ Fluor Corporation ⇒ Flowserve Corporation ⇒ Kimberly-Clark
- Irving has the second lowest property tax rate of the ten Metroplex comparable-sized cities
- Irving has the second lowest water rate in North Texas
- Irving has more corporate headquarters than any other city in the region, except Dallas
- Active international business presence—Finland, Germany, Japan, Mexico
- The DFW Region is second only to the Silicon Valley in the number of technology related companies
- Tenant commercial rents for office and industrial space are among the most attractive in the nation

### **Workforce**

- Irving is the third largest employment center in North Texas with an estimated 230,936 positions
- Highly educated workforce of 3.3 million+, within a 30-minute commute, representing more than 25 national origins

### **Education/Quality of Life**

- Served by quality public school districts and nationally recognized private and charter schools
- Ten universities, colleges and trade schools in Irving
- State-of-the-art Irving Convention Center, 50,000 sf, column-free exhibit hall, 40,000 sf ballroom and breakout space (Opening January 2011)
- Entertainment Center featuring multi-level, first of its kind performance venue and unique living options (Opening soon)
- Home to 14 performing and visual arts groups including an award-winning musical theatre company, professional symphony orchestras as well as youth arts programs
- Three country clubs / five golf courses including two TPC courses and the only Five Diamond, 4-Star Resort in Texas
- Continued low crime rate

### **Pro-Business City**

- Aggressive economic development program and the nation's first 5-Star Chamber of Commerce in Texas (Visit [www.irvingchamber.com/economic](http://www.irvingchamber.com/economic))



# About the Chamber



Entering its 78<sup>th</sup> year of business, the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce promotes the growth and expansion of business in Irving, an international community that is home to more than 215,000 residents and more than 9,000 businesses, including the global headquarters of five Fortune 500 companies and the Corporate presence of 40+ more. The first 5-Star nationally-accredited Chamber in Texas, the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber serves as the unified business voice for Irving and the surrounding North Texas communities. With a rich heritage of leadership and collaboration, the Chamber works in partnership with the City of Irving and the corporate community to create, advance and promote business in the city and to further develop and market Irving's advantages as a premier location for doing business.

[www.irvingchamber.com](http://www.irvingchamber.com)

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