



ABILENE CHAMBER

DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

Skimming the daily updates for your business so you don't have to.

HEALS VS HEROES: FEDERAL COVID RELIEF UPDATE

Side by Side Analysis from Texas Association of Business D.C. Lead, Chris Lamond
The partisan divide on the next round of COVID-19 relief is significant. TAB's federal legislative consultant, Chris Lamond, is monitoring the negotiations and the bills' prospects closely on behalf of TAB members.

This week, Chris takes a deep dive into the differences between the Republicans' HEALS Act and Democrats' HEROES Act legislation, including how each party addresses unemployment, stimulus payments, tax reform, education funding, workforce protection, PPP and other topics critical to the Texas business community's recovery in the months ahead.

[Learn more.](#)

STATEMENT FROM U.S. CENSUS BUREAU DIRECTOR STEVEN DILLINGHAM: DELIVERING A COMPLETE AND ACCURATE 2020 CENSUS COUNT

The U.S. Census Bureau continues to evaluate its operational plans to collect and process 2020 Census data. We are announcing updates to our plan that will include enumerator awards and the hiring of more employees to accelerate the completion of data collection and apportionment counts by our statutory deadline of December 31, 2020, as required by law and directed by the Secretary of Commerce. The Census Bureau's new plan reflects our continued commitment to conduct a complete count, provide accurate apportionment data, and protect the health and safety of the public and our workforce.

[Learn more.](#)

TEXAN ATTITUDES ON TRANSPORTATION & ROAD FUNDING

Keep Texas Moving partnered with Morning Consult to gauge Texans' attitudes on transportation and road funding. A portion of the results from this public opinion survey (below) demonstrates the urgent need for transportation options as well as Texans' support. To learn more about these results and how they impact your local community, register for one of KTM's Virtual Roadshows under the events section.

- 84% of Texas voters believe it is very or somewhat important for Texas leaders to address infrastructure next year
- Texans trust state or local governments (42%) more than the federal government (22%) to handle infrastructure
- When informed about transportation issues:

- 72% of Texas voters support public-private partnerships as a way to fund highway and other infrastructure projects
- 71% of voters said that giving drivers the option to get to their destinations more quickly by paying a toll is an important benefit of a public-private partnership
- 82% of voters agree that using public-private partnerships will free up public funds for other government programs

94% said the most important outcome of public-private partnerships is increasing local jobs

TEXAS SALES TAX COLLECTIONS WENT UP IN JULY — AND WERE HIGHER THAN ONE YEAR AGO

For the first time in months, Texas' sales tax revenue increased when compared with the same period last year despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Comptroller Glenn Hegar said Monday.

Texas collected \$2.98 billion in sales tax revenue in July — 4.3% more than in July 2019. That revenue, which mainly reflects purchases made in June, was “better than expected, despite the high unemployment due to the pandemic,” Hegar said in a statement.

[Read more.](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING

Ag Economy Barometer stable, but farmers less optimistic

Number of farmers still worried about impact of COVID-19 on operations steadily declining.

[Read more.](#)

HR Execs Reveal How the Pandemic Is Forcing Companies to Rethink Worker Needs

Managers of remote employees need to boost soft skills, empathy and ‘mental health literacy,’ according to executives from Microsoft, The Adecco Group and more.

[Read more.](#)

You don't want to miss these upcoming event for your business.

8/11 TEXAS ALLIANCE OF ENERGY PRODUCERS SUMMER CONFERENCE join this FREE webinar on Tuesday, August 11 at 2:00 pm to hear from distinguished energy professionals on issues important to you and your company. [Register here.](#)

8/11 HOW TO START A SMALL BUSINESS WEBINAR Business Counselor, Manzel McGhee will overview what steps and procedures should be taken to start a small business including risks, opportunities and rewards. [Register here.](#)

8/13 GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING VIRTUAL LUNCHEON PANEL DISCUSSION

discussion about government contracting for Women-Owned Small Businesses. [Learn more.](#)

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