



# PEARLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE POLICY GUIDE

The Pearland Chamber supports empowering elected officials with the flexibility and policy tools required to ensure the needs of the business community are met. We have identified three areas that are crucial in providing support for Pearland businesses to recruit, develop, and retain a dynamic and diverse workforce while eliminating barriers to business growth and creation.

## OUR PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2024:

### EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

Our public education priorities include:

- Increase Teacher Pay
- Increase Basic Allotment
- Keep public tax dollars in public schools

Our Higher Education Priorities include:

- Maintain the funding model for Community Colleges outlined in HB 8 during the 88th Session

### HEALTHCARE

Our Mental Health Priorities include:

- Fund a 24/7 Behavioral Health Facility with a dedicated adolescent unit in Brazoria County to serve the Pearland area.
- Expand School-Based Counseling Services in public schools and higher education.
- Increase the pipeline of qualified counselors.

### INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUSINESS

- Continue the funding and construction of the Grand Parkway Segment B
- Continue the use of economic tools that maintains Texas' competitiveness (HB 5 – 88th Session)

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PEARLAND:

**83%** of businesses are locally owned

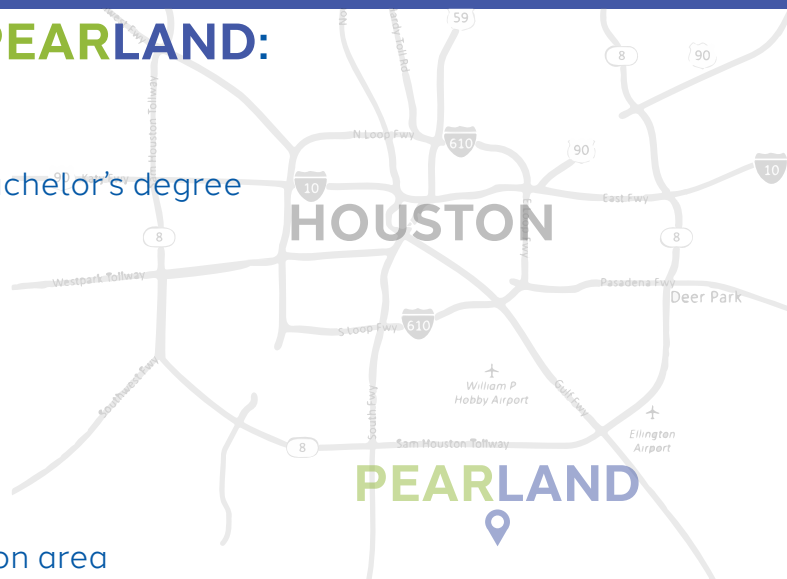
Nearly **50%** of population 25 or older have a bachelor's degree

Pearland is the **2<sup>ND</sup>** most diverse city in the USA

Median Age is **36.1**

Pearland High School's Softball team won their **3<sup>RD</sup>** State Championship in 2023

**MORE** Texas Medical Center employees live in Pearland, Zip Code 77584, than in the Houston area



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