



NEWS RELEASE

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USTomorrow To Provide TEDC New Economic Survey, Civic Participation Platform *Data will inform cross-partisan workforce readiness plans in advance of the 2020 elections.*

Austin, Texas - On October 10, at the 2019 Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC) Annual Conference in San Antonio, USTomorrow, a 501(c)(4) non-profit civic participation startup, will introduce a new digital engagement platform to further citizen and candidate collaboration and an online economic survey to assess workforce readiness at the local and regional levels.

“TEDC is the front line for continued economic growth and job creation in Texas,” said Carlton Schwab, President and CEO of TEDC. “Our statewide network of economic developers is expert at the tried-and-true but we’re also committed to introducing innovative approaches to the challenges facing our communities. Deepening the stakeholder bench and developing a shared perspective of current assets, future needs, and the gaps in between are critical steps in overcoming those challenges.”

Although access to the platform and survey will be available to all TEDC members, supporting events and data analysis will focus on the communities which lie within the 17 U.S. Congressional Districts that surround and include Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio.

“The communities within these 17 congressional districts are a microcosm of America,” said USTomorrow co-founder and board chair Joseph Kopser. “Too often divided by hyper-partisan politics as rural or urban or red or blue, the reality is that the citizens, business owners, educators, students, and candidates in these communities have a deeply shared interest in building sustainable, local onramps to the American Dream.”

“But, in the current political environment, kitchen table issues are getting lost in the partisan scuffle,” said Kopser. “Working across the aisle on issues that strengthen - not divide - our communities should be the norm, not the exception.”

USTomorrow and its civic engagement, education, and activation partners will introduce new stakeholders to the civic arena through a series of online and in-person community and candidate engagement events. The survey will provide these stakeholders a framework from

which to work with candidates on local and regional workforce readiness issues. “After the 2020 elections,” said Kopser, “17 members of the Texas delegation and their constituents will share a new commitment to work toward a cross-partisan solution on at least one issue. That’s a step in the right direction.”

The digital platform, constructed and managed by online civic engagement leader Polco, will be live on October 10. The survey, designed by the National Research Center (NRC), will run through February 2020. Survey results and analysis will be revealed in March.

“This is not only an exciting opportunity to make a discernible improvement to today’s politics,” said Nick Mastronardi, co-founder and CEO of Polco and the newly merged NRC. “It’s an innovative approach to introducing new stakeholders to the process and implementing practical solutions to the problems Polco is seeing in communities across the nation.”

For more information on this initiative or to attend the USTomorrow presentation at the TEDC annual meeting, contact Grover Bynum, USTomorrow Executive Director, at grover@ustomorrow.us.

For more information on participating organizations, follow the links below.

- [Texas Economic Development Council](#)
- [USTomorrow](#)
- [Polco](#)
- [National Research Center](#)

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