

Chapter 1: The Environment of Texas Politics Chapter Introduction

Book Title: Practicing Texas Politics

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## Chapter Introduction

### Learning Objectives

- 1.1 Analyze how political culture has shaped Texas's politics, government, and public policy.
- 1.2 Describe the relationship between the social history of Texas and the political characteristics of the state's diverse population.
- 1.3 Discuss the political implications of Texas's size in both geography and population, along with the geographic distribution of its residents.
- 1.4 Describe the industries that formed the historic basis for the Texas economy, the diversification of the modern Texas economy, and the implications for Texas politics.
- 1.5 Identify five major policy challenges Texas faces in the 21st century.

Image 1.1

Governor Abbott uses social media to attract business to Texas



Source: Twitter

## Critical Thinking

How can the Texas government most effectively work to continue the state's success and address its challenges?

*I have said that Texas is a state of mind, but I think it is more than that. It is a mystique closely approximating a religion. And this is true to the extent that people either passionately love Texas or passionately hate it and, as in other religions, few people dare to inspect it for fear of losing their bearings in mystery or paradox. But I think there will be little quarrel with my feeling that Texas is one thing. For all its enormous range of space, climate, and physical appearance, and for all the internal squabbles, contentions, and strivings, Texas has a tight cohesiveness perhaps stronger than any other section of America. Rich, poor, Panhandle, Gulf, city, country, Texas is the obsession, the proper study and the passionate possession of all Texans.*

— **John Steinbeck**, 1962

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