

OF COMMERCE
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS



Mission Statement Develop, enhance and maintain a strong and diverse business climate and support a prosperous community.



These legislative priorities were vetted by the Governmental Affairs Committee, then submitted to the general membership for input. Finally, they were reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors, before being forwarded for consideration by the members of the Brevard delegation and other local elected officials.



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2020 Legislative Priorities

Business Competitiveness

- Encourage simplification of permitting and regulations for business to increase business competitiveness.
- Encourage the State of Florida to develop a renewable energy policy to encourage employment growth in these emerging technologies with particular emphasis on solar energy.
- Continued reduction of the Commercial Sales and Use Tax to align policies with the other 49 United States that do not have this tax.

Economic Development

- Encourage the State of Florida to aggressively pursue any and all compatible opportunities available that can be operated from our current aerospace, aviation and military installations.
- Encourage the continuation of tax abatements as an incentive for economic development in local communities, as well as their use in qualifications for state incentives.
- Encourage continued use of local incentives for community and economic development including maintaining CRA options.
- Encourage the necessary support and funding for critical state economic development programs such as Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida.

Education

- Provide for specialized vocational and technical training, to include internships and apprenticeships, to prepare our students to address the workforce and skills gap.
- Support increased funding & local flexibility in the use of state funds and greater local decision making for Florida's Pre K-12 public school system.
- Provide funding and consideration for training existing workforce for new opportunities and industries.

Infrastructure

- Support accelerated funding and implementation for replacement of the NASA Causeway Indian River Bridge.
- Encourage the necessary funding to restore Florida's surface waters and
 especially the Indian River Lagoon. In addition, fast track critical restoration
 projects at the federal level by simplifying the process including the possibility of
 a single point permit for vetted restoration projects.
- Increase support for funding of public and at-need transportation with greater accessibility in Brevard County.

Quality of Life

- Support measures to improve the availability of affordable housing options for the workforce.
- Strongly encourage enhanced funding to continue to be used for such transportation modes as walking and bike trails, including the connectivity of existing parks and trails.
- Fund development and completion of trail connectivity throughout Brevard to link to the East Coast Greenway, which ultimately stretches from Miami to Maine.
- Encourage exploration of natural resources for consumption/usage to be done in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.