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Release Date: January, 29th 2024, or FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### TITUSVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

2024 Legislative Priorities

**Titusville, FL, January** — The Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the release of its legislative priorities for the year 2024. The legislative priorities were vetted by the Governmental Affairs Committee and 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.

The agenda prioritizes business climate enhancement through simplified regulations, renewable energy policy development, ongoing reduction of the Commercial Sales and Use Tax. It also advocates for supporting existing laws in the North Brevard County Hospital District.

In Innovation & Economic Development, the focus is on promoting space commerce, tax abatements, and incentives for economic development. The proposal includes reauthorizing the QTI tax refund program and exploring a formal incubator program for entrepreneurship in Brevard County.

In Talent Supply & Education, the agenda encourages industry participation in workforce programs, increased funding for Pre K-12 education, and support for training the existing workforce.

In Infrastructure & Growth Leadership, the agenda supports accelerating utility improvements and funding key transportation projects in North Brevard. Advocating for necessary funding to restore Florida's surface waters, particularly the Indian River Lagoon. Enhancing support for public transportation in Brevard County is highlighted.

Lastly, in Quality of Life & Quality Places, the agenda supports affordable housing options, funding for walking and bike trails, and completion of trail connectivity, especially from Titusville to Playalinda Beach. It also encourages responsible exploration of natural resources.

To read the full 2024 Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce Legislative Priorities please view the attachment or visit our website.

https://titusville.org/your-chamber/committees/governmental-affairs-committee

## About the Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce

The Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce's mission is to develop, enhance, and maintain a strong and diverse business climate and support a prosperous community.

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For more information, please contact <u>Erin Akins</u>, President of the Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce or <u>Sierra Howard</u>, Director of Communications 321-267-3036.





#### **Mission Statement**

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



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# **2024 Legislative Priorities**

# **Business Climate & 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.
- Continued reduction of the Commercial Sales and Use Tax to align policies with the other 49 United States that do not have this tax.
- Support the existing Law related to the North Brevard County Hospital District (d/b/a/ Parrish Medical Center)

#### **Innovation & Economic Development**

- Promote space commerce development of human exploration programs, while pursuing all
  opportunities that leverage space, aviation and military installations and capabilities in Brevard
  County.
- 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/state incentives for community and economic development including maintaining CRA options.
- Reauthorize the performance-based QTI (Qualified Target Industries) tax refund program to attract and grow high-tech, high-wage jobs in Florida and the Space Coast.
- Encourage the necessary support and funding for critical state economic development programs such as Select Florida, Space Florida and Visit Florida.
- Explore feasibility of a formal incubator program to support entrepreneurship across Brevard County

### **Talent Supply & Education**

- Encourage increased industry participation in technical workforce apprenticeship and internship
  programs by adopting measures that offset business costs required to operate effective "earn and
  learn, on-the-job training" programs that enable students to transition into longer-term career job
  opportunities.
- 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 & Growth Leadership**

- Support accelerating implementation for utility and infrastructure improvements to improve overall lagoon health
- Support funding and acceleration of key transportation expansion projects in North Brevard, specifically adding lanes to SR405 from South St. to Hwy 50, and SR 46 west of Carpenter Road to the Brevard County line.
- 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 & Quality Places**

- 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.
- Support continued funding, development, and completion of trail connectivity throughout Brevard with a primary focus on completion of the trail segment from Titusville to Playalinda Beach.
- Encourage exploration of natural resources for consumption/usage to be done in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.