

# 2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## MANATEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



### TRANSPORTATION

- Supports expedited replacement of the Desoto Bridge.
- Supports the Cortez Bridge and Anna Maria Bridge projects.
- Supports legislation authorizing FDOT to advance priority projects.
- Supports funding for a Barrier Island Mobility Study to identify transportation solutions to address seasonal traffic issues.
- Supports funding of the Complete Streets Initiative to reconstruct 15<sup>th</sup> Street East/301 Blvd. from Tallevast Road to U.S. 41.

### TAXATION / INSURANCE

- Supports legislation that would reduce workers' compensation insurance rates.
- Supports legislation that would reduce the Commercial Lease Tax (Business Rent Tax) over time when economically feasible.
- Advocates for the protection of State Trust Funds, particularly the State's Transportation Trust Fund and the Housing Trust Fund.

### EDUCATION & WORKFORCE READINESS

- Supports increased funding toward the expansion of VPK programming.
- Supports full funding of K-12 public schools at 2002 per pupil levels as a minimum.
- Does NOT support legislation that would force the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota to change its name.
- Does NOT support legislation that would place a cap or reduce the number of students allowed in baccalaureate programs at state colleges.
- Supports \$2.5 million programmatic funding to expand the STEM education program at USF Sarasota-Manatee.
- Supports \$2 million planning & design funding for STEM education building at USF Sarasota-Manatee.
- Supports the codification in permanent law the Florida Center for the Partnerships in Arts Integrated Teaching (PAInT) at USF Sarasota-Manatee.

### WATER / INFRASTRUCTURE

- Supports Manatee County Government's request for stormwater and drainage improvements in Rubonia - \$2.8 million.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & QUALITY OF LIFE

- Supports legislative action to streamline the approval process for large scale economic development projects, in addition to increased funding for Enterprise Florida to proactively market the State for business development and additional funding to be used to incentivize corporations to relocate to the State.
- Supports the expansion of economic incentives, including access to capital, for small businesses and entrepreneurs to increase job opportunities for the States workforce.

### HEALTH CARE

- Supports legislation that provides expanded access to health care, including dental and vision, and increases quality of care with a reduction in overall per-patient cost.
- Supports enabling legislation and/or funding for innovative programs, including pilot projects and new technology, that positively impact access to care and health outcomes.
- Supports increased funding of additional medical residency slots to attract more physicians to Florida and slow our rate of exporting Florida-educated physicians to other States.
- Supports a Florida-based solution to capitalize on federal dollars available to increase coverage and improve access for Florida's uninsured residents.
- Supports increased funding and/or enabling legislation for improved access to behavioral health and related services. We urge greater attention on all facets of behavioral health that addresses critical emerging needs and supports positive outcomes for commonly-occurring mental illness.
- Supports incentivizing employers to offer wellness and prevention resources to their employees.