

# 2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## MANATEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



### TRANSPORTATION / WATER / INFRASTRUCTURE

- Supports expediting replacement and expanded capacity of the Desoto Bridge.
- Supports funding for the anticipated recommendations of the forthcoming Central Manatee Network Alternatives Analysis that will facilitate improved north/south capacity on the U.S. 41 corridor.
- Supports funding the next phase of the Cortez Bridge and Anna Maria Bridge projects.
- Supports funding for the MPO's Complete Streets Initiative to reconstruct 15<sup>th</sup> Street East/301 Blvd. from Tallevast Road to U.S. 41.
- Advocates for the protection of the State's Transportation Trust Fund and existing transportation programs.
- Supports the following Manatee County Government funding requests:
  - \$206,000 in state cost share for the Longboat Pass Inlet Management project.
  - \$37,000 in state cost share for the Passage Key Inlet Management Study.
  - \$221,000 in state cost share for the Coquina Beach Groins feasibility study and required project monitoring.
  - \$183,000 in state cost share for the federally authorized Central Beach Nourishment Project.
  - \$600,000 in state cost share to complete the Robinson Preserve Expansion project.
- Supports the Manatee Port Authority's request for \$200,000 for a study of storm water retention capacity and mitigation at off site locations.
- Supports the Manatee Port Authority's request for \$100,000 to develop monitoring and evaluation tools to measure increased productivity in sea grass beds as a result of introduction of bivalve aquatic species.

### 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.

### EDUCATION & WORKFORCE READINESS

- Supports funding all Florida's Public Technical College/Centers Workforce Education Programs at a minimum equitable funding level of 100% of the state model as developed and approved by the State FLDOE Workforce Education Funding Committee.
- Supports restoring recurring funding to State College of Florida (\$1.15 million) and University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee (\$4.6 million) to allow our valuable education partners to provide robust support to our two-county region and to continue to build a strong, competitive business environment.
- Supports restoring \$4.5 million in performance-based funding and add \$2.5 million (\$7 million total) in funding to FDOE so school district postsecondary workforce education programs would be funded at the appropriate level.
- 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.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / QUALITY OF LIFE

- Supports the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund (\$85 million) to develop workforce training programs and community infrastructure.
- Supports Enterprise Florida to proactively market the state as a business destination and incentivize corporations to relocate to Florida.
- Urges the use of all of Florida's housing trust funds monies for housing programs.

### HEALTH CARE

- Applauds the 2017 funding of the Opioid Peer Recovery pilot project, advocates continued focus on the opioid crisis, and supports increased funding and/or enabling legislation for increased access to behavioral health and mental health services.
- Supports expanded access to healthcare, including dental and vision programs, that increases quality of care with a reduction in over-all patient cost.
- Supports increased funding of additional medical residency slots, including the Psychiatry specialty, to attract more physicians to Florida, create jobs, and slow our rate of exporting Florida-educated physicians to other states.
- Supports enabling legislation and/or funding for innovative programs, including pilot projects and new technology, that positively impact access to care and outcomes.
- Supports a Florida-based solution to capitalize on federal dollars available to increase coverage and improve access for Florida's uninsured residents, including updating the Medicaid reimbursement rate to increase access for residents within the program and adequately compensate providers.
- Supports incentivizing employers to offer wellness and prevention resources to their employees.