

2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

MANATEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



WATER

The Manatee Chamber:

- Supports the allocation of grant funding to businesses for red tide recovery.
- Supports state agencies study of blue-green algae issue.
- Supports legislation to address Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research.

TRANSPORTATION

The Manatee Chamber:

- Supports funding and expediting the PD&E study to replace the DeSoto Bridge and to consider all capacity alternatives identified in the 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 15th Street East/301 Blvd. from Tallevast Road to U.S. 41.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE READINESS

The Manatee Chamber:

- Supports increased recurring funding for workforce programs and fixed capital outlay projects at all regional higher education institutions to allow for program growth to meet critical regional employment needs.
- Supports increasing current appropriation of \$4.5 million to \$6.5 million to school district workforce education programs for performance-based industry certifications earned by post-secondary students.
- Supports legislation to include career dual enrolled students in the acceleration calculation for state high school grades, which is currently provided for academic dual enrolled students.

HEALTH CARE

The Manatee Chamber:

- Supports increased funding and/or enabling legislation for increased access to behavioral health focused on the opioid epidemic.
- Supports increased funding and policy changes to encourage 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.

2019 STATE POLICY PRIORITIES

MANATEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



TRANSPORTATION

- Supports long-term planning and funding for Ultimate I-75 from Manatee through Sarasota County.
- Advocates for the protection of the State's Transportation Trust Fund and existing transportation programs.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE READINESS

- Supports legislation to improve access to quality early learning, accountability measures for school readiness, including Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten readiness, and support for grade-level reading.
- Supports legislation that moves away from a narrow-focus, high-stakes testing, to a more comprehensive approach based on overall student achievement.
- Supports full funding of K-12 public schools at 2002 per pupil levels as a minimum.
- Supports Incentive Florida college scholarships for students pursuing careers teaching in Florida public schools for at least 10 years.
- Supports the bonding of Public Education Capital Outlay Funds to expand the amount of funds available for K-12 schools and higher education fixed-capital outlay projects.
- 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.

HEALTH CARE

- Supports expanded access to healthcare, including dental and vision programs, that increases quality of care with a reduction in over-all patient cost.
- 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.
- Urges the use of opioid-related Florida Trust Funds to be used for opioid prevention and treatment.

TAXATION

- Supports legislation that would reduce the Commercial Lease Tax (Business Rent Tax) over time.
- Urges the use of all of Florida's housing trust funds (Sadowski Act) to be used for housing programs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Supports the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund 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.
- Supports the pursuit for attainable housing solutions for our workforce and residents' housing needs.