2020 FEDERAL PRIORITIES
MANATEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & QUALITY OF LIFE

• Supports the allocation of grant funding to businesses for red tide recovery.
• Supports federal agencies’ activity on improving water quality.
• Supports legislation related to improved water quality.
• Supports legislation that creates a more transparent regulatory process with increased agency accountability and reduced costs and unnecessary burdens on stakeholders.
• Supports continued federal funding, in conjunction with Port Manatee’s dredged material management facility improvements, to provide and transport dredged material to be beneficially used for Washington Park, Palmetto restoration.
• Opposes gas or oil drilling within 125 miles off the Florida Coast.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

• Supports transportation legislation that authorizes a long-term sustainable revenue stream.
• Supports federal funding for continued operation and maintenance of the Manatee Harbor entrance channel including adequate dredged material disposal capacity at Port Manatee.
• Supports funding for coastal resiliency needs, including the analysis of surface and sub-surface infrastructure.

TAX REFORM & GENERAL GOVERNMENT

• Supports modifications to the social benefits system that will allow for a gradual exit-path for working families.
• Supports public policy action that defines the joint employer standard as “direct and immediate control” over workers’ terms and conditions of employment.

HEALTH CARE

• Advocates collaborative solutions to support greater access, increased quality, and a reduction in overall per-patient cost of care with the input of all stakeholders, including options for small businesses and their employees to participate in association health plans.
• Supports increased funding and/or enabling legislation for expanded access to behavioral health and mental health-related services and advocates for additional per capita funding to address substance abuse prevention and treatment.
• Supports enforcement of existing parity laws to provide greater access to behavioral health care for individuals and families.
• Supports funding that positively impacts access to care and health outcomes, including medical research, innovative programs, and pilot projects.
• Supports legislation to curb surprise billing through the implementation of a process for doctors and insurance companies to follow to negotiate billing disputes.