## 2020 State Legislative Priorities

**Manatee Chamber of Commerce**

### Transportation
- Supports funding and expediting the replacement of the DeSoto Bridge and consideration of all alternatives that will facilitate improved north/south capacity on the U.S. 41 corridor.
- Supports funding the construction phase of the Anna Maria and Cortez Bridge projects including a ‘bus-on-shoulder’ lane for emergency vehicles and future transit alternatives.

### Water
- Supports state agencies’ activity on improving water quality.
- Supports legislation related to improved water quality.

### Education & Workforce Readiness
- 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 employment needs.
- Supports full funding for workforce education programs for performance-based industry certifications earned by post-secondary students.
- Supports a needs-based School Readiness Funding Formula to provide a proportional allocation of funding across the state.
- 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.
- Supports funding for 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 the bonding of Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funds to construct education facilities that expand access to workforce education, including the SCF Parrish Center Phase 1 and the USF-SM Academic STEM Facility.

### Health Care
- Supports increased funding and/or enabling legislation for expanded access to long-term and acute behavioral health treatment focused on addiction, mental health, and suicide prevention, including funding to address the mental health crisis occurring at the VPK through high school levels.
- Supports increased, sustained 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 that positively impact access to care and outcomes, including innovative programs, pilot projects, and new technology.
2020 State Policy Priorities
Manatee Chamber of Commerce

Transportation

• Advocates for the protection of the Florida Transportation Trust Fund and existing transportation programs.
• Supports long-term planning and funding for Ultimate I-75 from Manatee through Sarasota County.
• Supports expansion of east-west state highways including SR 64, SR 70, and 44th Avenue.

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 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 pre-apprenticeship programs with industry stakeholders.

Health Care

• Supports expanded access to high-quality healthcare, including dental and vision programs.
• 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 community and hospital providers.
• Supports incentivizing employers to offer wellness, prevention, and primary care resources to their employees.
• Urges the use of opioid-related Florida Trust Funds solely for substance abuse prevention and treatment.

Taxation

• Supports legislation that would reduce the Commercial Lease Tax (Business Rent Tax) over time, including usage of sales tax on internet sales (if passed) to accelerate the reduction.
• Supports legislation that would require the collection of sales tax on all sales into the state.
• Supports legislation that would reduce the Communication Services Tax (CST) over time.
• Urges the use of all of Florida’s housing trust funds (Sadowski Act) to be used solely for housing programs.

Economic Development

• Supports the continuation of 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 Visit Florida to ensure the state is a premier destination for visitors nationally and internationally.
• Supports the pursuit for attainable housing solutions for our workforce and residents’ housing needs.
• Supports extending the loan payoff timeframe and/or reducing the interest rate incurred for businesses participating in the Emergency Bridge Loan Program for Red Tide and Blue-Green Algae.