



# WHERE WE STAND

A Guide to the Florida Chamber's 2016 Business Agenda



**FLORIDA**  
**CHAMBER**  
*of Commerce*  
SECURING FLORIDA'S FUTURE  
[FloridaChamber.com](http://FloridaChamber.com)

# Letter to Florida's Business Leaders



**Tracy Duda Chapman**  
2015-2016 Chair  
Florida Chamber of Commerce



**Mark Wilson**  
President and CEO  
Florida Chamber of Commerce

Florida Chamber Members and Friends:

As we look at Florida's economic horizon, it's clear Florida is on the move. With more than 100 million visitors each year and an estimated 6 million new residents by 2030 calling Florida home, the Florida Chamber's mission continues to be to unite Florida's business community, grow jobs, and make Florida more competitive.

The truth is, things are fragile in Florida. Political risk and uncertainty, changing demographics and an unprecedented amount of out-of-state resources are creating storm clouds on Florida's horizon.

As the Florida Chamber enters the 2016 legislative session, one thing remains clear—people matter and jobs matter. The Florida Chamber's annual competitiveness agenda, commonly referred to as the Florida Business Agenda, is a set of policy priorities that will help grow private-sector jobs, continue to improve Florida and diversify our economy.

The role of our state chamber has never been greater. The truth is, we have been and continue to be entirely focused on making Florida as competitive as possible.

If you believe in business, support us. When we win, you win. When you win, Florida wins.

We look forward to working with Governor Rick Scott, the Florida Cabinet and the Florida Legislature to continue making sure the right things happen in Florida.

Sincerely,



**Tracy Duda Chapman**  
2015-2016 Chair  
Florida Chamber of Commerce



**Mark Wilson**  
President and CEO  
Florida Chamber of Commerce

## GET INVOLVED:

Make a difference by contacting our Grassroots Engagement office at 850-521-1243, by email at [GBlose@FLChamber.com](mailto:GBlose@FLChamber.com) or visit [www.FloridaChamber.com](http://www.FloridaChamber.com) for more information.

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# Free Enterprise Isn't Free



Dr. Brian Lapointe, Research Professor at Florida Atlantic University, discusses why science-based water initiatives matter to Florida's economy, future and competitiveness.

Florida's economy is rebounding at a pace that has other states looking to us for leadership. Our state is growing by more than 800 people a day and we are the third most populous state in the nation, our housing market has regained considerable stability, our education and healthcare initiatives are working to create a healthier and better prepared workforce and our unemployment rate—once at historic heights of more than 11 percent—has continued to drop, even in the face of government gridlock and a lack of leadership in Washington.

But the road to our state's successes has not been easy and the truth is, things are fragile in Florida. Our efforts to make Florida a global leader continue to be challenged by groups who stand in the way of American competitiveness, free enterprise and opportunity. With six million more residents expected by 2030, smarter policies are essential or Florida will follow the path of California—and that is unacceptable.

When it comes to protecting Florida's environment, no one cares more than the Florida Chamber. Unfortunately, some environmental extremists continue to deploy regulation after regulation to hurt our efforts to plan for smarter growth and protect our environment as we solve our water challenges. It's almost as if they want Florida to fail.

When it comes to building the best education system, the union that claims to represent teachers consistently puts adults ahead of kids, excuses ahead of results, and continues to try to take options away from students.

Our fight to secure long-term opportunities is often made more difficult by those who believe Florida is immune to economic strife. The union that represents government workers is the same union opposing common sense pension reforms—making Florida less competitive and hurting the very taxpayers they claim to represent. Florida's families are already on the hook for an extra \$500 million every year for the next 43 years. We must remember the high price Florida's families pay when we fail to make the tough decisions today that will provide a secure future. When we look at cities like Detroit, once a hub of American enterprise and ingenuity, and in its place find bankrupt pension systems and job loss, our fight is renewed.

Incredibly, some politicians are following the trial lawyer playbook and continue to side with special interests who put themselves ahead of what's right for Florida. In fact, some politicians have proved their loyalty to billboard trial lawyers who exploit Florida's legal system by refusing to act on Florida's worsening lawsuit abuse problem—a problem which costs every Florida family an average of \$3,400 in lawsuit abuse taxes every year.

Yet despite the unlimited resources of special interest groups, their policies of less freedom and less competitiveness have never worked—and they never will.

We're pushing back against these special interest groups who have and freely use their unlimited resources and national connections to drown Florida in unnecessary regulations, taxes and red tape, but we need your help. Their efforts never tire and neither should ours.

## GET INVOLVED:

Help the Florida Chamber make Florida more competitive by contacting our Grassroots Engagement office at 850-521-1243 or by email at [GBlose@FLChamber.com](mailto:GBlose@FLChamber.com). Visit [www.FloridaChamber.com](http://www.FloridaChamber.com) for more information.



# Where We Stand

At the Florida Chamber, economic opportunity, job growth and global competitiveness are our focus. We have fought for free enterprise alongside our members by standing up for Florida's business community and the employers and families they represent.

Some politicians and groups vote and advocate based on polls or funding. The Florida Chamber stands up for freedom and free enterprise in every corner—from the Florida Legislature to the Florida Cabinet, from state regulatory agencies to federal agencies, from the court of law to the court of public opinion. If the battle is about our business community, the Florida Chamber is on the front lines.

At the Florida Chamber, we believe we can create economic opportunities and grow our economy by acting on the following principles:

- ▶ We believe in a robust **free enterprise system** with limited intrusion by government in the marketplace,
- ▶ We believe in a **high-quality education and workforce development system** that will enable all Floridians to compete in the 21st century global economy,
- ▶ We believe in **fair and predictable laws and regulations** that promote economic development and do not impose unreasonable costs on businesses or their customers,
- ▶ We believe in a **simple, fair and globally competitive tax structure**,
- ▶ We believe in **fiscal responsibility, public accountability and transparency in government**,
- ▶ We believe in a **reliable and sustainable infrastructure** to support the health and prosperity of all Floridians,
- ▶ We believe in a **constructive and positive labor environment** in Florida that generates jobs, and
- ▶ We believe in a **unified and responsible business community** that acts in the long-term interest of our state.

Those pushing special interest agendas have no vision beyond their own and they often seek to diminish free enterprise and tear apart our freedoms. We either win the war for free enterprise by growing the private sector and creating jobs while getting government pension programs and unsustainable entitlements out of the way, or we lose it.

For those interested in fighting against special interests and who believe in Florida's future—we invite you to join the fight. The battle for free enterprise continues and we welcome your support. For those of you who have already joined us in the arena to fight for free enterprise, we thank you.

We invite you to help us secure Florida's future and remember, when the Florida Chamber wins, Florida wins. When Florida wins, America wins.



Past and present meet when the Florida Chamber's first female chair, former Orlando Mayor Glenda Hood (right), and the Florida Chamber's 2015-2016 Chair, Tracy Duda Chapman (left), Senior VP/General Counsel of A. Duda & Sons, Inc., discuss their leadership roles in helping secure Florida's future.

“Being chair of the Florida Chamber Foundation allows me to focus on the future needs of both my community and the state of Florida. The opportunity to chair on the Board of Governors gives each of us a unique perspective on what Florida's diverse businesses need to succeed.”

**PAM RAUCH**  
Florida Chamber Foundation Chair  
Florida Power & Light Company

## GET INVOLVED:

If you believe in free enterprise, support our cause by investing, volunteering, writing to your legislator or sharing your voice with us. Contact the Florida Chamber's Grassroots Engagement office at [GBlose@FLChamber.com](mailto:GBlose@FLChamber.com) or by calling 850-521-1243.



2016

# Chamber Board of Directors

The Florida Chamber Board of Directors is comprised of business leaders representing every region and industry in Florida, from small businesses to multi-national corporations. These leaders are working to secure Florida's future.

Florida Chamber board members invest their time, resources and expertise to further the substantial pro-business legislative, research, political and grassroots activities of the Florida Chamber and our members. The Florida Chamber board invites you to join the fight for free enterprise.

CHAIR

**Tracy Duda Chapman**  
A. Duda & Sons, Inc.



CHAIR-ELECT

**Syd Kitson**  
Kitson & Partners



IMMEDIATE  
PAST CHAIR  
2014-2015

**Stephen M. Knopik**  
Beall's, Inc.



**Paul Anderson**

Tampa Port Authority



**Jesse Biter**

Biter Enterprises



CHAIR -

FLORIDA CHAMBER  
POLITICAL INSTITUTE

**Mike Bjorklund**

Florida Electric  
Cooperative



**Kevin D. Bowyer**

Warren Averett



**Cressman Bronson**

PNC Bank



**Debbie Calder**

Navy Federal  
Credit Union



**David Call**

Fifth Third Bank



**Charley Caulkins**

Fisher & Phillips LLP



**Stan Connally**

Gulf Power



PAST CHAIR  
2011-2012

**Anthony Connelly**  
Disney Cruise Line



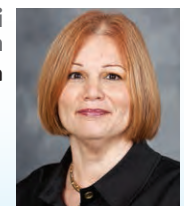
**Susan Connelly**

Darden Restaurants, Inc.



**Lori**

**Costantino-Brown**  
Bridges of America





# Chamber Board of Directors

**Carol Craig**  
Craig Technologies



**Husein Cumber**  
Florida East  
Coast Industries



FLORIDA CHAMBER  
FOUNDATION  
CHAIR-ELECT  
**Doug Davidson**  
Bank of America  
Merrill Lynch



**Paulee Day**  
MarineMax



**Jonathan P. Ferrando**  
AutoNation, Inc.



**David Fuller**  
SunTrust Foundation



**Michael Gallagher**  
SantaFe  
HealthCare, Inc.



**Todd Gates**  
GATES



**Alex Glenn**  
Duke Energy



**Timothy M. Goldfarb**  
UF Health  
Shands Hospital



**Robert Grammig**  
Holland & Knight LLP



**Jon Hage**  
Charter Schools USA



**Fred Hames**  
Skanska



**Dave Hammer**  
SeaWorld Parks  
and Entertainment



**Debbie Harvey**  
Ron Jon Surf Shop



**Charles O. Hinson, III**  
TECO Energy



PAST CHAIR  
1990-1991  
**Glenda Hood**  
triSect



**Bill Horne**  
Laser Spine Institute



2016

# Chamber Board of Directors

PAST CHAIR  
2012-2013

**Lars Houmann**  
Florida Hospital &  
the Florida Division  
Adventist Health  
System



**John Hrabusa**  
Publix Super  
Markets, Inc.



PAST CHAIR  
1999-2000  
**Leerie Jenkins**  
RS&H



**Nancy Keefer, CCE**  
Daytona Chamber  
of Commerce



**Belinda Keiser**  
Keiser University



**Quintin Kendall**  
CSX Transportation



**Allen McGlynn**  
State Farm Insurance  
Companies



**John A. Medina, Sr.**  
First Commerce  
Credit Union



**Ergetu Merete**  
Wells Fargo



**Carlos Migoya**  
Jackson Health



**Michael Minton**  
Dean, Mead, Minton  
and Zwemer



**Susan Pareigis**  
Florida Council  
of 100



**Trey H. Paris**  
General Electric Company



**Todd Powell**  
Plum Creek



CHAIR -  
FLORIDA CHAMBER  
FOUNDATION  
**Pam Rauch**  
Florida Power & Light  
Company





# Chamber Board of Directors

**Dean Ridings**  
Florida Press  
Association



**G. Lee Sandler**  
Sandler, Travis  
& Rosenberg



**Mike Sheely**  
Allstate Insurance  
Company



PAST CHAIR  
2013-2014  
**Eric Silagy**  
Florida Power &  
Light Company



**David Strong**  
Orlando Health



**Brian Taylor**  
JaxPort



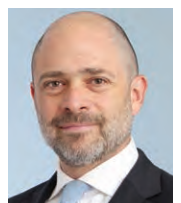
**Jon Urbanek**  
Florida Blue



**Will Weatherford**  
Weatherford Partners



**Steve Weinstein**  
RenaissanceRe  
North America  
Holdings, Inc.



**Bob White**  
The Doctors Company



**Mark Wilson**  
Florida Chamber  
of Commerce



**Joe York**  
AT&T



# Governmental Affairs Team

The Florida Chamber Advocacy Team closely tracks more than 7,000 votes each session and testifies dozens of times, making sure the voice of job creators is heard.



**David Hart**  
Executive Vice  
President of  
Governmental  
Affairs & Political  
Operations



**Frank Walker**  
Vice  
President of  
Governmental  
Affairs



**Mark Wilson**  
President  
and CEO



**Drew Preston**  
Chief of Staff,  
President's  
Office



**Britney Burch**  
Director of  
Talent,  
Education and  
Quality of Life  
Policy



**Carolyn Johnson**  
Director of  
Business,  
Economic  
Development &  
Innovation Policy



**Marian Johnson**  
Senior Vice  
President of  
Political  
Strategy



**Andrew Wiggins**  
Senior Director  
of Campaign  
& Elections



**Edie Ousley**  
Vice President  
of Public  
Affairs



**Greg Blosé, II**  
Grassroots  
Development  
Manager



**Andy Gonzalez**  
Director  
of Political  
Development



**Alice Ancona**  
Director of  
Global  
Outreach



**Katherine Bustamante**  
Communications  
Manager



**Sarah Spagnola**  
Executive  
Assistant



**Hannah Kaplan**  
Political  
Administrative  
Coordinator

# Legislative Advocates

In addition to the year-round internal Advocacy Team, the Florida Chamber partners with some of the most trusted, successful and well-connected lobbying professionals in Florida on competitiveness issues ranging from taxation, regulations, workers' comp and legal reform to education reform, healthcare and more. These experts work together with Florida Chamber staff and volunteers.



**Mike  
Anway**



**Josh  
Aubuchon**



**Travis  
Blanton**



**French  
Brown IV**



**Melanie  
Brown**



**Matt  
Bryan**



**David  
Childs**



**David  
Daniel**



**Mark  
Delegal**



**Jeff  
Hartley**



**Gary  
Hunter**



**Jon  
Johnson**



**Darrick  
McGhee**



**"Proud to earn an A Ranking from the Florida Chamber of Commerce for supporting pro-job, pro-business policies that keep Floridians working!"**

SEN. JEFF BRANDES

 @JeffreyBrandes

**"So proud of this recognition @FlChamber!"**

SEN. DOROTHY HUKILL

 @DorothyHukill

# 2015 DISTINGUISHED ADVOCATE AWARDS

**FLORIDA  
CHAMBER**  
*of Commerce*

**Distinguished  
Advocate**

— — —  
In Recognition of and Appreciation for  
Your Leadership and Commitment  
to Florida's Business  
Community  
— — —

**T**he Florida Chamber's Distinguished Advocate Award recognizes legislators who championed key Florida Business Agenda legislation. The award is designed to acknowledge legislators who ensured consideration of the business community's legislative priorities and who fought tirelessly for the passage of pro-jobs legislation.

## SENATE



**SEN. JEFF  
BRANDES**

R-St. Petersburg



**SEN. NANCY  
DETERT**

R-Venice



**SEN. ALAN  
HAYS**

R-Umatilla



**SEN. DOROTHY  
L. HUKILL**

R-Port Orange



**SEN. JOHN  
LEGG**

R-Lutz



**SEN. WILTON  
SIMPSON**

R-Trilby

**“Honored to be named a Distinguished Advocate by the @FLChamber.  
Growing Florida’s economy is our #1 priority!”**

HOUSE SPEAKER STEVE CRISAFULLI

 @SteveCrisafulli

**“It’s a privilege to serve. #jaxpol #ilovejax”**

REP. LAKE RAY

 @lakeray3

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



**REP. BEN  
ALBRITTON**  
R-Bartow



**REP. MATT  
CALDWELL**  
R-Lehigh Acres



**REP. RICHARD  
CORCORAN**  
R-Lutz



**REP. STEVE  
CRISAFULLI**  
R-Merritt Island



**REP. MANNY  
DIAZ, JR.**  
R-Hialeah



**REP. KATIE  
EDWARDS**  
D-Sunrise



**REP. ERIK  
FRESEN**  
R-Miami



**REP. MATT  
GAETZ**  
R-Shalimar



**REP. MIKE  
HILL**  
R-Pensacola



**REP. LARRY  
METZ**  
R-Groveland



**REP. MIKE  
MILLER**  
R-Winter Park



**REP. EDWIN  
NARAIN**  
D-Tampa



**REP. MARLENE  
O'TOOLE**  
R-The Villages



**REP.  
KATHLEEN  
PASSIDOMO**  
R-Naples



**REP. CARY  
PIGMAN**  
R-Sebring



**REP. LAKE  
RAY**  
R-Jacksonville



**REP. ROSS  
SPANO**  
R-Riverview

Find out why these legislators  
earned a Florida Chamber Distinguished  
Advocate Award by visiting  
[www.FloridaChamber.com/  
DistinguishedAdvocate](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/DistinguishedAdvocate)

# Closing Florida's Talent Gap



Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart discusses the importance of Florida's education reforms to building a stronger economy.

“Florida has made progress in education this past decade. That’s clear. Just as clear, we have a very long way to go.”

DAVE LAWRENCE  
The Children’s Movement of Florida

“Commissioner Pam Stewart’s personal experience with Florida’s A-F system is an inspiration to all of us and proof that it needs to stay.”

MARK WILSON  
President and CEO,  
Florida Chamber

## WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

- ▶ CareerSource Florida
- ▶ Children’s Movement of Florida
- ▶ Florida Council of 100
- ▶ Florida Council on Economic Education
- ▶ Florida Department of Education
- ▶ Florida Research Consortium
- ▶ Florida TaxWatch
- ▶ Foundation for Excellence in Education
- ▶ Foundation for Florida’s Future
- ▶ Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida
- ▶ James Madison Institute
- ▶ U.S. Chamber of Commerce

## Why It Matters To Florida

Florida is one of America’s best opportunities. According to research from the Florida Chamber Foundation, Florida will need to create and fill approximately two million net new jobs between now and 2030. In Florida, we have a talent-gap opportunity—employers need better prepared talent to continue moving our state in the right direction. A talented workforce is Florida’s best long-term economic strategy. Whether the need is in early education, K-12, higher education, workforce development or lifelong learning, Florida wins when we continue to close talent gaps and put our students before special interests—no matter what. Driving meaningful education reforms such as empowering parents to choose the best educational environment for their children, advocating for rigorous accountability standards and championing better assessment models will help our state remain a national and global leader in education efforts and will help our students compete in tomorrow’s global economy.



Florida’s economy benefits when parents are empowered to choose the best learning environment for their students. The Florida Chamber has remained diligent in advocating for a fair education system that helps make students more competitive.

JON HAGE | Charter Schools USA

## Florida’s Competitive Agenda

### Advocating for Rigorous Accountability Standards

Continuing to support assessment and accountability systems at all levels of Florida’s education system will help ensure a globally competitive talent pipeline.

### Championing School Choice Options

Empowering parents to take the lead on choosing the best learning environment for their children gives students more opportunities for success and promotes competition, which encourages continual improvements to Florida’s education system.

### Attracting and Retaining World Class Talent

From manufacturing and engineering to R&D and medicine, attracting and retaining talent in emerging and targeted industries means advocating for programs that help our state remain competitive.

### Advocating for STEM Initiatives

Providing opportunities for STEM involvement at earlier levels of learning will give Florida’s students the best chance at being globally competitive. Advocating for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), with an added focus on Medicine, initiatives helps position Florida as a global leader in high-tech, high-wage job creation.





# Talent Supply & Education

## Expanding Access to Higher Education

Creating a competitive and highly-skilled talent pool that meets business needs requires solutions that encourage quality education programs and expand need-based aid initiatives.

## Investing in Digital and Virtual Education

Expanding the use of cost-effective digital learning and virtual education tools throughout Florida's education system will ensure Florida's talent pipeline remains able to compete globally.

## Improving Professional Development Options for Teachers

Fighting to improve professional development and benefit options for Florida's teachers will create opportunities for America's best teachers to train and remain in Florida, while helping our state remain competitive.

## Preparing Florida's Workforce for a Global Economy

Continuing to provide businesses with the keys to a well-trained talent pool begins with championing high value programs such as Quick Response Training. Supporting training programs will allow businesses, particularly small businesses, to play a leading role in their own growth and development and fill talent gaps.



**N**owak Enterprises, Inc. supports the Florida Chamber's education goals, especially for birth to four. We employ over 300 people; having skilled workers is key.

PETER NOWAK | Nowak Enterprises, Inc.

## The Fight For Free Enterprise

While Florida's education reforms continue to move our state in the right direction, the Florida Chamber's work is far from over. Incredibly, unions continue to place the needs of adults before the needs of Florida's children. In order to make Florida more competitive and meet future workforce needs, we will continue to fight to develop talented students who are college and career ready and able to compete in a global workforce.

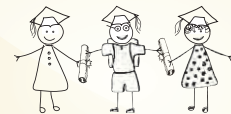


### SHARE OUR VIDEO AND HELP FLORIDA REMAIN GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE

Meet Zoe – thanks to Florida's innovative education system, she's prepared with the skills Florida's businesses need. Visit [FloridaWins.org](http://FloridaWins.org) and learn why education is important to Florida!

## Talent Supply is Replacing Tax Incentives as Florida's Most Important Ingredient in a Region's Competitiveness

### Investing in talent starts early.



Today's kindergarteners will be 2030's graduating workforce.

### By 2022, the fastest growing jobs will have a STEM focus:

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERS	↑ 55%
BIOCHEMISTS AND BIOPHYSICISTS	↑ 36%
NURSE PRACTITIONERS	↑ 30%
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS	↑ 27%

**YET, in 2013 there were less than 12,000 STEM undergraduate degrees awarded – and nearly 70,000 STEM jobs that need to be filled today.**

**THE GAP** In order to create and fill 2 million net new jobs by 2030, Florida must continue to focus on education initiatives that reflect Florida's future workforce needs.

\*Numbers as of publication print date. For today's numbers please contact [JParrish@FLFoundation.org](mailto:JParrish@FLFoundation.org).

### GET INVOLVED:

Join the Florida Chamber Foundation's Talent Supply and Education Caucus and become a part of the solution. Contact [KElekes@FLFoundation.org](mailto:KElekes@FLFoundation.org) to get involved.

Sources: Nation's Report Card 2013; Florida Department of Economic Opportunity; State University System of Florida



# Continuing to Diversify and Grow Florida's Economy



Charlie Gray (middle), of GrayRobinson and Chair of the Florida Chamber Foundation's *Blueprint for Florida's Innovation Economy*, gets connected to a 3-D printed robotic arm by Dominique Courbin (right) of Limbitless Solutions. This open-source Florida innovation allows children to get prosthetics at a fraction of the cost (often free) of traditional prosthetics.

**"I know the power of what the Florida Chamber of Commerce does and what it can do. Today, as we continue to grow the economy and the number of jobs in our state, the Florida Chamber is one of the most important partners of ours at Enterprise Florida."**

**BILL JOHNSON**  
Florida Secretary of Commerce;  
Enterprise Florida

## WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

- ▶ Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- ▶ Film Florida
- ▶ Florida Airports Council
- ▶ Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
- ▶ Florida Department of Transportation
- ▶ Florida Economic Development Council
- ▶ Florida Ports Council
- ▶ Manufacturers Association of Florida
- ▶ Space Florida
- ▶ The Beacon Council
- ▶ VISIT FLORIDA

## Why It Matters To Florida

Florida's diverse economy is helping attract global businesses and targeted industries such as aerospace, research and development, modeling and simulation, defense and more. However, building the nation's most competitive climate for business requires targeted investments in economic development initiatives, such as funding Enterprise Florida's economic development toolkit. While agriculture, construction and tourism continue to provide a strong and healthy foundation, Florida wins when we continue to diversify our base of job creators, and strategically invest in international trade, manufacturing, technology, biotech and other targeted industries.



Florida has come a long way in building international economic development efforts, but our work is far from over. At Bank of America, we support the Florida Chamber Foundation's research in trade and logistics because we know that Florida's future lies in being globally competitive.

DOUG DAVIDSON | Bank of America Merrill Lynch

## Florida's Competitive Agenda

### Leveraging and Growing Trade and Logistics Opportunities

According to the Florida Chamber Foundation's Trade and Logistics 2.0 report, Florida can create more than 150,000 high-wage jobs by growing manufacturing, exports and trade and logistics. In order to take advantage of changing trade routes, a historic expansion of the Panama Canal, and targeted infrastructure investments, we must continue to leverage and grow opportunities.

### Supporting Florida's Veterans, Military and Defense Industry

Championing Florida's valuable veteran population by advocating for our state's military and defense industry and opposing cuts that disproportionately impact Florida's economy will allow Florida's 20 active military bases and three combatant command centers, and Florida's defense contractors to provide valuable jobs and grow Florida's economy.



Florida's policy makers and businesses must continue to diversify our economy by implementing recommendations outlined in the Florida Chamber Foundation's most recent Trade and Logistics report, which shows Florida can create more than 150,000 high-wage jobs by doubling exports. To find out how you can drive growth, contact Alice Ancona, Florida Chamber Director of Global Outreach at [AAAncona@FLChamber.com](mailto:AAAncona@FLChamber.com).



# Innovation & Economic Development

## Continuing to Strengthen Florida's Leadership in Space Exploration

Encouraging targeted investments in technological advancements for both public and commercial space projects ensures Florida remains the leader in America's space business.

## Marketing Florida's Business-Friendly Climate

Governor Rick Scott and many in the Florida Legislature deserve credit for making Florida more competitive. However, decision makers in other states won't know about Florida's progress in education, regulatory reform or tax cuts if we don't aggressively tell the Florida story. The Florida Chamber believes the Legislature should invest \$20 million annually to tell Florida's improving business climate story.

## Growing and Attracting Targeted Industries

Although more than 98 percent of all jobs in Florida are created by businesses that didn't receive any incentive, the fact is that several states and nations are targeting the same high-skill industries Florida is seeking to grow. In these competitive cases, we believe growing and attracting businesses as well as capital investments will help create high-wage, high-skill jobs.

## Championing Rural Business Opportunities

Creating more opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs in rural Florida paves the way for more economic diversity and job growth.



**W**hen it comes to advocating on behalf of jobs and businesses in Florida, the Florida Chamber is second to none.

WILL WEATHERFORD | Weatherford Partners

## The Fight For Free Enterprise

Florida continues to move in the right direction by growing private-sector jobs, expanding new industries and strengthening international trade and logistics relationships. But our work is far from over. The Florida Chamber believes a globally competitive business climate helps businesses and families succeed.

But in order to become the number one state in the nation for innovation and economic development, we must continue to attract and retain high-skill talent, target growing industries and continue to work toward the recommendations set forth in the Florida Chamber Foundation's most recent Trade and Logistics report.

## Diversifying Florida's Economy Fuels Job Growth

Florida's agriculture, construction and tourism industries remain the foundation of our state.

**But in order to remain competitive, Florida must strengthen:**

### VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDING

California had 40 times the number of deals funded by venture capital in 2014 than Florida did.



### GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Florida ranks 42nd in GDP/capita.



### HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-WAGE TALENT

Florida ranks #50 in the nation in doctoral scientists per 100,000 residents.



**Between now and 2030, Florida must continue to diversify its economy.**

**T  
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P**

In order to reach the top five in current venture capital funding, Florida would need to increase its funding by **45 percent**.

### GET INVOLVED:

Become a part of the Florida Chamber Foundation's Innovation Caucus and help create a blueprint for expanding Florida's innovation economy.

Contact [JParrish@FLFoundation.org](mailto:JParrish@FLFoundation.org) to get involved.

Sources: Florida Chamber Foundation; Milken State Tech; Science Index





# Preparing Florida's Infrastructure for Smart Growth and Development



Secretary of Transportation Jim Boxold shares the importance of Florida's infrastructure investments to the health of our state's long-term economy.

“The Florida Chamber Foundation's focus on a long range vision and their commitment to solving transportation issues has been instrumental in keeping Florida globally competitive.”

JIM BOXOLD  
Secretary, Florida Department  
of Transportation

## WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

- ▶ Associated Builders & Contractors of Florida
- ▶ Florida Airports Council
- ▶ Florida Department of Transportation
- ▶ Florida Electric Cooperatives Association
- ▶ Florida Farm Bureau
- ▶ Florida Home Builders Association
- ▶ Florida Land Council
- ▶ Florida Natural Gas Association
- ▶ Florida Ports Council
- ▶ Floridians for Better Transportation
- ▶ NAIOP of Florida
- ▶ Space Florida

## Why It Matters To Florida

Florida's roads and bridges are ranked number one in the nation, but Florida's infrastructure encompasses much more. The Florida Chamber believes smart growth and development requires pro-business solutions for water, communications, energy, agriculture, land development, roads, bridges, sea and air ports and other infrastructure components. Transforming Florida's economy means investing in Florida's infrastructure now. Florida's water, energy, transportation and communications infrastructure are the backbone of our economy and politicians should put the long term ahead ahead of the short term, and the needs of Florida families in front of the needs of environmental extremists and special interest groups. The Florida Chamber Foundation estimates Florida will have six million more residents by 2030 and with more than 100 million visitors per year, Florida needs to focus on long-term infrastructure solutions.



Choosing Florida means choosing opportunity and economic growth.

QUINTIN KENDALL | CSX Transportation

## Florida's Competitive Agenda

### Supporting Long-term, Sustainable Water Policies

The Florida Chamber Foundation's growth estimates place Florida's water demand at 20 percent higher between now and 2030. The Florida Chamber understands that enacting strong, science-based water quality standards now will protect Florida's natural and economic resources for the future.

### Supporting Transportation and Infrastructure Investments

Partnering with public-private businesses to ensure our state can invest in infrastructure needs will be one key to meeting the needs of a growing population. As the third most populous state in the nation and with an estimated six million more residents calling Florida home by 2030, we must focus on advancing the future health and prosperity of all Floridians by creating and maintaining sustainable and reliable infrastructure systems.



# Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

## Creating Efficient and Sustainable Energy Solutions

Providing families with reliable and cost-effective energy options by championing energy policies that focus on the long-term needs of our state, will help meet the needs of Florida's growing population.

## Continuing to Reduce Mortgage Foreclosures

Streamlining the court systems to expedite the existing foreclosure backlog will help Florida's housing market and improve our overall economy.

## Supporting Proactive Economic Planning and Development

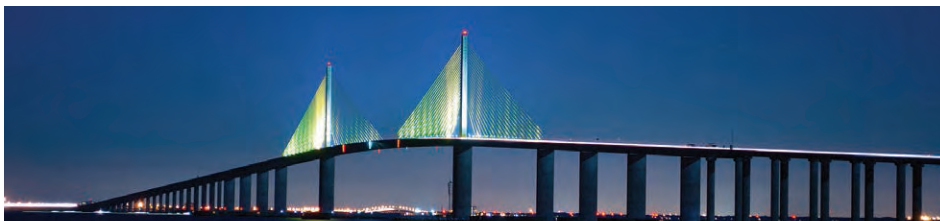
Embracing proactive measures for growth management plans, which help create new and vibrant communities, will guide future growth by clarifying roles and streamlining bureaucratic processes.

**F**lorida's growing population demands a sustainable vision that includes a more comprehensive, long-term water policy, and the Florida Chamber is a dedicated champion of smart economic growth policies.

ADAM PUTNAM | Florida Commissioner of Agriculture

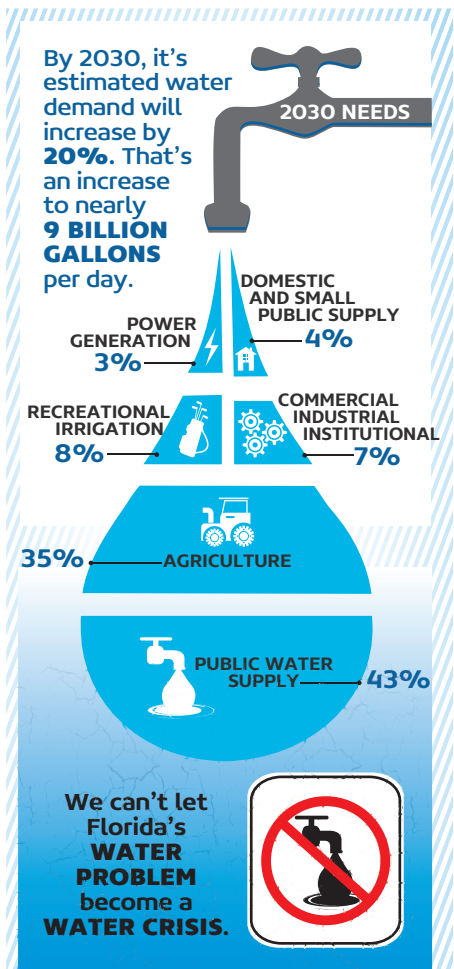
## The Fight For Free Enterprise

Florida's focus on comprehensive water policy and clean energy are steps in the right direction to ensure our rising population has adequate resources. With a larger population and an increasing demand for resources on the horizon, science-based solutions that take into account the needs of Floridians and our precious natural resources will help move us in the right direction. Adopting smart growth policies will benefit small businesses and families by growing the private sector, despite the continued delays posed by those who seek to burden government processes with more regulation.



National transportation research group TRIP named Florida the top state for road conditions in the U.S. With an estimated six million more people in Florida by 2030, Florida must continue to fund transportation and infrastructure projects. Learn more by visiting us at [www.FloridaChamber.com/Transportation](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/Transportation).

## Florida Chamber Calls for Long-Term Water Solutions



**THE GAP** With an estimated **9 billion gallons** of water consumed each day by 2030, Florida needs science-based solutions to meet future needs.

## GET INVOLVED:

Help secure Florida's water future by sharing the [FloridaWins.org](http://FloridaWins.org) water video or by contacting [GBlose@FLChamber.com](mailto:GBlose@FLChamber.com).



Sources: Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Florida Chamber Foundation.



# Building the Perfect Business Climate



House Speaker Steve Crisafulli discusses Florida's free enterprise efforts with Florida Chamber members.

**“I believe that government should not stand in the way of entrepreneurs, families or communities, but instead should provide the framework for success so they can thrive.”**

**FLORIDA CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
JEFF ATWATER**

## **WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:**

- ▶ Florida Association of Insurance Agents
- ▶ Florida Insurance Council
- ▶ Florida Institute of CPAs
- ▶ Florida Justice Reform Institute
- ▶ Florida Realtors®
- ▶ Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association
- ▶ Florida Retail Federation
- ▶ NAIOP
- ▶ Small Business Development Center
- ▶ R Street Institute

## Why It Matters To Florida

Florida, in many ways, is moving in the right direction—we are creating jobs, chipping away at outdated and costly regulations, and cutting taxes for many businesses. But building the perfect business climate means creating stable insurance markets, expanding access to capital for small businesses and securing legal and regulatory reform. We must also continue to fight against costly federal government regulation and red tape that seek to undermine the work that Florida's business community has championed. To lead the nation in job growth, Florida must redouble efforts to fix our state's dismal legal climate—now at an all-time low of 44th worst—finally get rid of our “judicial hellhole” reputation and focus on being open for business.



**The Florida Chamber of Commerce is helping to lead the effort to create jobs in Florida.**

FLORIDA ATTORNEY GENERAL PAM BONDI

## Florida's Competitive Agenda

### Streamlining Government Regulations and Mandates

Thanks to Governor Scott's leadership and the legislative focus on jobs, Florida has eliminated more than 3,000 outdated, ineffective or disadvantageous regulations. As Florida competes with other states and countries, improving Florida's permitting and regulatory systems will help our competitiveness. We must continue to fight against costly and duplicative employer mandates, which often strike the pockets of small businesses, and instead, focus on creating a positive labor environment where all 67 counties, 405 cities and all state agencies are aligned to help job creators grow Florida.

### Fixing Florida's Broken Legal System

Lawsuit abuse is a serious and costly problem that keeps getting worse—Florida's 2015 ranking places our state 44 out of 50 for lawsuit climate, a three place drop from 2012. The Florida Chamber and our partners at the Florida Justice Reform Institute and the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Legal Reform will continue to push for common sense reforms that fix Florida's broken legal system.

### Ensuring Fair and Competitive Workers' Compensation Rates

Ensuring our workers' comp system is fair and not inflated by trial lawyer tactics and other unnecessary costs will help lower the cost of doing business in Florida. The Florida Chamber led the effort to help lower workers' comp rates by more than 60 percent in the last 10 years and continues to play an active role in ensuring Florida Supreme Court decisions don't derail the successes of previous years.





# Business Climate & Competitiveness

## Creating America's Most Competitive Tax System

Assuring Florida's tax system is competitive, equitable and sustainable will limit burdensome taxes and help create stability in Florida's tax system.

## Increasing Venture Capital

Increasing Florida's national share of venture capital investments will help drive innovation to our state. California businesses receive more venture capital every two weeks than Florida does in a year. In fact, California receives \$14.7 trillion in venture capital investments yearly, compared to Florida's annual rate of \$421 billion in venture capital investments.

## Reforming Florida's Insurance Markets

Creating a competitive and stable insurance market will help consumers find the best options at the best rates. We must continue initiatives like reducing the size and exposure of Citizens Property Insurance, continuing to transfer risk from Florida's Catastrophe Fund, spreading risk, reducing fraud claims and allowing for creative solutions to the issues homeowners and businesses face.

## Lowering Burdensome Unemployment Compensation Taxes

Lowering the burden of unemployment compensation taxes helps protect both employers and employees from unnecessary costs that may lead to job cuts.

## Providing Increased Opportunities for Growth for Small Businesses

Small businesses create two out of every three jobs in Florida. In order to help small businesses grow, the Florida Chamber will continue to support programs such as Florida's Small Business Development Network, which provides guidance to start-ups and first stage businesses. We will also continue to work with the lending community to ensure small businesses have appropriate access to capital.

## The Fight For Free Enterprise

Florida is on the right track toward a more competitive and global economy and businesses are taking notice. But in order to continue to be the number one destination for business, we must continue to fight against agendas that cost our state jobs and opportunities. Instead of short-term solutions, the Florida Chamber believes in creating long-term sustainable outcomes so Florida can continue to attract and grow the top businesses in the nation.



### HAVE YOU MET MARY?

Florida's "bottom-10" legal climate costs her and her family an extra \$3,400 each year. Help her fight back by visiting [www.FloridaChamber.com/StopLawsuitAbuse](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/StopLawsuitAbuse) today!

## Improving Florida's Legal Climate Will Fuel Private-Sector Job Growth



Florida is ranked a **"JUDICIAL HELLHOLE"**



**Lawsuit abuse taxes cost families approximately \$2.8 billion annually and drive business away from our state.**

**THE GAP**

Saying "NO" to the special interest agendas of trial lawyers could improve Florida's economy by **\$15 billion** and will also allow us to attract and retain diverse businesses.

### GET INVOLVED:

Help Mary win by sharing her story and fighting Florida's bottom-10 legal climate. Visit [www.FloridaChamber.com/StopLawsuitAbuse](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/StopLawsuitAbuse) today or contact [GBlose@FLChamber.com](mailto:GBlose@FLChamber.com).

Sources: Tax Foundation; U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Legal Reform; U.S. Tort Cost Trends, Towers Watson (Formerly Towers Perrin); Florida Chamber Foundation



# Making Government More Efficient



Senate President Andy Gardiner outlines the need for pro-jobs initiatives with Florida Chamber members.

## Why It Matters To Florida

**A**t the Florida Chamber, we believe in solutions that ensure efficient, transparent and sustainable government systems. This means addressing issues that drain Florida's resources, like unsustainable pension systems, outdated and inconsistent regulations, and unnecessary taxes and fees. Florida's success must not be blocked by regulation, litigation or taxation but should instead be built on consistent regulations and free enterprise principles that create jobs and opportunities. As Florida prepares for approximately six million new residents by 2030, taxpayers deserve an efficient government that provides the highest return to taxpayers with the most economic freedoms and opportunities possible.



**F**lorida's businesses need a streamlined and effective regulatory environment in order to be successful. The Florida Chamber is standing up for what's right and fighting for an environment that helps create jobs, cuts red tape and allows businesses like Baron Sign Manufacturing to grow.

SANDRA FOLAND | The Baron Group Inc.

**“Florida is in dire need of lawsuit abuse reform. The Florida Chamber is standing up against lawsuit abuses and working to improve on our state's legal climate.”**

DAVID HALE  
Tampa Tank

## Florida's Competitive Agenda

### Modernizing Florida's Pension Systems

Creating fiscally stable governments through modern and sustainable retirement programs will help avoid bankruptcies like we're seeing across the nation. This is why the Florida Chamber will continue to support pension reforms that require government employees to protect their pensions by enrolling in a modern pension program to help make our state more fiscally responsible.

### Reforming Collective Bargaining Protects Employees' and Employers' Rights

Consistent policy regarding employers' hiring rights and practices is needed to avoid confusion between state and federal laws. Reducing the burden on taxpayers by reforming collective bargaining in a meaningful way will ensure the protection of employees' choice as well as employers' rights.

### WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

- ▶ Central Florida Partnership
- ▶ Florida Association of Counties, Inc.
- ▶ Florida Bankers Association
- ▶ Florida Council of 100
- ▶ Florida League of Cities
- ▶ James Madison Institute
- ▶ National Federation of Independent Businesses
- ▶ Tampa Bay Partnership
- ▶ U.S. Chamber of Commerce



# Civic & Governance Systems

## Advocating for Consistent Federal Immigration Policies

Supporting a consistent federal policy of immigration that avoids undue burden to Florida's employers and doesn't harm Florida's economy will help move our state forward. Florida's economy depends on strong international relationships for its trade, manufacturing and agriculture industries. A consistent federal policy will help Florida's employers avoid undue burdens and costs.

## Improving Government Efficiencies

Streamlining permitting, rulemaking and procurement processes allows for additional efficiencies in all Florida's state agencies. This will allow us to advocate for funding in areas like paying great teachers higher salaries, improving transportation and supporting targeted economic development strategies.

## Protecting Private Property Rights

The Florida Chamber will continue to fight against efforts that could infringe on the property rights of business owners who want to retain their constitutional right and responsibility to decide what happens on their private property.



**T**he Florida Chamber's efforts to help ensure long-term sustainability of Florida's public pension system are both right and necessary.

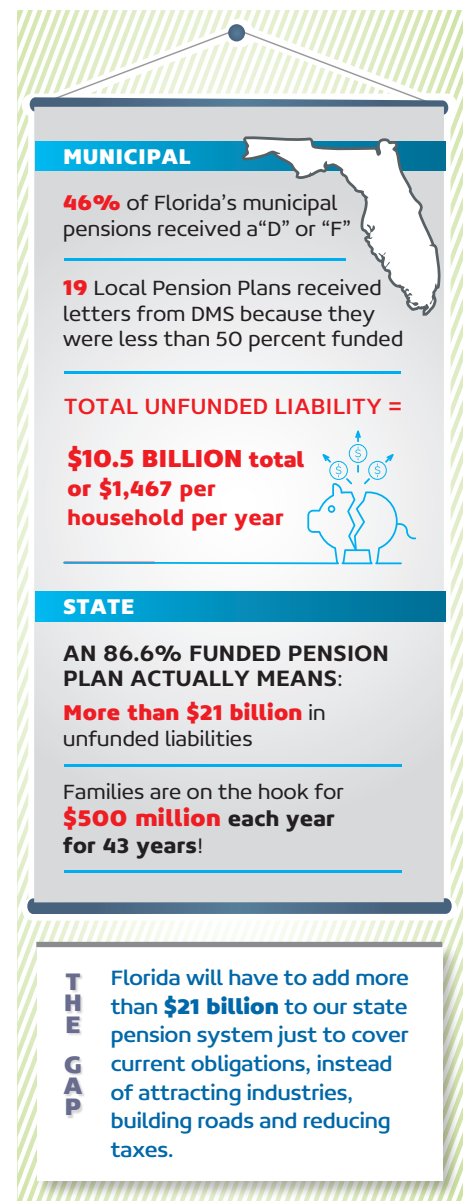
CHARLEY CAULKINS | Fisher and Phillips, LLP

## The Fight For Free Enterprise

The burdensome cost of having unfunded liabilities in our state continues to provide a barrier toward supporting teachers, attracting targeted industries, building roads and reducing taxes. Florida must adapt and change or suffer the consequences to our state's rebounding economy.

In order to make Florida more competitive and lower the tax burden on families, we must continue to make government pensions more sustainable and strengthen Florida's governance systems. We must also protect the rights of employers and employees, improve government efficiencies and provide solutions for an immigration system that works.

## Unsustainable Pension Systems Place Florida's Recovery in Jeopardy



### GET INVOLVED:

Email [GBlose@FLChamber.com](mailto:GBlose@FLChamber.com) and learn how you can help the Florida Chamber's pension reform efforts.

Sources: Illinois Policy Institute; Collins Institute; Watchdog.org; Bureau of Economic and Business Research; Pension360





# Championing Florida's Quality of Life



Mark Wilson, President and CEO of the Florida Chamber, and Governor Rick Scott gather to address business leaders during the Florida Chamber's annual meeting.

## Why It Matters To Florida

As talent and a strong workforce begin to rival tax incentives as a key to economic development, protecting Florida's quality of life is essential. As the third most populous state in the nation, Florida has an opportunity to get healthcare delivery, coverage and outcomes right. Advocating for smarter coverage options and working to not only attract, but also retain, world-class healthcare professionals will help Florida focus on creating jobs and continuing to move our state in the right direction. In order to protect Florida's family-friendly brand, we must continue to fight against renewed efforts to legalize drugs in our state as well as efforts to expand Las Vegas-style casino gambling.



The Florida Chamber is an organization that is dedicated to the business community. The Florida Chamber is providing for business in our communities and putting food on our tables.

TIM GOLDFARB | UF Health Shands Hospital

“I want to thank the number one chamber of commerce in the country, the Florida Chamber of Commerce.”

FLORIDA GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT

## Florida's Competitive Agenda

### Providing Smarter Healthcare Coverage Opportunities

Continuing to advocate the Florida Chamber's Smarter Healthcare Coverage Plan will help lower costs, increase high-wage job creation, and produce better health and economic outcomes. This also includes continuing to fight against meritless lawsuits and advocating to create a medical liability environment that will attract world-class healthcare professionals and dispel Florida's reputation as a “gotcha” state for baseless lawsuits.

### Continuing to Oppose the Expansion of Las Vegas-Style Casino Gambling

Continuing to protect Florida's family-friendly brand by opposing the expansion of Las Vegas-style casino gambling means a continual focus on creating high-wage jobs. Florida needs less blackjack dealers and more engineers, physicians and more. By focusing on high-wage, high-skill job creation, we can ensure Florida continues to remain the best place to work, live and play.

### WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

- ▶ BioFlorida, Inc.
- ▶ Florida Health Care Association
- ▶ No Casinos
- ▶ VISIT FLORIDA



# Quality of Life & Quality Places

## The Fight For Free Enterprise

As we work to make sure small businesses and families have smart options for increased access to healthcare, Florida must continue to push toward cost-saving and responsible initiatives that are in line with future growth. To meet the healthcare needs of current and future residents, and to provide better opportunities for the most talented healthcare professionals, our state must continue to embrace innovative and sustainable healthcare initiatives.

We must continue to fight against continued efforts from around the world which seek to devour Florida's economy and family-friendly reputation by expanding Las Vegas-style casino gambling in our state or try to legalize marijuana through Florida's constitution.



In Destin, we want to keep Florida summers alive. We're a family oriented resort destination, just like the rest of Florida, and we want to ensure we maintain that brand. We cannot let Florida go the way of Atlantic City, which is why we agree with the Florida Chamber that our state should keep a focus on creating high-wage jobs and a high-skill talent pool.

SHANE MOODY | Destin Area Chamber of Commerce



As the third most populous state in the nation and with an estimated six million more residents expected between now and 2030, it's important that we get healthcare in Florida right. Learn how you can help spread the word by visiting [FloridaWins.org](http://FloridaWins.org).

## Florida Needs Smarter Healthcare Coverage

**DID YOU KNOW...**

**DIAGNOSIS:** *Florida has the second highest uninsured rate in the nation - that's **3 MILLION** uninsured Floridians!*

**SYMPTOMS:**

- ⊕ **\$1.4 BILLION** in costs trickles down to Floridians with insurance
- ⊕ **An 8% increase** in insurance premiums

**PRESCRIPTION:** **FLORIDA NEEDS A SMARTER HEALTHCARE ANSWER**

Three boxes with financial and medical icons:

- Box 1: **1/3** of every dollar goes to Medicare...
- Box 2: A large dollar sign icon.
- Box 3: ...whether you use it or not (with a medical icon).

Innovations like **telemedicine** and allowing **nurse practitioners** to practice to the full extent of their training help produce better outcomes...but more must be done.

**THE GAP** To meet the needs of **6 million** more residents by 2030, Florida needs a comprehensive and long-term healthcare plan.

### GET INVOLVED:

Help be part of the cure by visiting [FloridaWins.org](http://FloridaWins.org) and sharing the Florida Healthcare Reform video or contact [GBlose@FLChamber.com](mailto:GBlose@FLChamber.com).

Source: Keiser Family Foundation;  
Florida Hospital Association



# Florida's Changing Political Landscape



Permission and copyright: Orlando Sentinel

Governor Rick Scott and Senior Vice President of Political Strategy Marian Johnson discuss winning Florida's future.

**“Legislative success happens only when the right people are elected, and that's what our political action is all about – electing those candidates who have a clearly defined understanding of the issues and are not afraid to boldly step up and do the right thing.”**

**MARIAN JOHNSON**  
Senior Vice President of Political Strategy,  
Florida Chamber

The Florida Chamber engages in all aspects of Florida's elections because, when it comes to securing Florida's future, the stakes couldn't be higher. Florida's political landscape is continually changing. More voters are choosing NPA (no party affiliations) and the gap is closing between Republican and Democratic voters. And in 2016, voters will go to the polls and be asked to vote on a new leader of our nation, an open U.S. Senate seat, congressional representatives, state senate and house leaders and retaining four Florida Supreme Court Justices. But will voters be empowered to vote for candidates who support free enterprise, and who will stand for what's right, even when it's not easy?

Our engagement efforts begin by electing pro-business, pro-jobs candidates, chosen by rigorous candidate interview sessions — one of Florida's most thorough and well-respected pro-business candidate review processes. The Florida Chamber Political Institute (FCPI) travels statewide and interviews hundreds of new candidates—in addition to reviewing each candidate's completed questionnaire. Incumbent candidates are evaluated on a rigorous set of factors, including legislator grades on the voting records. This helps the Florida Chamber advocate for candidates who have Florida's future as a priority. In 2014, the Florida Chamber engaged in 29 primary election races and 62 general election candidate races for House and Senate and invested a record \$7 million in political activity. Well-funded special interest groups continue to fight for less competitive policies — and the Florida Chamber's Political team continues to fight back.

The Florida Chamber will remain focused on fighting for Florida's future by endorsing pro-jobs candidates who will help lead Florida in the right direction. You can help by signing up for [FloridaWins.org](http://FloridaWins.org), hosting political fundraisers or making political contributions. We urge you to join us in the arena and help our state remain competitive.

Contact us today at [AGonzalez@FLChamber.com](mailto:AGonzalez@FLChamber.com).



Political analysis is important to gauging where Florida voters stand on the issues that matter most to them.

Learn more by contacting Andrew Wiggins, Senior Director of Campaigns and Elections at the Florida Chamber, at [AWiggins@FLChamber.com](mailto:AWiggins@FLChamber.com).



Florida needs leaders who are willing to grow and move Florida in the right direction. Help us fund those candidates

who put Florida first. Contact Andy Gonzalez, Director of Political Development at the Florida Chamber, at [AGonzalez@FLChamber.com](mailto:AGonzalez@FLChamber.com)

## GET INVOLVED:

With your help, we can support the candidates who will make Florida's future a priority. Join the Florida Chamber's Political program, participate in one of our political advocacy organizations or join our many volunteers working to elect pro-jobs candidates.





# Florida's Political Landscape

## Florida Chamber Leads Constitutional Amendment Reform Efforts

### FLORIDA'S PREGNANT PIGS

Florida voters place the protection of pregnant pigs into the Florida constitution to go into effect in 2008. An issue that could have been handled through state or local ordinances now lives on the state's most precious governing document.



2002

### VOTESMARTFLORIDA.org

The Florida Chamber begins the Constitutional Amendment Change Process and uncovers significant signature gathering fraud. VOTESMARTFLORIDA.org, a non-partisan educational website with more than 65 partners, was born and voters are empowered to learn how constitutional amendments affect them.



2003

### PETITION FRAUD ADDRESSED

The Florida Chamber fights against groups that pay for petition signatures and successfully passes Amendment 2. Working to eliminate petition fraud returns the process to citizens and reduces the influence of special interests



2004

### CALIFORNIA POLITICS DON'T WORK FOR FLORIDA

Well-funded interest groups seek to shortcut Florida's representative democracy and destabilize Florida's economy by lobbying for a California-type statutory initiative process. The Florida Chamber successfully advocates against this initiative.



2005

### AMENDMENT THRESHOLD INCREASED

The Florida Chamber raises the threshold to pass constitutional amendments from a simple majority to 60 percent, limiting special interest groups from making unnecessary constitutional amendments.



2006

### NO ON 4 CAMPAIGN PROTECTS TAXPAYERS

The Florida Chamber champions the defeat of Amendment 4, which threatens higher taxes, costly lawsuits, job loss and extra burdens to taxpayers. Special interest groups like Hometown Democracy would have required all growth plan changes to be decided by voter referendum, no matter how minor – delaying growth projects and making Florida less competitive.



2010

### FLORIDA'S SIGNATURE STATUTE AMENDED

Florida Chamber-backed legislation passes that makes petition signatures good for two years, instead of four, continuing to prevent petition fraud.



2011

### FLORIDAWINS.org

Florida Chamber launches FloridaWins.org, a non-partisan educational web-based tool that provides fact-based information for employers to share with their employees on the issues that matter.



2014

### A LOOK AHEAD TO 2018: FLORIDA'S CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION

The Constitution Revision Commission, which meets every 20 years, is a group of 37 commissioners who examine the relevance and applicability of Florida's Constitution to current and future needs.

Florida Chamber members interested in applying should contact us at [MJohnson@FLChamber.com](mailto:MJohnson@FLChamber.com).



2018

### FLORIDA SAYS 'NO' TO LEGALIZING DRUGS

Florida Chamber leads the charge to successfully stop the legalization of drugs in our state by not allowing marijuana in Florida's constitution. In 2014, Governor Scott signs into law "Charlotte's Web" – which allows low-THC, non-psychoactive cannabis to be used to treat severe epilepsy and cancer – proving that this is an issue that can be handled in Florida's legislative process and does not belong on the constitution.



### FLORIDA CHAMBER CONTINUES ADVOCACY

Florida Chamber continues to monitor the amendment process in an effort to expose any fraud.

**Get involved by contacting us today at [AGonzalez@FLChamber.com](mailto:AGonzalez@FLChamber.com).**

### GET INVOLVED:

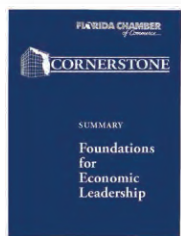
Join the Florida Chamber's Political Institute and become an active part of Florida's political process. Contact our Political Engagement office at 850-521-1246. Visit [www.FloridaChamber.com](http://www.FloridaChamber.com) for more information.



# Securing Florida's Future

## Identifying Challenges and Opportunities

The Florida Chamber Foundation is Florida's business-led, non-partisan research and future-focused think tank and solutions provider, working in partnership with regional and state leaders to secure Florida's future. As the third most populous state in the nation, and with an estimated six million more residents calling Florida home by 2030, a long-term focus on our state's needs is essential. A united business community and statewide leaders who are focused on the long-term future is key to Florida's success. But for Florida, the path toward a globally competitive and future focused strategy wasn't always clear. The Chamber Foundation has produced and partnered on a number of important studies that have provided a strategic framework for Florida's future.



### CORNERSTONE: FOUNDATIONS FOR ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP

Florida Chamber Foundation releases **Cornerstone: Foundations for Economic Leadership**, which lays out a blueprint for economic growth and development.

The Florida Chamber of Commerce leads the effort to formally create **Enterprise Florida Inc. (EFI)** in 1996 as a public-private partnership organization to place economic development and international trade at the helm of its mission and bring jobs to Florida.

1989

1994

1996

### FLORIDA'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation infrastructure needs for the future are addressed with the release of **Transportation**

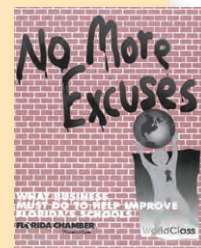
**Cornerstone Florida: Moving Florida's Economy into the 21st Century.**

1999

2003  
2007

### NO MORE EXCUSES 94

Cornerstone becomes the foundational document for **No More Excuses: What Businesses Must Do to Help Improve Florida's Schools**. The report helps Florida's business community focus on a globally competitive workforce.



### NEW CORNERSTONE

**New Cornerstone: A Vision for Florida's Economic Future** is released in 2003 and focuses on defining new strategies for growth. The publication focuses on the four T's: Talent, Trade, Tourism and Technology. **New Cornerstone: Revisited** is released in 2007.

### CLOSING THE TALENT GAP

**Closing the Talent Gap** is released in conjunction with the Florida Council of 100. The report focuses on future business needs and building the talent pool.

### THE FUTURE OF STEM

The Florida Chamber Foundation releases **Snapshot: The State of STEM in Florida** and points to the growing gaps in high-skill talent need and availability.

### TRADE AND LOGISTICS STUDY

Florida Chamber Foundation releases **Florida Trade and Logistics Study**, which results in 23,000 new trade and logistics jobs created from 2010-2012, and 9,000 new manufacturing jobs.

2010

2013

2018

### TRADE AND LOGISTICS STUDY 2.0

The Florida Chamber Foundation releases the updated **Trade and Logistics Study 2.0 (TL2)**. The report also builds on Florida's once-in-a-generation opportunity to capitalize on shifting trade patterns become a global hub for trade, logistics and high-wage job creation.



### CORNERSTONE 2030

The Florida Chamber Foundation is leading the charge to write the next chapter of Florida's story – **Cornerstone 2030**. **Cornerstone 2030** is a two-year research program that will stimulate strategic thinking about Florida's future and will engage business and community leaders in all 67 counties in identifying key trends and the factors that drive their local economy. **Cornerstone 2030** will focus on the shift toward an innovation economy and building stronger partnerships to encourage economic growth, creating good jobs that raise the per capita income and ensure prosperity, improving educational attainment, preparing for increased demand of water and energy, and making Florida more globally competitive. **For more information, visit [www.Cornerstone2030.com](http://www.Cornerstone2030.com).**

### GET INVOLVED:

We need your voice. Help us plan and prepare for a secure and competitive future. Contact [JMcnabb@FLFoundation.org](mailto:JMcnabb@FLFoundation.org) to join.



# Florida Chamber Foundation

## Providing a Strategic Vision for Florida's Future

The Florida Chamber Foundation's research identifies the long-term needs for Florida's future, allowing the Florida Chamber's advocacy arm to focus on passing legislation that makes Florida more competitive, while the Florida Chamber's political arm works to endorse the leaders that will get us there. The Florida Chamber Foundation created the Six Pillars Framework, an organizational framework that identifies the key factors that drive Florida's future economy and helps communities, agencies and organizations speak with one voice.

To further drive meaningful conversations, the Florida Chamber Foundation built an interactive online tool—The Florida Scorecard—to track key metrics within each of the Six Pillars. Paired with the power of the framework, these tools serve the larger mission of developing a dynamic, long-term strategic plan for Florida.



Pam Rauch, Florida Chamber Foundation Chair and Vice President of Development and External Affairs for Florida Power & Light, discusses strategies for Florida's future.

## Securing Florida's Future Includes You

Driving long-term solutions requires coordinating Florida's 67 counties, from the Panhandle to the Keys, under free-enterprise principles that help our state grow. Securing our state's future requires business and community leaders like you.

The Florida Chamber Foundation is the state's leader in future-focused research and continues to be a catalyst for positive change. But we need your help to secure Florida's future.

- ▶ Partner on **Cornerstone 2030** and work with us to strengthen your community and write the next chapter of Florida's future.
- ▶ Contribute your organization's expertise to securing Florida's future by becoming a **Community Development Partner**.
- ▶ Provide long-term vision and strategic direction for Florida's future by becoming a Florida Chamber Foundation Trustee.
- ▶ Add your voice to the conversation on Florida's future by joining a **Florida Chamber Foundation Caucus** in the areas of Talent Supply & Education, Innovation & Economic Development, Infrastructure & Growth Leadership, Business Climate & Competitiveness, Civic & Governance Systems and Quality of Life & Quality Places.
- ▶ Ensure that your community is vibrant, sustainable and economically competitive by becoming a **Six Pillar Community**.

### FLORIDA CHAMBER FOUNDATION SIX PILLARS FRAMEWORK

- Talent Supply & Education
- Innovation & Economic Development
- Infrastructure & Growth Leadership
- Business Climate & Competitiveness
- Civic & Governance Systems
- Quality of Life & Quality Places

### UPCOMING SIX PILLARS SUMMITS:

**DECEMBER 10, 2015**  
**Transportation Summit**

**JUNE 2, 2016**  
**Education Solutions Summit**

**AUGUST 2016**  
**Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit**

**SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2016 Orlando**  
**FUTURE OF FLORIDA FORUM**

For more information on how to attend or sponsor an event, visit [www.FloridaChamber.com/events](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/events) or call 850-521-1200.

 Follow us on Twitter  
**@FLChamberFDN**  
[www.FLFoundation.org](http://www.FLFoundation.org)

### GET INVOLVED:

We need your voice. Become a Community Development Partner and help us plan and prepare for a secure and competitive future. Contact [JMcnabb@FLFoundation.org](mailto:JMcnabb@FLFoundation.org) to join.





# HELP MAKE FLORIDA MORE COMPETITIVE

## Join the Florida Chamber



Tracy Duda Chapman, Senior VP/General Counsel of A. Duda & Sons, Inc. and the Florida Chamber's 2015-2016 Chair, addresses members on the importance of helping secure Florida's long-term future at the Florida Chamber's annual meeting.

**“I look forward to driving the businesses agenda and playing a part in leading Florida forward.”**

**TRACY DUDA CHAPMAN**  
Florida Chamber Chair  
Senior VP/General Counsel  
of A. Duda & Sons, Inc.

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www.FLChamber.com

### GET INVOLVED:

Tell us your story –  
Contact our Member Outreach  
office at 850-521-1244 or  
by email at [EMartin@FLChamber.com](mailto:EMartin@FLChamber.com).

## Why It Matters To Florida

Simply put, free enterprise isn't free. To champion a pro-jobs, pro-Florida agenda, we work alongside our seasoned political advocates, unrivaled political strategists, small business council, international outreach program and top-tier research foundation.

The Florida Chamber believes securing Florida's future can only happen with those who believe in free enterprise, those who have the courage to stand up for what's right in our state and those who say 'no' to harmful special interest agendas.

If you believe in free enterprise and want to help us make Florida more competitive, we hope you will call or email us today. When we win, you win. When you win, Florida wins.

## How You Can Make Florida More Competitive

Here are four ways you can engage and make a difference:

- ▶ **JOIN** the Florida Chamber if you believe in our fight for free enterprise and think job creators should lead the way.
- ▶ **EMPOWER** your employees by educating them on issues that affect your business and their jobs by signing your business up for **FloridaWins.org**, a non-partisan program that educates your employees about Florida's successes and actively engages them in Florida's legislative process.
- ▶ **ENCOURAGE** voters to choose pro-jobs candidates by supporting those who support free enterprise. Host fundraisers and make political donations to lead the way.
- ▶ **CONNECT** with your elected officials and urge them to vote in favor of jobs and against special interest agendas.

### GET INVOLVED WITH THE FLORIDA CHAMBER

Contact our Member Outreach office at 850-521-1244  
or by email at [EMartin@FLChamber.com](mailto:EMartin@FLChamber.com).



# WHAT'S IN YOUR TOOLBOX?



When it comes to securing Florida's future, the stakes couldn't be higher. Research indicates employees want to be engaged by their employer. They trust the information employers provide and take action when asked.

Florida's businesses play a vital role in securing Florida's future by educating your employees on issues that impact their job and industry. FloridaWins.org is an educational, web-based tool that provides non-partisan, fact-based information about the issues that matter most to Floridians, their families and their jobs. FloridaWins.org is non-partisan and encourages citizens to both register to vote and exercise their right to vote during the elections.

Find out how you can develop a plan for your company to offer important election information tools including:

- ▶ Voter Registration Drive Materials
- ▶ Short Animated Informational Videos
- ▶ Infographics
- ▶ Weekly Content for Employees
- ▶ Co-branded Website
- ▶ Workplace Flyers
- ▶ Step-by-Step Playbook
- ▶ And More



## PREPARE YOUR EMPLOYEES FOR THE 2016 ELECTION

To learn more about Florida Wins, contact Greg Blosé at 850-521-1243 or [gblose@flchamber.com](mailto:gblose@flchamber.com).





# MAKING FLORIDA MORE COMPETITIVE

**"I want to thank the Florida Chamber for being an advocate in finding solutions that will not only meet the needs of businesses, but will help protect our precious natural resources."**

**STEVE CRISAFULLI**  
Speaker, Florida House  
of Representatives

**"Job creation is absolutely critical to Florida's economic success and I'm glad to have the Florida Chamber helping lead the fight, championing Florida's business-friendly climate, and advocating for free enterprise."**

**Together, it's working."**

**RICK SCOTT**  
Governor of Florida

**"Florida's families and small businesses have a brighter future because of the Florida Chamber's commitment to securing Florida's future through private-sector job creation and opportunities that embrace economic growth."**

**ANDY GARDINER**  
President, Florida Senate

## WHERE WE STAND

A Guide to the Florida Chamber's 2016 Business Agenda



**SECURING FLORIDA'S FUTURE**

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[www.FloridaChamber.com](http://www.FloridaChamber.com)

To join the Florida Chamber, call 850-521-1243