

### HOW THEY VOTED

Where Legislators Stood on the Florida Chamber's 2016 Business Agenda











### **2016 Legislative Summary**



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



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

Florida Chamber Members and Friends:

Once again, your support made the difference. During the 2016 Legislative Session, the Florida Chamber led the fight for free enterprise. Lawmakers passed 18 Florida Chamber-backed bills lowering the cost of living on families and small businesses, providing sustainable water resources for Florida's future, strengthening education opportunities and building on Florida's economic competitiveness. However, unfortunately, the legislature left several "game changer" opportunities for another year.

This Florida Chamber's 2016 issue of How They Voted includes:

- Results of the Florida Chamber's annual Business Agenda which provides an overview of how Florida Chamber-backed, job-creating measures fared during the 2016 session, and
- ▶ The Florida Chamber's Annual Legislative Report Card, a comprehensive report based on nearly 6,000 individual votes, which provides members with objective information on how legislators voted on our key legislative priorities. Please note, the report card is not the sole determinant of the Florida Chamber's endorsement in upcoming elections.

While Florida is moving in the right direction, and lawmakers took steps to strengthen Florida's future, the truth is things are fragile in Florida and many state leaders, including the two of us, expected more. Political risk and uncertainty, changing demographics and an unprecedented amount of out-of-state resources will continue creating storm clouds on Florida's horizon.

The role of our state chamber has never been greater – and for the past 100 years, we have been and continue to be entirely focused on making Florida as competitive as possible.

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. Thank you for helping us make Florida more competitive.

Sincerely,

**GET INVOLVED:** 

Make a difference by contacting our Grassroots Engagement office at 850-521-1243, by email at GBlose@FLChamber.com or visit www.FloridaChamber.com for more information.

**Tracy Duda Chapman** 2015-2016 Chair Florida Chamber of Commerce Mark Wilson
President and CEO
Florida Chamber of Commerce

Mark Wilson

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### 100 Years of Securing Florida's Future



As the Florida Chamber celebrates its 100 years of securing Florida's future, leaders discuss championing Florida's next 100 years.

Pictured above:
Florida Chamber Board Member and
former House Speaker Will Weatherford;
Former Florida Chamber Chair,
former Lt. Gov. and former Senate
President Toni Jennings;
Florida State University President,
former House Speaker, and
former Senator John Thrasher.

ne hundred years ago, the biggest threat facing Florida's economy was a parasite—the cattle tick. That's how the story of the Florida Chamber of Commerce began—battling a threat to the safety and security of Florida's agriculture industry, then the largest sector of Florida's economy.

In 1916, the Florida Chamber of Commerce began as the Florida Cattle Tick Eradication Committee. Times were dire—the entire state was under federal quarantine due to the prevalence of the cattle tick, which threatened Florida's entire economy. In our early years, agriculture leaders knew they could accomplish more by working together than they could by themselves. One hundred years later, uniting business leaders while making Florida more competitive is in our DNA.

Today, Florida's economy is rebounding at a pace that has other states looking to us for leadership. Our state is growing by more than 1,000 net new people a day, we are the third most populous state in the nation welcoming more than 105 million visitors each year, nearly one in 10 U.S. jobs in 2015 were created in Florida, education reforms continue to help close achievement gaps, and our unemployment rate—once at historic heights of more than 11 percent—has continued to remain below the national average.

And while many would have you believe our state's successes come from only our sunshine and beaches, at the Florida Chamber we know firsthand that our state continues to move forward thanks, in part, to a united business community that believes in free enterprise, believes in private-sector job creation and fights for a stronger Florida.

In fact, 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 economic opportunity for all Floridians.

Environmental extremists continue to deploy regulation after regulation to hurt our efforts to plan for smarter growth and protect our environment as we move toward solving our water challenges. Unions that unabashedly put the interests of their members before the interests of Florida's students continue to try to take options away from students and their parents and, in turn, limit a child's opportunity.

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. Insurance abuse, fueled by trial lawyers looking for a payout, continues to cost Florida's families and businesses hard-earned dollars—an average of \$3,400 per family of four.

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

#### **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. Visit www.FloridaChamber.com for more information.





### Where We Stand

We continue to push back against special interest groups who have and freely use their unlimited resources and national connections to attempt to drown Florida in unnecessary regulations, taxes, government mandates and red tape, but we need your help. Their efforts never tire and neither will ours.

The Florida Chamber, our members and our partners have been fighting for greater economic opportunity and job creation since 1916. And for the past 100 years, the Florida Chamber has stood up for what's right for Florida in every corner—from the Florida Legislature to the Florida Cabinet, from state to federal agencies, from the court of law to the court of public opinion. When the battle is about what is best for Florida's future, the Florida Chamber is on the front lines.

At the Florida Chamber, we believe:

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

The cattle tick may have been the first chapter, but it's the next 100 years of securing Florida's future that will ensure our economy thrives for generations to come.

And just as it did over the last century, the Florida Chamber, our members and our partners will continue to focus on **making Florida America's best hope**.

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 be a part of our next 100 years and 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 Board Chair (1990-1991), 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.



#### **GET INVOLVED:**

to the Florida Chamber, 1963

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 or by calling 850-521-1243.

## Improving Education for a Better Workforce



Senate President Andy Gardiner outlines the need for quality education initiatives to the Florida Chamber's Board of Directors.

a crucial part of our state's success.

This year, Florida made significant strides in making sure all students have the tools and resources to meet their educational and career goals by establishing a cradle to career pathway to economic independence for people with unique abilities. When our students and parents are given academic opportunities and choices, all of Florida wins.

ANDY GARDINER Florida Senate President

#### **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
- lames Madison Institute
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce

#### Why It Matters To Florida

According to research from the Florida Chamber Foundation, Florida will need to create and fill approximately two million new jobs between now and 2030. These jobs can be filled by renewing our focus on a well-prepared talent pool. The Florida Chamber believes a talented workforce is Florida's best long-term economic strategy. Whether the need is in early learning, K-12, higher education, workforce development, or continuing education programs, Florida wins when we continue to close talent gaps and put our students before special interests—no matter what. Florida Chamber-backed education reforms that empower parents to choose the best educational environment for their children, insist on rigorous accountability standards, and help students of all abilities remain successful, will ensure our state remains a national and global leader in education.



lorida'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

#### The Progress We've Made

#### **Championed 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. This year, the Florida Chamber successfully advocated for school choice efforts, from ensuring students with unique abilities have a chance to succeed to allowing more students access to charter schools.

#### **Supported STEM Initiatives**

Providing opportunities for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) involvement at earlier levels of learning will give Florida's students the best chance at being globally competitive. Creating alternative and streamlined certification routes for professional educators wanting to teach STEM subject courses will help position Florida as a global leader in high-tech, high-wage job creation.

#### **Improved Professional Development Options for Teachers**

The Florida Chamber successfully championed additional professional development and benefit options for Florida's teachers, to ensure America's best teachers to train and remain in Florida.



### Talent Supply & Education

#### **Championed Training Programs to Prepare Florida's Global Workforce**

Providing businesses with the keys to a well-trained talent pool requires efforts at each level of a student's education. Whether it's a new competency-based education program, expanding volunteer and internship opportunities, creating personalized learning systems, or a revolutionary transition-to-work program for young adults with disabilities, Florida wins when we continue to prioritize training a future workforce that will diversify our economy.

#### The Fight For Free Enterprise Continues

While Florida's recent education reforms continue to move our state in the right direction, our fight is far from over. Future jobs and economic development will require a renewed focus on quality education systems. This means continuing to ensure students are trained for high-skilled industries in areas such as manufacturing or research and development , and championing greater access to all available postsecondary education programs. In order to remain competitive, the Florida Chamber will continue to advocate for:

#### **Preparing Florida's Youngest Learners**

Improving early learning opportunities, identifying and focusing on struggling readers, and continuing to support assessment and accountability systems in all levels of Florida's education system will help ensure a globally competitive talent pipeline.

#### **Investing in Digital and Virtual Education Technology**

Expanding the use of technology throughout Florida's education system is one component to turning today's learners into tomorrow's earners.

#### **Attracting and Retaining World Class Talent**

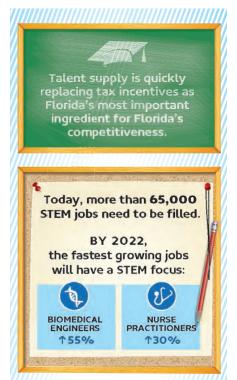
From engineering to medicine, attracting and retaining talent in emerging and targeted industries remains a crucial component to moving Florida's business climate in the right direction. A competitive and highly-skilled talent pool that meets business needs requires solutions that encourage quality education programs and expand need-based aid initiatives.

nsuring Florida businesses have a high-skilled workforce remains a top priority for the Florida Chamber, and we are proud to partner with them.

MICHAEL GALLEN | Manatee Chamber of Commerce



#### Talent and Economic Development Go Hand in Hand



In order to create and fill
2 million additional jobs by
2030, Florida must continue to
focus on education initiatives
that reflect Florida's future
workforce needs while tapping
into diverse talent pools. One
potential group is the more
than 700,000 individuals with
disabilities not currently in
Florida's workforce, many of
whom would like to be.

#### **GET INVOLVED:**

Join the Florida Chamber Foundation's Talent Supply and Education Caucus and become a part of the solution.

Contact KElekes@FLFoundation.org to get involved.

Sources: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity; Florida Chamber Foundation

### Creating Jobs by Diversifying Florida's Economy



Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Jim Boxold shares the importance of Florida's infrastructure investments at the Florida Chamber's Annual Meeting.

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

In 2015, more than 105 million people visited our state. For us, that means jobs are created, communities are thriving and our state's economy is growing ever stronger.

ROBIN A. SOLLIE, IOM Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce

#### **WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:**

- **▶**BioFlorida
- ▶Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- ►Film Florida
- ▶Florida Airports Council
- Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
- 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. Our state currently has an \$8.5 million marketing budget to promote our business climate. 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. One hundred years ago, the Florida Chamber led efforts to strengthen Florida's agricultural industry. And while agriculture, along with tourism and construction, will always be the foundation of Florida's economy, 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.



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.

### The Progress We've Made

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

The Florida Chamber successfully encouraged targeted investments in technological advancements for both public and commercial space projects by championing efforts such as \$10 million for Space Florida, \$1.5 million for space tourism marketing, and \$7 million for the Aerospace Financing Fund.

#### Helped Permanently Eliminate the Sales Tax on Manufacturing Equipment

One of Florida's greatest opportunities is to encourage more Florida producers and manufacturers to enter the export market or diversify into new markets. After years of fighting for a permanent solution, the Florida Chamber, along with our partners, succeeded when legislators passed to permanently eliminate Florida's sales tax on manufacturing equipment. Small business manufacturers will also be able to take advantage of a \$1 million recurring fund for international trade export assistance.



Florida is made for trade.

Learn more at

www.FloridaWins.Org.



### Innovation & Economic Development

#### The Fight For Free Enterprise Continues

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 becoming the number one state in the nation for innovation and economic development means we must market our business climate and invest in economic development efforts that will help grow targeted industries, like expanding Florida's R&D tax credit. In order to remain competitive, the Florida Chamber will continue to advocate for:

#### Diversifying the Economy and Creating Jobs Through Economic Development Efforts

After nearly two decades of leading the lobbying efforts for economic development legislation as well as piloting the establishment of Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) in 1996, the Florida Chamber understands the impact legislative decisions have on the future of Florida's economy. Building the nation's most competitive climate for business requires targeted investments in economic development, such as the funding of EFI's economic development toolkit.

While nearly all private-sector jobs are created by a strong business climate, targeted incentives still matter in competitive projects. One day, all taxpayer-funded incentives may be off the table in America. Until then, the Florida Chamber will continue to fight for the highest returns on investment in the nation for Florida's taxpayers and will champion incentives for job creation and capital investment.

#### 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, three combatant command centers, and Florida's defense contractors to provide valuable jobs grow Florida's economy, and keep Floridians safe.

#### **Championing Rural Business Opportunities**

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

he Florida Chamber continues to look at growing jobs as a global economic development issue.

DOUG DAVIDSON | Bank of America Merrill Lynch



#### "Move, Make and Multiply" Are Keys to Continued International Efforts

To remain globally competitive, Florida must:



- Move more trade,
- 2 Make more products for export, and
- Multiply the impacts of trade

More than **2.5 million**Florida jobs are supported
by international trade



There are more than **630,000**Florida trade, transportation and logistics jobs



**92 percent** of Florida exports are manufactured goods

- The Florida Chamber will
- continue to advocate for the recommendations outlined
- **G** in the Florida Chamber
- Foundation's most recent Trade and Logistics Study, which shows Florida can create more than 150,000 high-wage jobs by doubling exports.

#### **GET INVOLVED:**

Find out how you can help drive international efforts by contacting AAncona@FLChamber.com today.

Sources: Enterprise Florida; Business Roundtable; Florida Chamber Foundation

### Preparing Florida's Infrastructure for Smart Growth and Development



Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam discusses the need for comprehensive water policy and smarter growth options with Florida Chamber members.

6 Florida'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 Florida Chamber has consistently advocated for historic infrastructure investments, which help our communities and ensure Florida remains a hub for global initiatives.

CHRIS QUINN Vice President of Government Affairs JAX Chamber

#### **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

The Florida Chamber Foundation estimates Florida will have 26 million residents by 2030—that's six million more than today! As the third most populous state in the nation and with about 105 million visitors per year, Florida needs to focus on long-term infrastructure solutions. While Florida's roads and bridges are ranked number one in the nation, Florida's infrastructure networks encompass much more. The Florida Chamber believes smart growth and development requires probusiness solutions for communications, energy, agriculture, land development, roads, bridges, rail, sea and air ports and other infrastructure components. While the Florida Legislature has made the right moves to secure Florida's water future and has invested a record transportation budget of \$10.8 billion for Florida's infrastructure needs, we must continue to focus on the long-term.



artially through the efforts of the Florida Chamber, but also due to the leadership of the Governor, we've had massive investments in ports and airports and other mechanisms to facilitate international trade.

BOB GRAMMIG | Holland & Knight, LLP

#### The Progress We've Made

#### Championed Long-term, Sustainable Water Policies

The Florida Chamber Foundation estimates Florida's water demand will grow 20 percent between now and 2030. While the fight is far from over, the Florida Chamber successfully championed comprehensive and science-based water policy that will protect Florida's natural and economic resources for the future.

#### **Supported Proactive Economic Planning and Development**

Streamlined, smart and safe regulations are needed to support the next generation of vibrant communities in Florida. This year, the Florida Chamber again successfully championed the streamlining of permitting processes with the passage of legislation that dramatically reduces bureaucratic barriers for developers who want to size down their projects.

#### **Created Efficient and Sustainable Energy Solutions**

Providing families and businesses with reliable and cost-effective energy options through innovative rebate programs and long-term energy policies will help meet the needs of Florida's growing population.



### Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

he Florida Chamber's support of sustainable infrastructure efforts are key to ensuring our state knows how to accommodate a growing population. JOE YORK | AT&T

#### The Fight For Free Enterprise Continues

Transforming Florida's economy means investing in Florida's infrastructure now and putting the long-term ahead of the short-term, and the needs of Florida families in front of the needs of environmental extremists and special interest groups. 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. In order to remain competitive, the Florida Chamber will continue to advocate for:

#### **Encouraging Public-Private Partnerships for Smarter Growth Solutions**

Partnering with public-private entities to ensure our state can appropriately invest in infrastructure needs will be one key to meeting the needs of a growing population.

#### **Creating a Global Economy**

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, the historic expansion of the Panama Canal, and targeted infrastructure investments, we must continue to leverage opportunities, grow Florida's global economy, and continue to fund historic investments in Florida's trade and port projects.

#### **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.



#### **SHARE OUR VIDEO WITH YOUR EMPLOYEES**

Visit www.FloridaWins.org and share the Securing Florida's Water Future video with your employees!



#### **Future Growth in Florida** Means Key Investments **Are Needed**

Florida is already the 3rd most populous state in the nation.



...more than the population of California, Texas, New York and Illinois combined.

By 2030, more than **6 million** more residents are expected to call Florida home.



Of these, 4-5 million new drivers are expected.

Florida also needs continued investments in hard infrastructure:















By 2030, it's estimated 9 billion gallons of water will be consumed each day - a 20% increase from current use.

- In order to remain competitive, Florida must continue
- to invest in ensuring our
- resources can meet the needs of current and new residents. visitors and businesses.

#### **GET INVOLVED:**

From water solutions to infrastructure investments, Florida wins when we work to accommodate future growth for the next 20 years and beyond. Contact GBlose@FLChamber.com today to learn more.

Sources: Florida Chamber Foundation, VISIT FLORIDA

### **Building the Perfect Climate for Business**



Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi addresses business leaders during the Florida Chamber's leadership meeting.

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

FLORIDA ATTORNEY GENERAL PAM BONDI

The Florida Chamber continues to advocate for Florida's families and businesses by championing targeted tax cuts that help our communities thrive.

CORYDON "CORY" SKEATES, J.D. President, Lakeland Chamber of Commerce

#### **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**
- Florida Small BusinessDevelopment Center Network

#### Why It Matters To Florida

However, if you compare Florida's business climate to Florida's potential, we have a long way to go. While our taxes remain historically low, more can be done. While our education system is one of the best in America, we have much work to do. This year, the Florida Chamber was able to defeat prejudgment interest efforts that would further deteriorate Florida's legal climate and increase the cost of personal injury lawsuits. And while that is a step in the right direction for Florida, the fight is far from over. With a broken legal climate and a patchwork of local regulations, Florida's ability to remain competitive remains, in a word, fragile, and we need to keep fighting for it.



hoosing Florida means choosing opportunity and economic growth.

QUINTIN KENDALL | CSX Transportation

#### The Progress We've Made

#### **Streamlined Government Regulations and Mandates**

Thanks to Governor Scott's leadership and the Florida Legislature's focus on jobs, Florida has eliminated more than 3,000 outdated, duplicative or unnecessary regulations. This year, the Florida Chamber was able to defeat several costly employer mandates, including mandated leave proposals. As Florida competes with other states and countries, improving Florida's permitting and regulatory systems is necessary for our state's 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.

#### **Ensured 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 continues to move in the right direction.



### **Business Climate & Competitiveness**



#### **AOB (ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS) FRAUD**

occurs when certain trial lawyers team up with shady contractors to drastically inflate home repair costs and encourage the homeowner to sign over important legal rights. Visit www.FightFraud.Today to learn more about how AOB fraud can impact you!



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 Cost of Living in a **Judicial Hellhole**

A bottom-10 legal climate is an open invitation for "gotcha" lawsuits.

#### THE COSTS:



BOTTOM-10 LEGAL CLIMATE: \$3,400 a year per family



**AOB FRAUD:** 10% increase in property insurance rates



**WATER CLAIMS** WITH AOB FORM: 50% more costly than those without

And while Florida shoulders **HALF** the nation's total hurricane risk. **18 CENTS OF EVERY PREMIUM DOLLAR** goes toward hurricane savings.

In order to change Florida's 'Judicial Hellhole' reputation, we must continue to push for a better legal climate and say "no" to special interest agendas of trial lawyers.

#### **GET INVOLVED:**

Help fight Florida's bottom-10 legal climate. Contact GBlose@FLChamber.com to learn how.

Sources: Florida Office of Insurance Regulation; www.FightFraud.Today

### **Building the Perfect Climate for Business**



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

The Florida Chamber has been an important ally in our efforts to secure Florida's future during my two years as Speaker.

STEVE CRISAFULLI SPEAKER, FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### **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
- Florida Small BusinessDevelopment Center Network

#### The Fight For Free Enterprise Continues

Florida, in many ways, is moving in the right direction — nearly one in 10 U.S. jobs in 2015 were created in Florida, state unemployment remains below the national average, we are chipping away at outdated and costly regulations, and cutting taxes for many businesses. But building the perfect business climate means creating stable insurance markets that are protected from fraud and rate increases, expanding access to capital for small businesses and securing legal and regulatory reforms. We must continue to fight against costly federal government regulation and red tape that seek to undermine the work Florida's business community has championed. To lead the nation in job growth, Florida must redouble efforts to fix our state's bottom-10 legal climate, finally get rid of our "judicial hellhole" status and focus on being open for all businesses. In order to remain competitive, the Florida Chamber will continue to advocate for:

#### 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 legal climate, a three place drop from 2012. When lawsuit abuse occurs, Florida families and businesses feel the impact through a higher cost of living. From reforming how damages are awarded to working to eliminate costly assignment of benefits (AOB) fraud, 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.

#### **Putting Money Back into the Pockets of Floridians**

While Florida already has one of the best tax climates in the nation for residents, enacting smart and targeted tax reforms will produce greater economic growth. Thanks to the leadership of Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Legislature, our state will provide \$400 million in targeted tax reforms to Florida's families. The Florida Chamber will continue to advocate for targeted tax reforms such as:

- ▶ Reducing Florida's corporate income tax, aka the Florida Business Tax,
- ▶ Reducing, and eventually eliminating, the Florida-only tax on business rent,
- Further reducing the communications services tax,
- ▶ Sales tax holidays such as Small Business Saturday,
- Efforts to join the national Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement, and
- ▶ Providing homeowners and businesses additional property tax relief.



### Business Climate & Competitiveness

#### **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 five days than Florida does in an entire year.

#### **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 that spread risk, reduce fraudulent claims and allow for creative solutions to the issues homeowners and businesses face.

#### **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 Small Business Development Center 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 access to the capital they need to grow and create jobs.

#### **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.



he Florida Chamber's support and advocacy for a diverse business climate has helped pave the way for many businesses like Massey Services to expand and grow.

HARVEY L. MASSEY | Massey Services, Inc.



#### Florida is a Small Business State

More than 50% of small businesses sampled by the Florida Chamber say their top concerns are:

- Economic Uncertainty
- ✓ Workforce Quality
- ✓ Access to Capital

#### **FLORIDA HAS:**

2nd best business climate in the nation

4th best tax climate in the nation



Yet California had

30 TIMES the number of deals funded by venture capital in 2015 than Florida.

In fact, California gets in **5 days** the amount of venture capital Florida gets in **1 year**.











In order to continue growing the best business climate in the nation, we must continue to provide opportunities for

small businesses to succeed.

#### **GET INVOLVED:**

Become a part of the Florida Chamber's Small Business Council. Contact CJohnson@FLChamber.com today.

Source: Florida Chamber Foundation; Tax Foundation

### Making Government More Efficient



Florida CFO Jeff Atwater discusses the importance of free enterprise during the Florida Chamber's annual Insurance Summit.

ot 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

competitive, we will continue to partner with the Florida Chamber to remove the hurdle of unnecessary and often costly government regulations for businesses.

CAROL ROBERTS
President/CEO
Bay County Chamber of Commerce

#### **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

#### Why It Matters To Florida

At the Florida Chamber, we believe in solutions that ensure efficient, transparent and sustainable government systems. Modernizing Florida's outdated pension system is a necessary and important step in the right direction. Florida's success must not be blocked by regulation, litigation or taxation but should instead be built on 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.



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 Progress We've Made

#### Fought and Stopped Employer Mandates and Patchwork Local Regulations

The Florida Chamber continues to stand against costly and unnecessary government mandates. This year, the Florida Chamber protected businesses that use plastic bags and Styrofoam products from unnecessary regulations and outright bans.

#### **Protected 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.





### Civic & Governance Systems

#### The Fight For Free Enterprise Continues

In order to make Florida more competitive and lower the tax burden on families, we must continue to improve and strengthen government efficiencies and make it easier for job creators to do what they do best. We must also continue to protect the rights of employers and employees, and provide solutions for an immigration system that works. In order to remain competitive, the Florida Chamber will continue to advocate for:

#### **Modernizing Florida's Pension Systems**

Creating fiscally stable governments through sustainable retirement programs will help avoid bankruptcies and credit down-grades like those we've seen across the nation. This is why the Florida Chamber will continue to champion common sense reforms that modernize public pension programs, helping our state become 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.

#### Fighting for Consistent Federal Immigration Policies

Supporting a consistent federal policy for 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.

# A Series of decisions have best crasses of procedures of the state of

#### Unsustainable Pension Systems Place Florida's Future Investments in Jeopardy

#### **MUNICIPAL / LOCAL**

Of Florida's 490 local pension systems, more than 78% of them are not fully funded.

TOTAL UNFUNDED LOCAL LIABILITY =

More than \$10 BILLION



#### **STATEWIDE**

AN 86.6% FUNDED PENSION PLAN ACTUALLY MEANS:

More than \$21 billion in unfunded liabilities

Families are on the hook for an extra \$500 million each year for 43 years!

HE GAR

Florida will have to add more than **\$21 billion** to our state pension system just to cover current obligations, instead of attracting industries, building roads, reducing taxes and investing in education.

#### **GET INVOLVED:**

Email 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 at the Governor's Mansion.

one chamber of commerce in the country, the Florida Chamber of Commerce.

FLORIDA GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT

#### Why It Matters To Florida

Panhandle's white sand beaches to the distinctive natural resources of the Keys, and everything in between, it's no wonder Florida welcomes nearly 105 million visitors a year and is expecting six million more residents by 2030. Our state's unique quality of life is firmly rooted in its family-friendly brand. Ensuring Florida remains the best place to live, work, and play has been a top priority for the Florida Chamber for the last 100 years. Taking steps toward a stronger healthcare system that lowers costs and provides better outcomes, fighting against the legalization of recreational marijuana, and continuing to oppose the expansion of Las Vegasstyle casinos are just a few ways the Florida Chamber is protecting Florida's competitiveness and quality of life.



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

TIM GOLDFARB | UF Health Shands Hospital

with the Florida Chamber and our local partners to find solutions to Florida's healthcare challenges and look forward to lowering costs and providing better outcomes for Florida's families and business community.

MARK A. TROWBRIDGE
President & CEO
Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce

#### The Progress We've Made

#### Took Meaningful Steps Toward Lowering Healthcare Costs

In order to remain competitive and ensure a healthcare system that provides the best outcomes, the Florida Chamber championed:

- Increasing the healthcare system capacity by allowing nurse practitioners and physician assistants to practice to their fullest potential.
- ▶ Taking a great first step toward telehealth policies that coincide with Florida's free market environment. Through evidence and surveys conducted by state agencies, the newly formed Telehealth Advisory Council will make recommendations on how Florida can increase the use and accessibility of telehealth services, which can lead to lower healthcare costs and more care options for its citizens.

#### **WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:**

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



### Quality of Life & Quality Places

#### The Fight For Free Enterprise Continues

Making Florida more competitive means making tough choices that require putting the long-term prosperity of Florida ahead of short-term fixes. Protecting our state's brand from the well-funded efforts of special interests groups remains a priority for the Florida Chamber. In order to remain competitive, the Florida Chamber will continue to advocate for:

#### **Advocating for a Better Healthcare Delivery System**

The Florida Chamber remains dedicated to getting healthcare coverage in Florida right. The Florida Chamber, along with a diverse group of business leaders, created a Comprehensive Healthcare Policy Position based on the understanding that healthcare coverage in Florida is not a simple 'yes' or 'no' question; nor is it a one-size-fits-all solution. The Florida Chamber believes Florida can, and should, do better. Advocating to keep costs low, while continuing to boost the economic prosperity of our state, will help Florida focus on creating jobs and continuing to move in the right direction.

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

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

#### **Expanding Medical Education Opportunities**

Expanding medical residency positions and providing targeted training in key health education programs will help meet Florida's growing need for physicians and allied health professionals.



The Florida Chamber's advocacy in fighting for a brighter health care future will help our state to not only remain competitive, but ensure that our residents stay healthy as well.

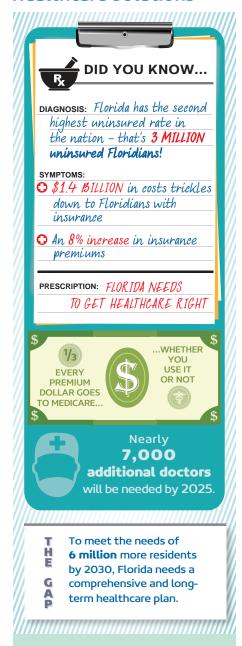
BILL HORNE | Laser Spine Institute

The Florida Chamber's Healthcare Partnership is made up of diverse business leaders all working toward lowering costs and providing better outcomes. Contact us today at BHunt@FLChamber.com to become a part of the discussion.





#### Florida Needs Comprehensive Healthcare Solutions



#### **GET INVOLVED:**

Help be part of the cure by visiting www.FloridaWins.org and sharing the Florida Healthcare Reform video or contact GBlose@FLChamber.com.

Source: Keiser Family Foundation; Florida Hospital Association



Past Recipients of the Florida Chamber's Most Valuable Legislator Award

> 2015 Missing in Action

2014 House Speaker Will Weatherford

> 2013 Representative Larry Metz

2012 House Speaker Dean Cannon

2011 Senator Ellyn Bogdanoff

> 2010 Senator John Thrasher

2009 Senator Garrett Richter

2008 Representative Dennis Ross

2007 Representative Stan Mayfield

2006 Representative Don Brown

2005 House Speaker Allan Bense

# THE FLORIDA CHAMBER'S 2016 MST VALUABLE LEGISLATOR AWARD

### House Speaker Steve Crisafulli: Putting Florida's Future First

The business community's premier legislative award, the Florida Chamber of Commerce's Most Valuable Legislator, goes to House Speaker Steve Crisafulli, for his commitment to securing Florida's future and consistently placing the long-term ahead of the short-term.

While others talk about Florida's long-term future, Speaker Crisafulli actively charges forward toward what is right for our state and knows firsthand the importance of fighting for free-enterprise principles. His dedication to seeing beyond short-sighted political platforms and his willingness to pass bipartisan efforts has made all the difference for our state.



Take, for instance, his commitment to Florida's water future. Speaker Crisafulli has consistently stood against environmental extremists and instead placed a premium

on science-based solutions that will help protect our state's natural resources and accommodate the up to six million new residents Florida will have by 2030. Thanks to his stalwart partnership on key water efforts, Florida's water policies are headed in the right direction, our state's unique quality of life will continue to be protected and Florida is better positioned for economic growth.

Speaker Crisafulli has also led the charge on reforming Florida's archaic and unsustainable pension system. This year, he again put the long-term interests of our state before the agendas of well-funded special interest groups, by working to reduce Florida's more than \$21 billion in unfunded liabilities.

Speaker Crisafulli has continued to put Florida, its businesses and its families, first. He worked diligently to pass a \$1 billion tax cut package out of the Florida House to put more money back into the hands of Florida's families.

The Florida Chamber sincerely thanks House Speaker Steve Crisafulli for his hard work and leadership on behalf of Florida's families and businesses.

The Florida Chamber has been an important ally in our efforts to secure Florida's future during my two years as Speaker. I am honored to have had the opportunity to work closely with their members and staff in the push for a better business climate, regulatory reform and comprehensive water solutions. Fighting for our state's long-term interest isn't always popular or easy and it's not a task that can be done alone. Thanks to the Florida Chamber's commitment to the free enterprise principles that make our state the best state in the nation, I believe we moved Florida forward to a brighter future.



### DISTINGUISHED ADVOCATE AWARDS

#### FLORIDA CHAMBER of Commerce

### Distinguished Advocate

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

The 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.



#### Senator Aaron Bean cast the lone vote in committee against special

interest groups' efforts to worsen Florida's already bottom-10 legal climate.

NIAME   DICTRICT	GRADE EAL	
NAME   DISTRICT	2015	2016
Joseph Abruzzo (D)   Wellington	92	93
Thad Altman (R)   Melbourne	100	97
AARON BEAN (R)   Jacksonville	93	93
Lizbeth Benacquisto (R)   Ft. Myers	96	94
Rob Bradley (R)   Orange Park	83	82
Jeff Brandes (R)   St. Petersburg	93	91
Oscar Braynon (D)   Miami Gardens	94	83
<b>Dwight Bullard</b> (D)   Cutler Bay	59	67
Jeff Clemens (D)   Lake Worth	64	78
Charles S. "Charlie" Dean (R)   Inverness	91	92
Nancy Detert (R)   Venice	94	98
Miguel Diaz de la Portilla (R)   Miami	93	84
Greg Evers (R)   Pensacola	100	90

	CICIDE DI		
NAME   DISTRICT	2015	2016	
Anitere Flores (R)   Miami	93	92	
Don Gaetz (R)   Destin	89	98	
Bill Galvano (R)   Bradenton	95	98	
René Garcia (R)   Hialeah	100	97	
Andy Gardiner (R)   Orlando	100	100	
Audrey Gibson (D)   Jacksonville	100	92	
Denise Grimsley (R)   Sebring	96	97	
Alan Hays (R)   Umatilla	90	91	
DOROTHY L. HUKILL (R)   Port Orange	91	100	
Travis Hutson (R)   Palm Coast	100	93	
Arthenia Joyner (D)   Tampa	82	74	
Jack Latvala (R)   Clearwater	91	97	
Tom Lee (R)   Brandon	87	96	

**GRADE EARNED** 

Senator Dorothy Hukill championed targeted tax cuts, including Florida

Chamber priorities
of reducing the
Business Rent tax
and permanently
eliminating the sales
tax on manufacturing
machinery and
equipment, and
worked to crack down
on fraud in Florida's
property insurance
system.



NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EAI <b>2015</b>	
John Legg (R)   Lutz	89	100
Gwen Margolis (D)   Miami	81	95
Bill Montford (D)   Tallahassee	76	98
Joe Negron (R)   Palm City	76	97
GARRETT RICHTER (R)   Naples	100	97
Jeremy Ring (D)   Margate	91	89

CDADE FARAIED

Senator Garrett Richter remained an ardent champion for fixing

Florida's broken legal climate by advocating for accuracy in damages and fair settlement legislation.

Senator Wilton **Simpson** supported freight mobility and intermodal

systems modernization as well as efforts to promote fuel diversification for the more efficient movement of goods to market.



Senator Kelli Stargel continued to lead the fight for improvements to Florida's world class educational systems and worked to reduce unemployment compensation fraud.

77

82

Geraldine F. Thompson (D) | Orlando



	GRADE E	EAR	NED
Γ	201	5	2016

NAME   DISTRICT	2015	2016
Janet Adkins (R)   Fernandina Beach	96	100
Larry Ahern (R)   Seminole	95	98
Ben Albritton (R)   Bartow	89	100
Bruce Antone (D)   Orlando	71	85
Frank Artiles (R)   Miami	83	98
Bryan Avila (R)   Hialeah	88	98
Dennis Baxley (R)   Ocala	93	97
Lori Berman (D)   Boynton Beach	64	68
Halsey Beshears (R)   Monticello	93	97
Michael Bileca (R)   Miami	95	96

Representative
Jim Boyd fought
for economic
development
efforts that
would help create
jobs and diversify
Florida's economy.

 Halsey Beshears (R) | Monticello
 93
 97

 Michael Bileca (R) | Miami
 95
 96

 JIM BOYD (R) | Bradenton
 94
 97

 Randolph Bracy (D) | Ocoee
 68
 73

Jason T. Brodeur (R) | Sanford

94

100



G	RADE EAI	RNED
NAME   DISTRICT	2015	2016
<b>Doug Broxson</b> (R)   Gulf Breeze	93	100
Daniel Wright "Danny" Burgess, Jr. (R)   San Anto	nio <b>93</b>	97
Colleen Burton (R)   Lakeland	96	100
MATT CALDWELL (R)   Lehigh Acres	94	97
Daphne Campbell (D)   Miami Shores	77	74
Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed (D)   Pompano Beach	67	76
Neil Combee (R)   Auburndale	93	100
Richard Corcoran (R)   Lutz	94	97
John Cortes (D)   Kissimmee	55	69
Robert "Bob" Cortes (R)   Altamonte Springs	94	100

#### Representative Matt Caldwell





89

93

59

100

100

55

Fred Costello (R) | Ormond Beach

Steve Crisafulli (R) | Merritt Island

Janet Cruz (D) | Tampa

#### GRADE EARNED NAME | DISTRICT 2015 2016 Travis Cummings (R) | Orange Park 93 100 Jose Felix Diaz (R) | Miami 94 100 MANNY DIAZ, JR. (R) | Hialeah 96 98 **Brad Drake** (R) | DeFuniak Springs 94 100 Bobby B. DuBose (D) | Fort Lauderdale 79 63 Dwight Dudley (D) | St. Petersburg 73 76 Dane Eagle (R) | Cape Coral 91 95 Katie A. Edwards (D) | Sunrise 75 88 Eric Eisnaugle (R) | Orlando 93 100 JAY FANT (R) | Jacksonville 90 **Heather Fitzenhagen** (R) | Ft. Myers 95 100

Representative Erik Fresen tirelessly advocated for numerous Florida Chamber

Representative Manny Diaz continued to stand for Florida's

students by advocating for a more flexible and accountable school

choice environment.

education priorities, such as expanding school choice options and empowering students with unique abilities.

93

77

100

74

ERIK FRESEN (R) | Miami

Reggie Fullwood (D) | Jacksonville

Representative Jay Fant sought to lower the cost of living

for families and businesses by supporting Small Business Saturday

initiatives as well as by

championing accuracy in

damages legal reform.



# Representative Matt Gaetz developed the Florida House's \$1 billion targeted tax cut package,

which included
Florida Chamber priorities
like reducing the Business
Rent Tax, permanently
eliminating the sales
tax on manufacturing
machinery and equipment
and increasing the cap on
Florida's R&D tax credit.

#### GRADE EARNED

NAME   DISTRICT	2015	2016
MATT GAETZ (R)   Shalimar	88	95
Joseph Geller (D)   Aventura	62	78
Julio Gonzalez (R)   Venice	94	100
Tom Goodson (R)   Titusville	87	98
James "JW" Grant (R)   Tampa	83	97
Bill Hager (R)   Boca Raton	90	100
Gayle Harrell (R)   Port St. Lucie	84	95
Shawn Harrison (R)   Tampa	95	95
Mike Hill (R)   Pensacola	93	97
Matt Hudson (R)   Naples	94	97
Blaise Ingoglia (R)   Spring Hill	88	97
Clay Ingram (R)   Pensacola	96	100
Kristin Jacobs (D)   Coconut Creek	67	69

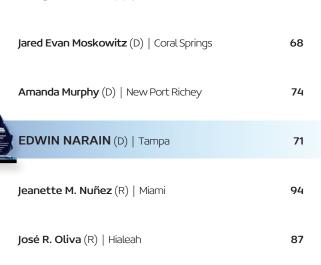
NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EAT	RNED <b>2016</b>
Evan Jenne (D)   Dania Beach	47	58
Mia Jones (D)   Jacksonville	68	87
Shevrin D. Jones (D)   West Park	62	81
Dave Kerner (D)   Palm Springs	83	79
Mike La Rosa (R)   St. Cloud	94	100
Chris Latvala (R)   Clearwater	94	96
Larry Lee Jr. (D)   Ft. Pierce	66	87
MaryLynn Magar (R)   Hobe Sound	86	98
<b>Debbie Mayfield</b> (R)   Vero Beach	81	95
Charles McBurney (R)   Jacksonville	94	100
Kionne L. McGhee (D)   Miami	62	68
Larry Metz (R)   Groveland	95	100
Mike Miller (R)   Winter Park	94	100



Representative Ed Narain

Ed Narain highlighted the need for STEM-educated teachers to help prepare the next

generation workforce for our global economy and worked to welcome innovators by expanding Florida's R&D tax credit.



NAME | DISTRICT

George R. Moraitis (R) | Ft. Lauderdale

Marlene O'Toole (R) | The Villages

Mark Pafford (D) | West Palm Beach

Ray Pilon (R) | Sarasota

GRADE EARNED

2015

96

2016

95

82

77

86

97

97

100

44

96

33

94

90

 KATHLEEN C. PASSIDOMO (R) | Naples
 95
 100

 Keith Perry (R) | Gainesville
 95
 98

 Kathleen M. Peters (R) | St. Petersburg
 89
 97

 Cary Pigman (R) | Sebring
 95
 97

Representative
Kathleen
Passidomo
stalled billboard
trial lawyers'
number one
priority bill, which
sought to further increase

the costs suffered by job creators subjected to frivolous sue-and-settle lawsuits.

NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EA. 2015	RNED <b>2016</b>
Scott Plakon (R)   Longwood	84	98
Rene "Coach P" Plasencia (R)   Orlando	77	100
Elizabeth W. Porter (R)   Lake City	96	100
Bobby Powell (D)   West Palm Beach	74	80
Sharon Pritchett (D)   Miramar	62	69
Jake Raburn (R)   Valrico	93	100
Kevin Rader (D)   Boca Raton	68	81
Holly Merrill Raschein (R)   Key Largo	94	97
Daniel D. Raulerson (R)   Plant City	95	100
LAKE RAY (R)   Jacksonville	94	100
Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D)   Tallahassee	e <b>82</b>	90
Paul Renner (R)   Palm Coast	90	98
David Richardson (D)   Miami Beach	63	81



95

97

 $\textbf{Kenneth L. Roberson} \ (\textbf{R}) \ | \ \textbf{Port Charlotte}$ 

<sup>\*</sup>The 2016 House grades were calculated based on how each Representative voted on the issues contained in the Florida Chamber's 2016 Business Agenda.



A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR	GRADE EA	
NAME   DISTRICT	2015	2016
Ray Wesley Rodrigues (R)   Ft. Myers	97	97
José Javier Rodriguez (D)   Miami	56	55
Hazelle P. "Hazel" Rogers (D)   Lauderhill	71	76
Patrick Rooney (R)   Palm Beach Gardens	94	98
Darryl Rouson (D)   St. Petersburg	73	85
David Santiago (R)   Deltona	89	97
Irving "Irv" Slosberg (D)   Delray Beach	75	86
Jimmie T. Smith (R)   Lecanto	94	100
Ross Spano (R)   Riverview	95	98
Chris Sprowls (R)   Palm Harbor	95	98
Cynthia A. Stafford (D)   Opa Locka	51	68
Richard Stark (D)   Weston	64	78
Gregory "Greg" Steube (R)   Sarasota	89	93
Cyndi Stevenson (R)   St. Johns	90	100

<sup>\*</sup>The 2016 House grades were calculated based on how each Representative voted on the issues contained in the Florida Chamber's 2016 Business Agenda.

NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EA 2015	RNED <b>2016</b>
Charlie Stone (R) $\mid$ Ocala	96	100
Jennifer Sullivan (R)   Mount Dora	93	97
<b>Dwayne Taylor</b> (D)   Daytona Beach	68	86
John Tobia (R)   Melbourne Beach	76	82
Victor Manuel Torres (D)   Orlando	60	70
Carlos Trujillo (R)   Doral	94	85
Jay Trumbull (R)   Panama City	94	100
Charles E. Van Zant (R)   Palatka	100	95
Barbara Watson (D)   Miami Gardens	45	71
Clovis Watson, Jr. (D)   Gainesville	55	76
Alan B. Williams (D)   Tallahassee	74	81
John Wood (R)   Winter Haven	87	100
Ritch Workman (R)   Melbourne	93	100
Dana Young (R)   Tampa	94	100

Learn how legislators voted on Florida Chamber-backed pro-business, pro-jobs legislation by visiting www.LegislativeReportCard.com or contact us at gblose@FLChamber.com or 850-521-1243.

### Winning Florida's Future



Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam joins Senior Vice President of Political Strategy Marian Johnson and the Florida Chamber's political team to discuss securing Florida's future.

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 affiliation) and the gap is closing between Republican and Democratic voters. And this year, voters will go to the polls and be asked to vote on a new leader of our nation, an open U.S. Senate seat, all 27 congressional representatives, all 40 state senate and all 120 house leaders, the retention of four Florida Supreme Court Justices, and five proposed constitutional amendments. 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 recruiting and electing pro-business, pro-jobs candidates, chosen by rigorous candidate interview sessions — 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-



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 or by phone at 850-521-1240.



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 or by phone at 850-521-1224.

funded special interest groups continue to fight for less competitive policies — and the Florida Chamber's Political team continues to fight back. With all 40 state senate seats on the ballot, we expect to invest even more in this election cycle.

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, 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.

#### **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 Changing 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.



2003

#### **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.



#### 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



#### 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.





#### **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.



2005

#### **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.



#### FLORIDA'S SIGNATURE STATUTE AMENDED

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



2010

#### FLORIDAWINS.org

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



### 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 HKaplan@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.** 



#### **GET INVOLVED:**

Join the Florida Chamber 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 for more information.

### Securing Florida's Future

#### The Florida Scorecard™

The Florida Scorecard™ provides
Florida leaders and local stakeholders
with the metrics needed to
measure progress within their own
communities. The Scorecard will
help identify data points that are
important to Florida's economy,
including:

- ► Florida's 2015 population included 20.27 million residents,
- ➤ Visitors to Florida in 2015 reached an all-time high of 105 million, and
- ► Florida's high school graduation rate for the 2014-15 school year was 77.8 percent.

For more metrics that matter to Florida's future, visit www.TheFloridaScorecard.com.

#### **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. 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.

A united business community and statewide leaders who are focused on the next 2 to 20 years is vital to guiding Florida toward a future economy that includes high-paying jobs, global competitiveness and vibrant and sustainable communities. Florida is now the third most populous state and our economy continues to move in the right direction, but the future is fragile. By the year 2030, Florida is expected to:

- ▶ Add **6 million** more residents,
- ▶ Attract more than **150 million** annual visitors,
- ▶ Need **2 million** more jobs,
- ▶ Have **4-5 million** new drivers,
- ▶ Need **20 percent** more water, and
- ▶ Demand **76 percent** more energy.

In an ongoing effort to provide a strategic vision for Florida, the Chamber Foundation has produced and partnered on a number of important studies that have provided an intellectual framework for state policy on education, innovation, tourism, economic development and other areas.



#### Six Pillars Framework for Florida's Future

The Florida Chamber Foundation created the Six Pillars framework, a visioning platform that identifies the key factors that drive Florida's future economy and helps organizations speak with one voice. Communities, regional planning organizations and state agencies from around Florida are currently using the Six Pillars framework to guide their planning efforts.

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.

#### **GET INVOLVED:**

We need your voice. Help us plan and prepare for a secure and competitive future. Contact JMcNabb@FLFoundation.org to join.



### Florida Chamber Foundation

#### **Securing Florida's Future Includes You**

The Florida Chamber Foundation leads the state in future-focused research and continues to be a catalyst for positive change. But we need your help to secure Florida's future. There are many ways to get involved:

- ▶ PARTNER on *Florida 2030* and collaborate on the Chamber Foundation's two-year research initiative to engage business and community leaders in each of Florida's 67 counties by identifying key trends and the factors that drive the state and local economy.
- ▶ **CONTRIBUTE your organization's expertise** and significant statewide reach by becoming a Community Development Partner. These forward-thinking individuals and companies have a deeply vested interest in Florida's success and realize the importance of a measurable statewide strategic plan.
- ▶ **PROVIDE long-term vision** and strategic direction for Florida's future by becoming a Florida Chamber Foundation Trustee and work with other businesses and thought leaders from around the state.
- ▶ **BECOME a Six Pillar Community** to prepare for future changes and ensure your community is vibrant, sustainable and economically competitive.
- ▶ JOIN a Florida Chamber Foundation Caucus Group and collaborate with business and industry leaders who are committed to identifying future-focused solutions and providing a platform for local, regional and statewide partnership in the areas of:
  - Talent Supply & Education: Provide recommendations on early learning, K-12, higher education and workforce to fill Florida's emerging talent gap.
  - Innovation & Economic Development: Work with leaders to diversify Florida's economy by providing recommendations on Florida's economic portfolio, innovation economy, entrepreneurism, capital, investments and global trade.
  - Infrastructure & Growth Leadership: Help provide recommendations in the areas of planning and development, transportation and logistics, water, energy, communications, waste management, environmental issues, risk preparedness and mitigation.
  - Business Climate & Competitiveness: Champion a global business climate by providing recommendations in the areas of commercial insurance, taxes and regulations.
  - Civic & Governance Systems: Support efforts that allow business to grow by providing recommendations in the areas of Florida's budget, governmental systems, federal issues, local government issues, regional stewardship, public-private partnerships, ethics and elections, Florida's constitution and civic infrastructure.
  - Quality of Life & Quality Places: From smarter healthcare solutions to a strong sense of place, leaders provide recommendations in the areas of health and wellness, safety and security, housing and livability, families and children, retirement and lifelong engagement, economic opportunity and prosperity, sense of place and community.



Pam Rauch, Florida Chamber Foundation Chair and Vice President of Development and External Affairs for Florida Power & Light Company, and Tony Carvajal, Executive Vice President of the Florida Chamber Foundation, discuss Chamber Foundation strategies to help secure Florida's future.

#### **UPCOMING SIX PILLARS SUMMITS:**

JUNE 2, 2016 • Orlando Learners To Earners Summit

JULY 19-22, 2016 • Orlando Environmental Permitting Summer School

AUGUST 17, 2016 • Tampa Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit

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

To register, sponsor or get involved, contact MRoberts@FLFoundation.org.





#### 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.

> 66 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.

#### Why It Matters To Florida

**S**imply 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.

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www.FLChamber.com

#### **GET INVOLVED WITH THE FLORIDA CHAMBER**

Contact our Member Outreach office at 850-521-1244 or by email at EMartin@FLChamber.com.

#### **GET INVOLVED:**

Tell us your story – Contact our Member Outreach office at 850-521-1244 or by email at EMartin@FLChamber.com.



# save the date



To register, sponsor or get involved, contact MRoberts@FLFoundation.org or visit www.FLFoundation.org.



### 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

### HOW THEY VOTED

Where Legislators Stood on the Florida Chamber's 2016 Business Agenda





1916 • 20

**SECURING FLORIDA'S FUTURE** 

136 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32301

www.FloridaChamber.com
To join the Florida Chamber, call 850-521-1243