



# WHERE WE STAND

A Guide to the Florida Chamber's 2017 Business Agenda



**FLORIDA**  
**CHAMBER**  
*of Commerce*

SECURING FLORIDA'S FUTURE  
[FloridaChamber.com](http://FloridaChamber.com)

# Open Letter to Florida's Business Leaders



**Syd Kitson**  
2016-2017 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 106 million visitors each year and an estimated 26 million residents calling Florida home by 2030, the Florida Chamber of Commerce's mission continues to be to make Florida more competitive by uniting Florida's business community, creating economic opportunities and growing jobs.

The truth is, things are fragile in Florida. Political uncertainty and related risks, rapidly changing demographics and attitudes, plus an unprecedented amount of out-of-state influences, are creating storm clouds on Florida's horizon. This is why Florida's business leaders built the Florida Chamber – to be a full-time advocate and watchdog for businesses in Florida.

As the Florida Chamber enters the 2017 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 create economic opportunity in Florida and diversify our economy.

Free enterprise works, but it is never free. 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, Senate President Joe Negron, House Speaker Richard Corcoran and the entire Florida Legislature to continue making sure the right things happen in Florida.

Sincerely,

**Syd Kitson**  
2016-2017 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



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

Pictured above:  
Florida Chamber Political Council  
Chair 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.

The story of the Florida Chamber of Commerce began in 1916, battling a threat to the safety and security of Florida's agriculture industry. 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. In fact,

- ▶ 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 106 million visitors each year,
- ▶ Nearly one in 10 U.S. jobs in 2016 were created in Florida,
- ▶ Education reforms continue to help close achievement gaps, and
- ▶ Florida's 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 business community that believes in free enterprise, believes in private-sector job creation and fights for a stronger Florida.

The Florida Chamber's 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. Yet, with two million more jobs needed to accommodate the 26 million more residents that will call Florida home by 2030, the role of the Florida Chamber has never been greater. The truth is, we have been and will continue to be entirely focused on making Florida as competitive as possible.

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 and energy challenges that come from a growing population.

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. Their unlimited funds have placed a bullseye directly over our state's future job creators.

Plaintiff trial lawyers continue to look for payouts at the expense of Florida's families and small businesses. From Florida's worsening lawsuit abuse problem to our state's workers' compensation crisis, Florida's business climate is on the line if we don't fight back.

## 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

Despite the unlimited resources of trial lawyers, unions and out-of-state billionaires with extreme agendas, their policies of less freedom and less competitiveness have never worked—and they never will.

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

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.

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.



Richard Florida, international best-selling author, professor and urbanist, discusses the shift of Florida's economy and the impact talent has on our state's economy during the Florida Chamber's annual meeting.

“This axis that runs from Orlando to Miami on the East and Tampa on the west— 15 million people, \$750 billion in economic activity...we are today, in an economic city nation state that is bigger than the size of the Netherlands.”

RICHARD FLORIDA

## 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.



2017

# Florida 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.

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  
**Syd Kitson**  
Kitson & Partners



CHAIR-ELECT  
**Robert Grammig**  
Holland & Knight LLP



IMMEDIATE  
PAST CHAIR  
2015-2016  
**Tracy Duda Chapman**  
A. Duda & Sons, Inc.



**Paul Anderson**  
Tampa Port Authority



**John Attaway**  
Publix Super Markets



**Robert Bennett**  
Merrill Lynch, Pierce,  
Fenner & Smith Inc.



CHAIR  
FLORIDA CHAMBER  
POLITICAL INSTITUTE  
**Mike Bjorklund**  
Florida Electric  
Cooperative



**Kevin D. Bowyer**  
Warren Averett



**Cressman Bronson**  
PNC Bank



**David Call**  
Fifth Third Bank



**Charley Caulkins**  
Fisher & Phillips LLP



**Stan Connally**  
Gulf Power



**Susan Connelly**  
Darden Restaurants, Inc.



**Lori Costantino-Brown**  
Bridges of America



**Brett Couch**  
Regions Bank





# Florida Chamber Board of Directors

**Carol Craig**  
Craig Technologies



**Husein Cumber**  
Florida East  
Coast Industries



**Kevin Darrenkamp**  
Lockheed Martin  
Corporation



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**Paulee Day**  
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**Fred Donovan, Jr.**  
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**David Fuller**  
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**Michael Gallagher**  
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**Todd Gates**  
GATES



**Gordon Gillette**  
TECO



**Jon Hage**  
Charter Schools USA



**Fred Hames**  
Skanska



**Debbie Harvey**  
Ron Jon Surf Shop



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



**PAST CHAIR**  
2012-2013  
**Lars Houmann**  
Adventist Health  
System - Florida  
Division



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



2017

# Florida Chamber Board of Directors

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UF Health Shands  
Hospital



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



**Belinda Keiser**  
Keiser University



**Quintin Kendall**  
CSX Transportation



**John Kenning**  
G4S



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Beall's, Inc.



**Rena Langley**  
Walt Disney Parks  
& Resorts



**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



**Trey H. Paris**  
General Electric Company



**Todd Powell**  
Weyerhaeuser



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





# Florida Chamber Board of Directors

**Jackson Sasser, Ph.D.**  
SantaFe College



**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



**Jeff Wahlen**  
Ausley McMullen



**Will Weatherford**  
Weatherford Partners



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



**Bob White**  
The Doctors Company



**Harry Sideris**  
Duke Energy



**Steve Short**  
Tampa General  
Hospital



**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.



**Mark Wilson**  
President and CEO



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



**Frank Walker**  
Vice President of Governmental Affairs



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



**Edie Ousley**  
Vice President of Public Affairs



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



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



**Brittney Hunt**  
Director of Talent, Education and Quality of Life Policy



**Christopher Emmanuel**  
Director of Infrastructure and Governance Policy



**Alice Ancona**  
Director of Global Outreach



**Dan Tapia**  
Manager of Global Outreach



**Greg Blosé, II**  
Grassroots Development Manager



**Hannah Kaplan**  
Governmental Affairs 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**



**Melanie  
Bostick**



**French  
Brown IV**



**Melanie  
Brown**



**Matt  
Bryan**



**David  
Childs**



**David  
Daniel**



**Mark  
Delegal**



**Jennifer  
Green**



**Thomas  
Griffin**



**Jeff  
Hartley**



**Gary  
Hunter**



**Lisa  
Hurley**



**Jon  
Johnson**



**Darrick  
McGhee**



**Tim  
Parson**



**Andrea  
Reilly**



# 2016 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 have 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.

## THE FLORIDA CHAMBER'S 2016 DISTINGUISHED ADVOCATES IN THE SENATE WERE:



**SEN. AARON BEAN**

(R-Jacksonville)

cast the lone vote in committee against special interest groups' efforts to worsen Florida's already bottom-10 legal climate.



**SEN. DOROTHY HUKILL**

(R-Port Orange)

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.



**SEN. GARRETT RICHTER**

(R-Naples)

remained an ardent champion for fixing Florida's broken legal climate by advocating for accuracy in damages and fair settlement legislation.



**SEN. WILTON SIMPSON**

(R-Trilby)

supported freight mobility and intermodal systems modernization as well as efforts to promote fuel diversification for the more efficient movement of goods to market.



**SEN. KELLI STARGEL**

(R-Lakeland)

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

## THE FLORIDA CHAMBER'S 2016 DISTINGUISHED ADVOCATES IN THE HOUSE WERE:



**REP. JIM BOYD**  
(R-Bradenton)  
fought for targeted economic development efforts that would help create jobs and diversify Florida's economy.



**REP. MATT CALDWELL**  
(R-Lehigh Acres)  
successfully passed the most comprehensive water policy reforms in a generation, helping secure the future of Florida's water through science-based policies, and also sponsored priority legislation for needed pension and legal reform.



**REP. MANNY DIAZ, JR.**  
(R-Hialeah)  
continued to stand for Florida's students by advocating for a more flexible and accountable school choice environment.



**REP. JAY FANT**  
(R-Jacksonville)  
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.



**REP. ERIK FRESEN**  
(R-Miami)  
tirelessly advocated for numerous Florida Chamber education priorities, such as expanding school choice options and empowering students with unique abilities.



**REP. MATT GAETZ**  
(R-Shalimar)  
developed the Florida House's \$1 billion targeted tax cut package, which included Florida Chamber priorities such as 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.



**REP. EDWIN NARAIN**  
(D-Tampa)  
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.



**REP. KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO**  
(R-Naples)  
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.



**REP. LAKE RAY**  
(R-Jacksonville)  
advocated to further modernize Florida's world class infrastructure through long-term investments in clean energy and freight mobility projects.



### The Florida Chamber's 2016 Most Valuable Legislator

was Representative Steve Crisafulli. Chosen for his partnership on key water efforts, and his leadership on issues like pension reform and tax cuts, Rep. Crisafulli consistently put Florida's long-term future before short-term needs.

# Closing Florida's Talent Gap by Improving Educational Opportunities



Florida Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart discusses the importance of Florida's education reforms in order to build 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  
Florida Chamber Foundation Business Alliance for Early Learning

**“A talent pipeline is needed on all levels. Every job has a different skillset and requirement and everybody has different abilities. We want those folks working here and we want to make sure we have that talent filling the open jobs here.”**

**JOHN NEWSTREET**  
Kissimmee / Osceola Chamber of Commerce

## 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

One of the most common concerns we hear from businesses of all sizes is the need for a qualified workforce and highly-trained talent pool. The Florida Chamber believes a talented workforce is Florida's best long-term economic development strategy. From early learning to lifelong learning, Florida wins when we match business needs with talent. While the teachers' union continues to put their interests before Florida's students, the Florida Chamber will continue to fight for students and champion Florida's entire education system—especially Florida's future workforce.

### The Florida Chamber's focus includes:

- ▶ Preparing Florida's Workforce and Addressing the Skills Gap
- ▶ Investing in Digital and Virtual Education Technology
- ▶ Adequately Preparing Florida's Youngest Learners
- ▶ Supporting STEM Initiatives
- ▶ Championing School Choice and Competition
- ▶ Continuing to Improve Florida's K-12 System
- ▶ Empowering Florida's Best Teachers



For an in-depth look at these issues and more, visit [www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues).

## Preparing Florida's Workforce and Addressing the Skills Gap

In order for Florida to remain one of the nation's top business climates, we must increase educational opportunities in both traditional higher educational institutions and in the 21st century vocational trades. In addition to adequately preparing Florida's students to enter the workforce, we must also focus on attracting and retaining world class talent. Closing the skills gap and making college more affordable is a top priority for the Florida Chamber. We will continue to fight for a stronger emphasis on quality workforce training programs that will help to reinvigorate the skills trades.

## Investing in Digital and Virtual Education Technology

Creating a talent pool that can meet the needs of businesses means investing in technology initiatives throughout Florida's educational systems that fuel options and innovations.





# Talent Supply & Education

## Adequately Preparing Florida's Youngest Learners

Consider this: today's kindergarten class will be entering the workforce in 2030. Will these students be prepared? Quality early learning opportunities and reading programs can help turn today's youngest learners into tomorrow's high-wage earners.

## Supporting STEM Initiatives

Renewing a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiatives, with a renewed focus on Medicine, throughout Florida's education system gives students greater opportunities to become globally competitive. The Florida Chamber will continue to support efforts that introduce STEM concepts early in a child's education.

## Championing School Choice Options and Competition

At the Florida Chamber, we recognize that education is not a one-size-fits-all solution. We will continue to ensure parents, students and teachers are equipped with the best educational options for success.

## Continuing to Improve Florida's K-12 System

The Florida Chamber will continue to support rigorous and accurate statewide assessments for schools and students, which are an effective measure of success for Florida's students.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Despite huge gains in education, only **54%** of Florida 3rd graders can read at a 3rd grade level. Visit [Florida2030.org](http://Florida2030.org) to share your thoughts on how we can do better.

## Empowering Florida's Best Teachers

To ensure America's best teachers train and remain in Florida, the Florida Chamber will continue to champion additional professional development and benefit options for Florida's teachers.

“Like the Florida Chamber, we remain focused on ensuring all students in Florida have the opportunity for a quality education that meets their needs. A child's zip code or family income shouldn't restrict their educational choices.”

SARA CLEMENTS | Step up For Students

## Talent and Economic Development Go Hand in Hand

- ✓ Achievement gaps are closing
- ✓ High School graduation rates are at an 11-year high
- ✓ Reading scores are some of the best in the world

YET between now and 2030, **2 million** more jobs will be needed.

Today, more than **73,000** STEM jobs need to be filled.

- ✗ More than **700,000** people with disabilities are not in the workforce who may want to be
- ✗ **1 in every 4** children under the age of 18 live below the poverty line

### THE GAP

We can do better. Florida's future wins when we:

- ▶ Tap into talent pools that are prepared for future business needs,
- ▶ Work to end the cycle of generational poverty, and
- ▶ Fight for the best educational opportunities for all Floridians.

### GET INVOLVED:

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



# Diversifying Florida's Economy and Creating High-Wage Jobs



Chris Hart, President and CEO of Enterprise Florida, shares why economic development can help diversify Florida's economy.

**“My goal is to continue driving Enterprise Florida toward making our state the leading economy and number one location for job creation in the nation.”**

**CHRIS HART IV**  
Enterprise Florida

**“Retaining and attracting innovators and innovative technologies is key to ensuring Florida continues creating high-wage jobs and economic opportunity.”**

**BOB ROHRLACK**  
Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce

## 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

**D**iversifying Florida's economy is key to creating jobs and opportunities. The Florida Chamber will continue to support and grow our state's core industries—tourism, agriculture and construction—and work to diversify into next generation industries. We must continue to support initiatives that champion innovation and new technology, attract emerging industries and sectors, and provide Florida with a chance to lead the nation in job diversification, investment and growth. Florida wins when we continue to diversify our base of job creators and work to attract and grow targeted high-wage industries.

### The Florida Chamber's focus includes:

- ▶ Championing Florida's Role as a Global Leader
- ▶ Supporting Florida's Manufacturing Industry
- ▶ Supporting Florida's Small Businesses
- ▶ Diversifying our Economy and Creating Jobs Through Economic Development Efforts
- ▶ Fostering Innovation by Growing Targeted Industries
- ▶ Strengthening Florida's Leadership in Space Exploration
- ▶ Supporting Florida's Veterans, Military and Defense Industry
- ▶ Championing Rural Business Opportunities



**For a more in-depth look at these issues and more, visit [www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues).**



# Innovation & Economic Development

## Championing Florida's Role as a Global Leader

Did you know that 95 percent of the world's consumers live outside the United States? Florida is a hub for global trade and the Florida Chamber will continue to position our state as a leader in the global economy.

## Supporting Florida's Manufacturing Industry

The Florida Chamber will continue to champion efforts that support Florida's manufacturing industry, which creates high-wage jobs and makes our state globally competitive.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**90%** of Florida's manufacturers are small to mid-sized businesses. You can learn more at [TheFloridaScorecard.org](http://TheFloridaScorecard.org).

**"It is estimated that by 2020, as many as 14 million jobs nationwide will be unfilled due to inadequately trained workers. Ensuring our businesses have access to exceptional employees is vital to the success of the industry and Florida's economy."**

AMANDA BOWEN | Manufacturers Association of Florida

## Supporting Florida's Small Businesses

Did you know, two of every three jobs in Florida are created by a small business? The Florida Chamber will continue to support partners like the Florida Small Business Development Center so more small businesses can have the resources to call Florida home.

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

To remain globally competitive, Florida must:



- 1** Move more goods,
- 2** Make more products for export, and
- 3** Multiply the impacts of trade

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



There are more than **580,000** Florida trade, transportation and logistics jobs



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

**THE GAP** The Florida Chamber will continue to advocate for the recommendations outlined 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 [AAAncona@FLChamber.com](mailto:AAAncona@FLChamber.com) today.

Sources: Enterprise Florida; Business Roundtable; Florida Chamber Foundation





# Diversifying Florida's Economy and Creating High-Wage Jobs



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

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

After nearly three 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.

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.

“We've been seeing our college completion rates increase...but we need to start thinking, 'what do we need to do for the future?'”

CHARLES HOKANSON | Helios Education Foundation

## Fostering Innovation by Growing Targeted Industries

The Florida Chamber will continue to support initiatives that attract and create high-wage jobs and bring capital investments to Florida.

We can spark innovation and create jobs by:

- ▶ Increasing our state's share of **venture capital dollars**,
- ▶ Increasing funding for **research and development**,
- ▶ Supporting **public-private partnerships**, and more.

### 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



# Innovation & Economic Development

## Strengthening Florida's Leadership in Space Exploration

The Florida Chamber will continue to advocate for targeted investments in technological advancements for both public and commercial space projects in order to continue to strengthen Florida's historic leadership role in space exploration.

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

Florida's military and defense industry helps employ nearly 775,000 Floridians each year and contributes almost \$80 billion to our economy. Our state is also home to 20 military bases and three combatant command centers. The Florida Chamber will continue to support efforts to keep Florida the most military and veteran-friendly state by supporting efforts that protect from the next round of BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure).

## Championing Rural Business Opportunities

The Florida Chamber will continue to work toward creating more job opportunities and greater economic diversity in Florida by supporting efforts that fund opportunities and infrastructure in our state's rural communities.

**“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

## Florida is a Small Business State

The Florida Chamber's most recent Small Business Index Survey shows top small business concerns include:

- ✓ Government Regulations
- ✓ Economic Uncertainty
- ✓ Workforce Quality

### FLORIDA HAS:

**2nd best business climate** in the nation



**4th best tax climate** in the nation

**CUT MORE THAN 4,500** regulations since Dec. 2010

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**.



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In order to continue growing the best business climate in the nation, we must continue to provide opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs to succeed.

### GET INVOLVED:

Become a part of the Florida Chamber's Small Business Council. Contact [CJohnson@FLChamber.com](mailto:CJohnson@FLChamber.com) today.

Sources: Florida Chamber Foundation; Tax Foundation; Florida Governor Scott



# Preparing Florida's Infrastructure for Smarter Growth



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

**“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**  
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 estimates between now and 2030, 26 million more people will call Florida home. As the third most populous state in the nation and growing, it is crucial we get infrastructure policies right and focus on long-term strategies. This means more than ensuring there are roads to travel—this means supporting investments in hard and soft infrastructure such as energy, water, telecommunications and more.

### The Florida Chamber’s focus includes:

- ▶ Supporting Proactive Economic Planning and Development
- ▶ Championing Long-Term, Sustainable Water and Environmental Policies
- ▶ Ensuring Infrastructure and Transportation Investments Help Meet Tomorrow’s Needs
- ▶ Championing Innovations in All Modes of Transportation
- ▶ Supporting Efficient and Sustainable Energy Solutions



For an in-depth look at these issues and more, visit [www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues).

**“The 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

## Supporting Proactive Economic Planning and Development

Streamlining state, regional and local processes by embracing proactive growth leadership initiatives is important to support the next generation of vibrant communities in Florida. The Florida Chamber will continue to champion the streamlining of permitting processes and reducing bureaucratic barriers toward growth.





# Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

## Championing Long-Term, Sustainable Water and Environmental Policies

The Florida Chamber continues to advocate for Florida's water future by supporting science-based infrastructure investments and initiatives that allow Florida to grow while protecting our precious natural resources. We will continue to fight against unneeded, government-mandated environmental regulations that place undue burdens on Florida's businesses.

## Ensuring Infrastructure and Transportation Investments Help Meet Tomorrow's Needs

### DID YOU KNOW?

Florida has more than **580,000 jobs** in transportation, trade and logistics. You can learn more about these numbers at [TheFloridaScorecard.org](http://TheFloridaScorecard.org).

Whether it's our roads, bridges, highways and byways, telecommunications networks, rail lines, seaports, airports or spaceports—Florida wins when infrastructure investments help our state create jobs and fuel global

competitiveness. The Florida Chamber will also continue to work to protect Florida's transportation trust fund so major economic development investments in infrastructure connectivity can continue.

**"To secure Florida's water future, we really have to follow science; science has to lead the way."**

DR. BRIAN LAPOINTE | Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute

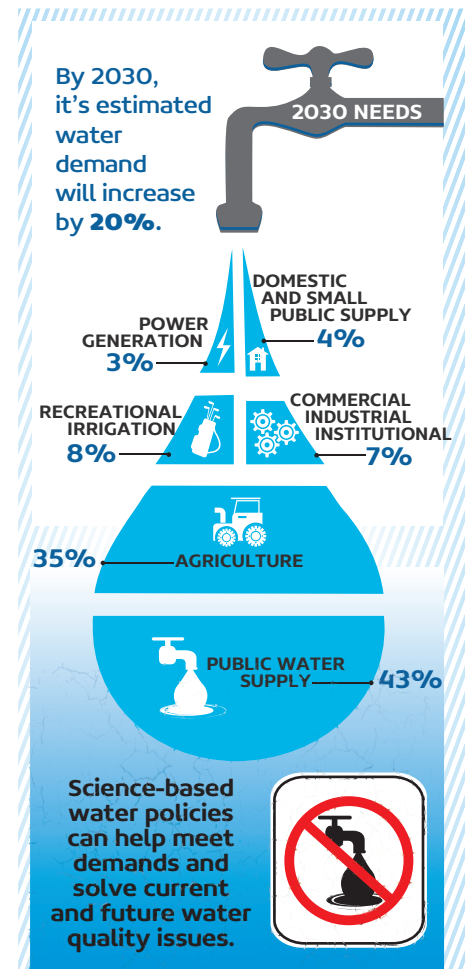
## Championing Innovations in All Modes of Transportation

By 2030, 26 million more people will call Florida home. Florida's estimating conference's long-term forecast predict Florida will have more than 160 million annual visitors by 2025. Florida wins when we create transportation modes that follow consistent regulations, create jobs and fuel innovations. Innovations in ride sharing options, electric vehicles and more can help Florida accommodate growth while remaining competitive.

## Supporting Efficient and Sustainable Energy Solutions

Did you know that between now and 2030, Florida will demand 76 percent more energy? The Florida Chamber will continue to advocate for long-term, comprehensive energy policy that brings efficient, modern and cost-effective sources of energy to all Floridians.

## Florida's Future Requires 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 contacting

[CEmanuel@FLChamber.com](mailto:CEmanuel@FLChamber.com).



Sources: Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Florida Chamber Foundation



# Keeping Florida's Business Climate Competitive



Senate President Joe Negron joins Florida Chamber business leaders to discuss key issues during the Florida Chamber's annual meeting.

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

**FLORIDA GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT**

**"In order for our state to remain competitive, we must get workers' comp issues right. We support the Florida Chamber's long-standing fight to protect employers and employees."**

**DENNIS GRADY  
Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches**

## **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's Small Business Development Center Network
- ▶ R Street Institute

## **Why It Matters To Florida**

**F**lorida is moving in the right direction- approximately one in 10 U.S. jobs are created in Florida, state unemployment remains below the national average, we are chipping away at outdated and costly regulations, and are cutting taxes for many businesses. However, 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. The Florida Chamber believes one way we can continue to lead the nation in job creation is to build a business climate that attracts new businesses and investments from around the world, and allows businesses and families already here to grow and succeed.

### **The Florida Chamber's focus includes:**

- ▶ Fixing Florida's Workers' Comp System
- ▶ Creating Competitive and Stable Insurance Markets
- ▶ Further Making Unemployment Compensation Taxes Competitive
- ▶ Streamlining Government Regulations and Mandates
- ▶ Creating Smarter Tax Policies
- ▶ Eliminating Florida's "Judicial Hellhole" Reputation and Litigation Climate
- ▶ Protecting Private Property Rights
- ▶ Protecting Job Creators and Employees in Wage Disputes
- ▶ Reforming Collective Bargaining
- ▶ Creating a Fair Liability Environment to Attract and Keep Medical Professionals



**For an in-depth look at these issues and more, visit [www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues).**



# Business Climate & Competitiveness

## Fixing Florida's Workers' Comp System

Two Florida Supreme Court decisions in 2016 declared portions of Florida's workers' comp system unconstitutional. The result? A \$1.5 billion increase in workers' compensation rates for Florida's job creators.

The Florida Chamber has a long history of helping to keep Florida's workers' comp system working. As a result, workers' comp rates were lowered by more than 60 percent in the last 13 years, and injured workers returned to work 10 days faster. Those efforts continue today with the Florida Chamber's Workers' Compensation Task Force. Join our efforts today by visiting our website at [www.FloridaChamber.com/WorkersComp](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/WorkersComp).

“One of the things I'm proud of is that the Florida Chamber really has been a champion of free enterprise since its inception and Florida is a much better place because of its efforts.”

BOB GRAMMIG | Holland and Knight, Florida Chamber Regional Chair

## Creating Competitive and Stable Insurance Markets

Building the perfect business climate means creating stable insurance markets that are protected from fraud and unnecessary rate increases. The 2016 hurricane season brought the first hurricane to make landfall in Florida in 11 years. With it also came unscrupulous home repair vendors and plaintiff trial lawyers, who continued to inflate claims and cause property insurance hikes in our state through assignment of benefits (AOB) fraud.

## Further Making Unemployment Compensation Taxes Competitive

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

## Rising Workers' Comp Rates Will Stunt Economic Opportunities

Florida's Supreme Court rulings mean workers' comp rates in Florida will cost Florida's job creators more than **\$1.5 BILLION**



This **14.5%** increase also impacts employees who will now have to wait longer to return to work.

Because of trial lawyer tactics, business owners must now make a choice:



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P** The Florida Chamber will work to unite Florida's business community to secure legislation that minimizes the impact of recent workers' comp rulings and improves Florida's competitiveness.

### GET INVOLVED:

Get involved with the Florida Chamber's Workers' Comp Task Force and help make a difference today. Contact [CJohnson@FLChamber.com](mailto:CJohnson@FLChamber.com).

Sources: Office of Insurance Regulation; Florida Chamber of Commerce





# Keeping Florida's Business Climate Competitive



House Speaker Richard Corcoran discusses the importance of a strong business climate with Florida Chamber Board Chair, Syd Kitson.

**“In order to continue to be a leader in the nation on job creation, we must embrace a truly free and competitive market, certainty in tax policy, and ensure government understands its limited role in the economy. I appreciate the risks taken and jobs created by the entrepreneurs who make up the membership of the Florida Chamber of Commerce. I look forward to working with the [Florida] Chamber to advance shared principles, remove barriers to job creation, and get government out of the business of business.”**

**RICHARD CORCORAN**  
Speaker of the Florida House

## Streamlining Government Regulations and Mandates

Thanks to Governor Scott's leadership and the Florida Legislature's focus on jobs, Florida has eliminated more than 4,500 outdated, duplicative or unnecessary regulations. As Florida competes with other states and countries, supporting efforts that protect business from costly and unnecessary regulation and mandates is crucial for our state's competitiveness. We must continue to fight against efforts which often strike the pockets of small businesses, and instead, focus on creating a positive labor environment where all 67 counties, 412 cities and 34 state agencies are aligned to help job creators grow in Florida.

## Creating Smarter Tax Policies

While Florida already has one of the best tax climates in the nation for residents, enacting smart and targeted tax reforms for job creators will produce greater economic growth. Creating a fair tax system means putting small business capitol to work and eliminating uncompetitive tax policies like the Florida-only Business Rent Tax.

The Florida Chamber will continue to advocate for targeted tax reforms such as:

- ▶ Reducing Florida's corporate income tax, sometimes referred to as the corporate income tax,
- ▶ Supporting e-fairness to create a level playing field between brick and mortar and online businesses, instead of a system of winners and losers,
- ▶ Reducing, and eventually eliminating, the Florida-only tax on business rent,
- ▶ Providing families and small businesses with sales tax holidays such as Small Business Saturday, and more.

## Eliminating Florida's "Judicial Hellhole" Reputation and Litigation Climate

Lawsuit abuse is a serious and costly problem that keeps getting worse — Florida's current ranking places our state 44 out of 50 for legal climate. When lawsuit abuse occurs, Florida families and businesses feel the impact through a higher cost of living which creates a \$3,400 "tax" for families each year.



# Business Climate & Competitiveness

## 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.

## Protecting Job Creators and Employees in Wage Disputes

The Florida Chamber understands wage theft is a concern for both employers and employees. It is unquestionably wrong for employers to deny employees the wages they have rightfully earned, however employers must also at times be protected from the actions of employees. Carefully designed laws balance the interests of employers and employees, and protect the rights of both while creating jobs and opportunities.

**“The 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

## Reforming Collective Bargaining

The Florida Chamber will continue to protect employee choices by reducing the economic burden of unions’ collective bargaining processes. 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.

## Creating a Fair Liability Environment to Attract and Keep Medical Professionals

High-wage talent is an important part of Florida’s economic development strategy. In order to help Florida attract world-class medical professionals, we must continue to ensure Florida has a medical liability environment where meritless lawsuits are discouraged.

## The Cost of Living in a Judicial Hellhole

Did you know that Florida shoulders **HALF** the nation's hurricane risk?



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



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

**THE GAP**

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 [CJohnson@FLChamber.com](mailto:CJohnson@FLChamber.com) or visit [FightFraud.Today](http://FightFraud.Today).

Sources: Florida Office of Insurance Regulation; [www.FightFraud.Today](http://www.FightFraud.Today)



# Making Florida Government More Efficient



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

**"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**

**"Soon, Floridians will have the chance to impact our state's constitution with the Constitution Revision Commission, which comes around every 20 years. We look forward to the Florida Chamber's continued efforts to educate the public on this unique system."**

**REP. CLAY INGRAM  
Pensacola Chamber**

## **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**

**A**t the Florida Chamber, we believe in solutions that ensure efficient, transparent and sustainable government systems. Florida's economic success must not be blocked by excessive regulation, "gotcha" litigation or outdated taxation but should instead be built on free enterprise principles that create jobs and opportunities. Florida must ensure all 67 counties, 412 cities and 34 state agencies are working toward a common goal—making our government more efficient, transparent and conducive to private-sector job growth. By eliminating burdensome regulations as well as policies that drain taxpayer dollars, the focus can, and should, remain on helping Florida's government be as efficient as possible.

### **The Florida Chamber's focus includes:**

- ▶ Modernizing Florida's Public-Sector Pension and Benefits Systems
- ▶ Improving Government Efficiencies and State Competitiveness
- ▶ Fighting for Consistent Federal Immigration Policies
- ▶ Protecting Florida's Constitution Through the Constitution Revision Commission



**For an in-depth look at these issues and more, visit [www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues).**

## **Modernizing Florida's Public-Sector Pension and Benefits Systems**

Florida taxpayers spend more than \$700 million annually on paying down pension debt to an unfunded defined benefit system. It's time to stop bailing out an unfunded system. The Florida Chamber will continue to champion common sense reforms that modernize public pension programs and stop the taxpayer bailout of pensions, helping our state become more fiscally responsible.





# Civic & Governance Systems

## Improving Government Efficiencies and State Competitiveness

Improving government efficiencies by eliminating burdensome regulations and processes will allow businesses to continue to grow and succeed, especially small businesses, where two-thirds of new jobs are created.

## 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, not a patchwork of state-by-state rules, will help Florida's employers avoid undue burdens and costs.

**"The 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

## Protecting Florida's Constitution Through the Constitution Revision Commission

Soon, Florida will have a unique opportunity to review Florida's constitution. The Constitution Revision Commission, made up of 37 members brought together every 20 years, will be charged with making recommendations for the entire state. The Florida Chamber has led the charge to protect Florida's constitution since pregnant pigs were voted into our state's governing document in 2002 and will continue to fight against special interests buying their way onto the constitution. We will be closely monitoring the recommendations deliberated by the CRC.

**"I am proud to support the Florida Chamber in its efforts to keep moving Florida forward."**

TODD GATES | GATES

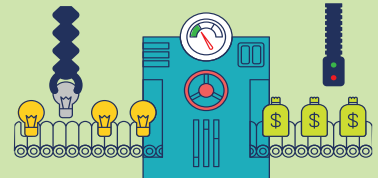
## A Fair Regulatory Climate Means More Jobs and Economic Opportunity

According to Governor Scott, Florida has eliminated **4,500** unnecessary and outdated regulations since 2010.

### WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Preventing a patchwork of regulations (which can occur when local regulations are duplicative of state regulations) ensures business in our state can:

- ✓ **Attract new industries and innovations**
- ✓ **Create more high-wage jobs**
- ✓ **Help businesses focus on what they do best – creating jobs**



A regulatory climate that is clear and easy to follow means businesses can hire talent instead of paying for duplicative regulations and associated compliance costs.

### THE GAP

In order to be the number one state for job creation in the nation, we must continue to look at opportunities to fight back against duplicative local regulations and stop federal government overreach that often creates more red tape and hurdles to job creation

### GET INVOLVED:

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

Source: Florida Governor Scott



# Championing Florida's Quality of Life



Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi addresses business leaders during the Florida Chamber Foundation's Future of Florida Forum.

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

FLORIDA ATTORNEY GENERAL PAM BONDI

**“We appreciate and support the Florida Chamber's discussions on the opportunities innovations like telehealth can bring to our state.”**

TIFFANY A. ESPOSITO  
Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

## Why It Matters To Florida

Florida has much to offer its current and future residents, and visitors. However, our state's unique quality of life is constantly under attack from special interests. 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. This means focusing on affordable housing, stopping the expansion of Las Vegas-style casinos, breaking the cycle of generational poverty, and embracing cost-saving adaptations to Florida's healthcare system.

### The Florida Chamber's focus includes:

- ▶ Championing Innovations in Healthcare
- ▶ Continuing to Oppose the Expansion of Las Vegas-Style Casino Gambling
- ▶ Advocating for a Better Healthcare Delivery System with a Focus on Better Outcomes
- ▶ Expanding Medical Education Opportunities



For an in-depth look at these issues and more, visit [www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues).

## Championing Innovations in Healthcare

The Florida Chamber believes fully embracing telehealth policies that accentuate Florida's free market environment is just one way to lower Florida's healthcare costs and improve outcomes.

**“Economic opportunity exists in this state, but for many Floridians, it is out of reach.”**

ANN REINERT | JP Morgan Chase

### WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

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



# Quality of Life & Quality Places

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

Florida needs more engineers, physicians, and teachers—not blackjack dealers. The Florida Chamber will continue fighting to protect Florida’s family-friendly brand by opposing the expansion of Las Vegas-style casino gambling.

## Advocating for a Better Healthcare Delivery System with a Focus on Better Outcomes

The Florida Chamber remains dedicated to getting healthcare right in Florida. We understand healthcare 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 for better outcomes through a more affordable and efficient healthcare delivery system will help keep our state competitive, and our economy thriving.

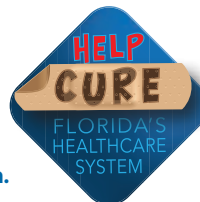
“The Florida Chamber is a powerful force for bringing businesses together around important issues, and I’m proud to help drive that work in our region.”

CARLOS A. MIGOYA | Jackson Health System

## Expanding Medical Education Opportunities

Expanding medical education opportunities and providing targeted training in key health education programs will help serve Florida’s rapidly growing population and meet Florida’s increasing need for physicians and allied health professionals.

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](mailto:BHunt@FLChamber.com) to become a part of the discussion.



## Workforce Is Key to Florida’s Future Wellness



### DID YOU KNOW...

#### BY 2030:

- + 6 million more people will call Florida home
- + More than 40% of Florida’s population will be older than 50.

#### BY 2022:

Some of the fastest growing jobs will be in healthcare:



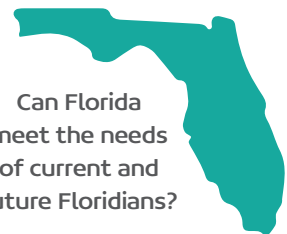
**BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERS**  
↑55%



**NURSE PRACTITIONERS**  
↑30%

#### BY 2025:

Nearly 7,000 additional doctors will be needed



Can Florida meet the needs of current and future Floridians?

### THE GAP

Florida must ensure medical professionals not only train, but also remain in Florida. The Florida Chamber will continue to support innovations in the medical field that will help cut costs and produce better outcomes.

### GET INVOLVED:

Join the healthcare conversation. Contact [BHunt@FLChamber.com](mailto:BHunt@FLChamber.com) to learn how.

Sources: Keiser Family Foundation; Florida Hospital Association





# Florida's Changing Political Landscape



Florida Governor Rick Scott discusses the importance of creating jobs and opportunities to business leaders at the Florida Chamber's annual meeting.

**“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

## 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 environment is changing. And while our state is moving in the right direction—jobs are being created, taxes are being cut, businesses are growing—Florida's political environment is in constant motion. To those only looking at the makeup of Florida's legislative body, it might appear as if the future is bright—that free enterprise is stronger than ever in the Sunshine State. But 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.

We know from experience that securing Florida's future is only possible with leaders who are brave enough to always do what is right for our state (even when it's not easy), and who are fighting for a future they may not ever benefit from. Electing these leaders is the goal of the Chamber's Political Operations, a select group of Florida's business leaders who have their pulse on our state's political environment.

Our engagement efforts begin by recruiting and electing pro-business, pro-jobs candidates, chosen by rigorous candidate interview sessions — Florida's most thorough and respected pro-business candidate review process. FCPI travels statewide and interviews hundreds of new candidates — in addition to reviewing each candidate's completed questionnaire.

But we cannot get complacent and we cannot stop fighting for free enterprise.

Our mission at the Florida Chamber is to secure Florida's future. We 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 hosting political fundraisers and by making political contributions. We urge you to join us in the arena and help Florida remain competitive.

## A LOOK AHEAD: 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. Apply, share your thoughts and learn more at [www.FloridaChamber.com/CRC](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/CRC).



# Florida's Political Landscape

This campaign season, the American free enterprise system was tested. Just as we predicted, trial lawyers, unions and out-of-state billionaires with special interest agendas attempted to bankroll their candidates into office.


Together with businesses leaders, the Florida Chamber was able to fight back. This election cycle, the Florida Chamber's political action program:



**RAISED**  
**\$7.2+ million**



**COMPLETED**  
**57 polls**



**WON**  
**76 of 89**  
primary election races



**INTERVIEWED**  
**>200**  
candidates



**DEFEATED**  
**9**  
Trial lawyers



**WON**  
**74 of 77**  
general election races



**DISTRIBUTED**  
**>600,000**  
direct mail pieces



**PRODUCED**  
**2**  
specialized radio spots



**POSTED**  
**107**  
digital spots



**PRODUCED**  
**6**  
TV spots



## How can you get involved?



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. Join our fight to secure Florida's future. Contact Marian Johnson, Senior Vice President of Political Strategy at the Florida Chamber, at [MJohnson@FLChamber.com](mailto:MJohnson@FLChamber.com).



# Planning for 2030

## 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 who will get us there. 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.

Florida is now the third most populous state and by 2030, six million more residents will call Florida home and two million more jobs will be needed. To prepare for this continued growth and ensure Florida remains successful, the Florida Chamber Foundation is leading the charge to write the blueprint for Florida's future—**Florida 2030**. This two-year research program will stimulate strategic thinking about Florida's future and engage business and community leaders in each of Florida's 67 counties and identify key trends and the factors that can drive their regional economy. **Florida 2030** is our opportunity to work together to strengthen your community, business and future.



**We need your help to plan for the future. Help secure Florida's future by sharing your thoughts, time or resources. Learn more about the Florida 2030 project by visiting [www.Florida2030.org](http://www.Florida2030.org).**

## 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.

### 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



### 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

## 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. Getting involved is easy:

- ▶ **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 Florida and your 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.
- ▶ **BECOME A CHAMBER FOUNDATION TRUSTEE** and work with other businesses and thought leaders around the state on the issues that matter most.
- ▶ **ENGAGE YOUR COMMUNITY** by becoming a Six Pillars Community and leading the way toward vibrant, sustainable and economically competitive communities.
- ▶ **JOIN A FLORIDA CHAMBER FOUNDATION CAUCUS GROUP**, based on our Six Pillars, and work to identify future-focused solutions to the issues that matter to our state.



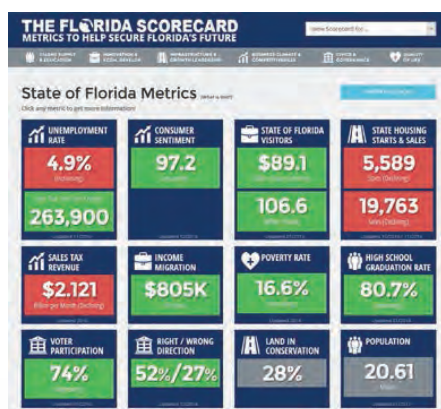
Interested in getting involved? Contact us today at [JMcnabb@FLFoundation.org](mailto:JMcnabb@FLFoundation.org).



Florida Chamber Foundation Chair Doug Davidson, Bank of America, shares the importance of planning for Florida's future at the Florida Chamber Foundation's annual Future of Florida Forum.

**"I'm very optimistic of what Florida 2030 is going to do for this state. It will become a unifying document, a unifying discussion around the state."**

**DOUG DAVIDSON**  
Florida Chamber Foundation Chair  
Bank of America



### THE FLORIDA SCORECARD™

The Florida Scorecard™ provides Florida leaders and local stakeholders with the metrics needed to measure progress within their own communities. From unemployment rates to visitor spending and more, you can view the metrics that matter to Florida's future by visiting [www.TheFloridaScorecard.org](http://www.TheFloridaScorecard.org).

### UPCOMING SIX PILLARS SUMMITS:

**JUNE 14, 2017**  
Learners to Earners  
Education Summit

**AUGUST 8, 2017**  
Military, Defense and Veterans  
Opportunities Summit

**SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2017** 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).



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# HELP MAKE FLORIDA MORE COMPETITIVE

## Join the Florida Chamber



Florida Chamber Chair Syd Kitson shares the importance of a united business community with Florida's top business and thought leaders.

“As Florida continues to grow, the Florida Chamber’s agenda is an opportunity to diversify our economy and expand employment opportunities. Working together, we can make Florida a place where innovative businesses take root and grow into higher-paying jobs for all working Floridians.”

**SYD KITSON**  
Florida Chamber Chair  
Kitson & Partners

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@FLChamber



Follow us on Facebook  
facebook.com/flchamber



www.FLChamber.com

### GET INVOLVED:

Tell us your story –  
Contact our Member Outreach  
office at 850-521-1244 or  
by email at MFarris@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, experienced 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 out-of-state and 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.



Interested in getting involved with the Florida Chamber? Contact Jeff Cheesborough, Corporate Development Manager at the Florida Chamber, at [JCheesborough@FLChamber.com](mailto:JCheesborough@FLChamber.com).





# save the date



SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2017  
ORLANDO

To register, sponsor or get involved,  
contact [KBustamante@FLFoundation.org](mailto:KBustamante@FLFoundation.org) or visit [www.FLFoundation.org](http://www.FLFoundation.org).

**FLORIDA**  
**CHAMBER**  
Foundation





# THE FLORIDA CHAMBER MAKES FLORIDA MORE COMPETITIVE FOR JOB CREATORS

The Florida Chamber of Commerce is the non-profit in Florida  
fighting to make sure you don't become one too.

To join our efforts to make Florida more competitive and  
create economic opportunities for everyone, visit  
[www.FloridaChamber.com](http://www.FloridaChamber.com) or call 850-521-1200.

## WHERE WE STAND

A Guide to the Florida Chamber's 2017 Business Agenda



SECURING FLORIDA'S FUTURE

136 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32301

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

To join the Florida Chamber, call 850-521-1200