



# HOW THEY VOTED

Where Legislators Stood on the Florida Chamber's 2017 Business Agenda



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



# 2017 Legislative Summary



**Syd Kitson**  
2016-2017 Chair  
Florida Chamber of Commerce



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

Florida Chamber Members and Friends:

The Florida Chamber of Commerce made a measurable difference for businesses during the 2017 Legislative Session. While lawmakers missed opportunities to make Florida more competitive, and jeopardized Florida's economic development capabilities, the Florida Chamber testified over 125 times and advanced many issues in our competitiveness agenda. Unfortunately, as has been widely documented, legislative leaders advanced a new quasi populist agenda which includes more lawsuits, higher workers' compensation and property insurance rates, fewer visitors, less economic diversification and more uncertainty.

The Florida Chamber's 2017 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 2017 session, and
- ▶ The Florida Chamber's Annual Legislative Report Card, a comprehensive report based on more than 5,300 individual votes, which provides members with objective information on how legislators voted on our key legislative priorities. While the report card influences future endorsements in state legislative races, it is not the sole determinant.

The truth is that things are fragile in Florida, and when Florida's Legislative Session is defined by what didn't happen, state leaders - including the two of us - hoped for more than missed opportunities. Some in legislative leadership put trial lawyers ahead of local businesses and now Floridians are paying billions for it. Out-of-state resources continue creating storm clouds on Florida's horizon, and political risk and uncertainty continues.

The role of the Florida Chamber has never been greater. For more than 100 years we have been entirely focused on making Florida as competitive as possible. We are the non-profit in Florida fighting to make sure you don't become one too.

We look forward to working with Governor Scott, the Florida Cabinet and the Florida Legislature to continue making sure the right things happen in Florida. Thank you for helping us fight to make Florida more competitive.

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



Harris Rosen, CEO of Rosen Hotels, discusses how changing trends will impact the fight for Florida's future with Florida Chamber Foundation Executive Vice President Tony Carvajal.

In its more than 100 years of fighting to make Florida more competitive, the Florida Chamber of Commerce has faced down some serious threats. More than 100 years later, uniting Florida's business leaders while making Florida more competitive continues to be our top priority.

The Florida Chamber, and Florida itself, did more than confront those challenges. We persevered. In fact, today:

- ▶ Our state's population grows by more than 1,000 people per day,
- ▶ We are the third most populous state in the nation, with a population that's expected to grow to 26 million by 2030,
- ▶ For now, Florida is the world's preeminent vacation destination, welcoming nearly 113,000 million visitors in 2016,
- ▶ We continue to close achievement and talent gaps with reforms to our education system,
- ▶ Our state's businesses created more than one out of every 10 new jobs in the U.S. in 2016, and two-of-three Florida jobs are created by our strong small business sector,
- ▶ Our unemployment rate, which once saw a high-water mark of 11 percent at the height of the Great Recession, is among the lowest in the country, and
- ▶ If Florida were a country, our economy would be the 16th largest in the world, right behind Mexico, and half the size of Brazil. Florida generates more than \$1 of \$100 in added value created around the globe.

There are those who would have you believe Florida's success is due only to the beauty of our natural resources, our white sandy beaches and our world-famous sunshine, but the Florida Chamber knows better. Experience has shown that Florida moves forward when our business community unites around the principle of free enterprise. Only then, together, can we build a stronger Florida—a Florida that can be a leader in private-sector jobs not just in the U.S. but globally.

**However, Florida stands on the precipice of a crisis once more. This time, short-term politics instead of long-term economic prosperity, combined with the special interest agendas of environmental extremists, government unions, plaintiff trial lawyers and billionaires with extreme agendas have made Florida's position precarious.**

Environmental extremists continue in their efforts to over-regulate Florida and disrupt smarter growth policies that protect the environment using sound science as we prepare for the water and energy needs of a growing population.

Unions who think their interests come before the needs of Florida's students and workers are still trying to take options away from educators, families and even employees.

## 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.



Trial lawyers and the politicians following their playbook continue to side with special interests, putting themselves ahead of what's right for Florida. Some politicians have gone so far as to prove where their loyalties lie by refusing to take action on Florida's worsening lawsuit abuse problem. These trial lawyers use insurance claims abuse the legal system in their search for bigger and bigger paydays, lawsuit abuse problem—costing Florida families \$3,400.

Despite the unlimited resources of anti-business, anti-jobs groups, their policies of less freedom and less competitiveness have never worked—and they never will. That's why the Florida Chamber, its members and partners will keep fighting to make Florida America's best hope. We won't give up the fight for what's right for Florida—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 **unified and responsible business community** that acts in the long-term interest of our state.
- ▶ 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 global economy of the 21st century and beyond,
- ▶ In **fair and predictable laws and regulations** that promote economic development and diversification 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.

For those who have already joined us to fight for free enterprise, know we appreciate your support and we're proud to stand with you. But, for those of you who are just now realizing, freedom isn't free and we need to band together. The time to join fellow business leaders is now.

This is a cause worth fighting for. When the Florida Chamber wins, Florida wins, and when Florida wins, America wins.



AutoNation CEO Mike Jackson discusses Florida's leadership role as America competes in an increasingly global marketplace, during the Florida Chamber's Annual Meeting.

**“Does Florida's legislature exist to enrich plaintiffs attorneys or to serve the Sunshine State's voters?”**

**WALL STREET JOURNAL,  
May 2, 2017**

## 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.





# Improving Education for a Better Workforce



Florida Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart discusses what's next in education policy at the Florida Chamber Foundation's annual Learners to Earners Education Summit.



**“I think [the workforce] is going to be the differentiator between the economies that thrive and the economies that fail.”**

**KEVIN CARR**  
Florida Makes

**“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 College System
- ▶ Florida Council of 100
- ▶ Florida Council on Economic Education
- ▶ Florida Department of Education
- ▶ Florida Research Consortium
- ▶ Florida TaxWatch
- ▶ Foundation for Florida's Future
- ▶ Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida
- ▶ James Madison Institute
- ▶ State University System of Florida
- ▶ U.S. Chamber of Commerce

## Why It Matters To Florida

The Florida Chamber believes a talented workforce is quickly replacing tax incentives as Florida's best long-term economic development strategy. One of the most common concerns we hear from businesses of all sizes is the need for a qualified workforce and a highly-trained talent pool. From early learning to lifelong opportunities, Florida wins when we match educational outcomes to the specific needs of today's—and tomorrow's—careers. While the teachers' union continues to put their interests before the interest of our students, the Florida Chamber will remain a champion for Florida's education system—from PreK-12 to post-grad and everything in between.

### The Florida Chamber Successfully:

- ▶ Continued to Improve Florida's K-12 System
- ▶ Prioritized Florida's Youngest Learners
- ▶ Championed School Choice Options
- ▶ Invested in Digital and Virtual Education Technology
- ▶ Empowered Florida's Best Teachers

### The Florida Chamber Will Continue:

- ▶ Supporting STEM Initiatives
- ▶ Preparing Florida's Workforce and Addressing the Skills Gap



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

## The Progress We've Made

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

The Florida Chamber has always advocated for the enhancement of our statewide assessment and accountability systems. We also focused on legislation that would require fewer, better tests, enable teachers to have more time to teach and provide easy-to-understand, parent-friendly score reports so that parents can better monitor their children's progress in school.

### Prioritized Florida's Youngest Learners

To help turn today's youngest learners into tomorrow's highest earners, we advocated for additional early learning opportunities and programs, which will identify and support struggling readers.



# Talent Supply & Education

## 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. At the Florida Chamber, we recognize that education is not a one-size-fits-all solution. We successfully advocated for legislation removing bureaucratic barriers to high-performing charter schools, providing more access to quality programs for low-income students and giving traditional public schools the tools they need to improve student performance.

## Invested in Digital and Virtual Education Technology

Creating a talent pool that can meet the needs of businesses means investing in technology initiatives that fuel options and innovations. We supported legislation removing outdated requirements which prevented students from participating in virtual instruction.

## Empowered Florida's Best Teachers

To ensure America's best educators train and remain in Florida, the Florida Chamber effectively fought for additional professional development and benefit options for teachers. We supported the "Best & Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program" and created a new principal scholarship program. These innovative solutions will help fuel results throughout Florida's education system.

## 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 continued focus on quality education systems. This means ensuring students are trained for high-skilled industries in areas such as manufacturing and research and development, while continuing to champion greater access to postsecondary education programs.

## Supporting STEM Initiatives

Renewing a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiatives 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 as well as other innovative solutions like allowing coding courses to satisfy some high school graduation requirements.

## 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 continue to increase educational opportunities in both traditional higher educational institutions and in the 21st century vocational trades. We will continue to fight for a stronger emphasis on quality workforce training programs that will help to reinvigorate the skills trades and link education to job creation.

## Talent and Economic Development Go Hand in Hand

- ✓ Achievement gaps are closing
- ✓ High School graduation rates are at an 11-year high
- ✓ Third grade reading scores are improving

.....

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

.....

**Today, nearly 68,000 STEM jobs need to be filled and 60 percent of those jobs will require a post-secondary degree.**

.....

**There are more than 480,000 people looking for jobs and 234,000 Florida jobs looking for people.**

**T H E G A P** We can do better. Florida wins when we:

- ▶ Tap into talent pools that are prepared for the 2 million new jobs that will need to be filled by 2030,
- ▶ Work to end the cycle of generational poverty, and
- ▶ Fight for the best educational opportunities for all Floridians.

## GET INVOLVED:

The Florida Chamber is committed to closing the talent gap. Help us improve education for a better workforce by contacting **Greg Blöse** at [gblöse@flchamber.com](mailto:gblöse@flchamber.com) today.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



# Creating Jobs by Diversifying Florida's Economy



Florida Governor Rick Scott discusses Florida's job creation efforts with members of the Florida Chamber at the Governor's Mansion.

**“The Florida Chamber understands that we cannot take Florida's tourism industry for granted. Tourism is responsible for one out of every four jobs in Florida, and funding VISIT FLORIDA is of the utmost importance to making sure we keep our job creation numbers moving in the right direction.”**

DEBBIE HARVEY  
Ron Jon Surf Shop

## 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
- ▶ Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association
- ▶ Manufacturers Association of Florida
- ▶ Space Florida
- ▶ VISIT FLORIDA

## Why It Matters To Florida

**D**iversifying Florida's economy is key to creating jobs and opportunities. The Florida Chamber recognizes that supporting and growing our state's core industries—tourism, agriculture and construction—is important, but equally so is diversifying into next generation sectors like private space exploration, manufacturing, logistics, foreign trade and other targeted industries. We continued to support initiatives that promote growth, attract high-wage job creators and help small businesses, which create two out of three Florida jobs. Despite the efforts of some lawmakers this legislative session to eliminate Enterprise Florida's proven economic development toolkit and drastically cut VISIT FLORIDA's tourism marketing budget, the Florida Chamber won't stop fighting until Florida leads the nation in job diversification, investment and growth.

### The Florida Chamber Successfully:

- ▶ Defeated Efforts to Eliminate Florida's Economic Development Organization
- ▶ Continued to Strengthen Florida's Leadership in Space Exploration
- ▶ Supported Florida's Manufacturing Industry
- ▶ Supported Florida's Veterans, Military and Defense Industry
- ▶ Fostered Innovation by Growing Targeted Industries
- ▶ Championed Florida's Role as a Global Leader
- ▶ Championed Rural Business Opportunities

### The Florida Chamber Will Continue:

- ▶ Supporting Florida's Small Businesses

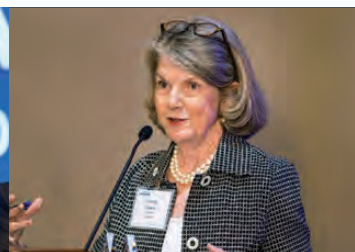


For a more in-depth look at these issues and more, visit [www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues).



**“The next generation of disruptive innovation technology has already taken root here in Florida. The Florida Chamber recognizes this and continues to be the force that helps lead the state and country in making these ideas grow into sustainable realities.”**

TAMI FITZPATRICK | Entropy Technology Designs Inc.





# Innovation & Economic Development

## The Progress We've Made

### Defeated Efforts to Eliminate Florida's Economic Development Organization

The Florida House of Representatives targeted Enterprise Florida, Inc., (EFI) for elimination in the 2017 Legislative Session, threatening to completely cut EFI's proven economic development toolkit. However, thanks to the efforts of the Florida Chamber and Florida's united business community, EFI was saved from elimination despite heavy budget cuts. The Florida Chamber understands that building the nation's most competitive climate for business requires targeted investments in economic development and supporting entrepreneurs. We will continue to fight for the highest return on investment for Florida's taxpayers and will champion initiatives for job creation and capital investment.

### 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 and \$7 million for the Aerospace Financing Fund. The Florida Chamber will continue to advocate for these important innovations in order to continue Florida's historic leadership role in space exploration.

### Supported Florida's Manufacturing Industry

We continued to support efforts helping Florida's manufacturing industry, which creates the kind of high-wage jobs our families need and makes our state more globally competitive.

## "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 could create more than 150,000 high-wage jobs by doubling exports.

### GET INVOLVED:

The Florida Chamber is committed to ensuring Florida remains a destination for trade and job-creating Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Help us continue creating opportunities in globally competitive industries by contacting Alice Ancona at [AAancona@FLChamber.com](mailto:AAancona@FLChamber.com) today.

Sources: Enterprise Florida; Business Roundtable; Florida Chamber Foundation; Florida Jobs 2030



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



Cissy Proctor, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, shares why economic development is key to helping diversify Florida's economy at the Florida Chamber's Capitol Days.

“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
- ▶ Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association
- ▶ Manufacturers Association of Florida
- ▶ Space Florida
- ▶ VISIT FLORIDA

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

The military and defense industry helps employ hundreds of thousands of Floridians each year and contributes almost \$80 billion to our economy. Florida is home to 20 military bases and three combatant command centers, and the Florida Chamber once again supported efforts to keep our state the most military- and veteran-friendly state in the nation.

## Fostered Innovation by Growing Targeted Industries

Attracting and creating high-wage jobs in Florida is important for our state's long-term success. That's why we advocated for increased investments in research and development.

## Championed Florida's Role as a Global Leader

Florida is a hub for global trade, and the Florida Chamber championed efforts to position Florida as a leader in an increasingly globalized and interconnected economy.

## Championed Rural Business Opportunities

The Florida Chamber continued to champion rural communities and supported key exemptions under Rural Areas of Opportunity to further help diversify Florida's economy through infrastructure.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Florida welcomed nearly 113 million visitors in 2016, and Florida remains one of the world's top vacation destinations. Every 80 visitors to Florida supports the creation of one new Florida job in the hospitality industry and related industries.





# Innovation & Economic Development

## The Fight For Free Enterprise Continues

Florida continues to move in the right direction by growing private-sector jobs, expanding its base of job creators into new industries and strengthening international trade relationships. Ensuring a globally competitive business climate requires marketing ourselves and investing in economic development efforts that help small businesses and large-scale employers alike. In order to remain competitive, the Florida Chamber will continue to advocate for:

### Supporting Florida's Small Businesses

The Florida Legislature's decision to eliminate Enterprise Florida's economic development toolkit doesn't just affect our state's role in attracting out-of-state businesses to relocate here, it sends a negative signal to small businesses thinking of expanding in Florida. With two out of three jobs in Florida created by small businesses, the Florida Chamber understands the importance of healthy small businesses to our state's long-term prosperity.



**“What is economic development?  
I have a hard time identifying  
what is NOT economic development.”**

DAVID FULLER | Sun Trust Foundation

The Florida Chamber and the Florida Chamber Foundation have a decades long history in the formation of the state's economic development programs. We continued that effort in May 2016, and formed the Economic Development Task Force --- providing direction, definition and clarity for the economic development needs looking forward to 2030. Visit [www.FLChamber.com/SaveEcoDevo](http://www.FLChamber.com/SaveEcoDevo) to learn how you can help secure Florida's future.

## Florida is a Small Business State

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

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

### Job Creation Has Peaked



Florida's hospitality industry could take a **massive hit** due to cuts to VISIT FLORIDA's budget



When Florida got rid of taxes on machinery and manufacturing equipment, **we created high-wage jobs**

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**.



**THE GAP**

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:

Two out of three Florida jobs are created by small businesses. Help keep Florida's small business community thriving by joining the Florida Chamber's Small Business Council. Contact Carolyn Johnson at [CJohnson@FLChamber.com](mailto:CJohnson@FLChamber.com) today.

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



# 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.



**“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 Oceanography Institute

**“Increased population means increased energy use. The JAX Chamber supports the Florida Chamber’s focus on creating efficient and sustainable energy solutions such as expanding the use of alternate fuels and ensuring these efforts are not burdened by overregulation.”**

**CHRIS QUINN**  
JAX Chamber of Commerce

## WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

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

## Why It Matters To Florida

Florida Chamber Foundation research has shown that between now and 2030, 26 million people will call Florida home. As the third most-populous state in the nation and with nearly 113 million visitors last year, it is crucial that Florida gets its infrastructure policies right. That’s why the Florida Chamber focused on long-term strategies that factor in investments in hard and soft infrastructure such as energy, water, telecommunications, agriculture, land development, roads, bridges, rail systems and sea and air ports. Recognizing the need to embrace new and disruptive technologies, the Florida Chamber championed laying the groundwork for emerging transportation like ridesharing and autonomous innovation. This forward-looking posture will encourage businesses operating in those sectors to move—and stay—in Florida.

### The Florida Chamber Successfully:

- ▶ Championed Innovations in All Modes of Transportation
- ▶ Opened Florida’s Infrastructure for 5G Technology
- ▶ Protected Private Property Rights

### The Florida Chamber Will Continue:

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



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

## The Progress We’ve Made

### Championed Innovations in All Modes of Transportation

Florida wins when we create transportation modes that follow consistent regulations, create jobs and fuel innovations. That’s why we successfully advocated for:

- ▶ A statewide framework for increased opportunities for innovative ridesharing technologies,
- ▶ Pro-growth autonomous vehicle legislation,
- ▶ Protecting rail networks from duplicative and costly regulation, and
- ▶ Meeting Florida’s infrastructure needs with a \$10 billion investment in the state transportation department.

### Opened Florida’s Infrastructure for 5G Technology

With 5.5 million more residents expected to call Florida home by 2030, the demand for reliable cellular data will grow. With the Florida Chamber’s support, the next generation of wireless technology will meet the growing data needs through small wireless facilities.





# Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

## Protected Private Property Rights

Protected private property rights while championing science-based water solutions.

## The Fight For Free Enterprise Continues

Transforming Florida's economy means investing in Florida's infrastructure now, putting long-term necessities ahead of short-term expediencies and putting the needs of Florida's families before the agendas of environmental extremists and other special interest groups. In order to keep Florida competitive, the Florida Chamber will continue:

## 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 Florida communities. The Florida Chamber will continue to work toward streamlining permitting processes and reducing the number of bureaucratic barriers holding businesses back.

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

The Florida Chamber Foundation estimates Florida's water demand will grow by 20 percent to a projected 9 billion gallons of water consumed every day by 2030. The only way to meet this increased demand while protecting Florida's natural and economic resources is to promote comprehensive and science-based water policies.

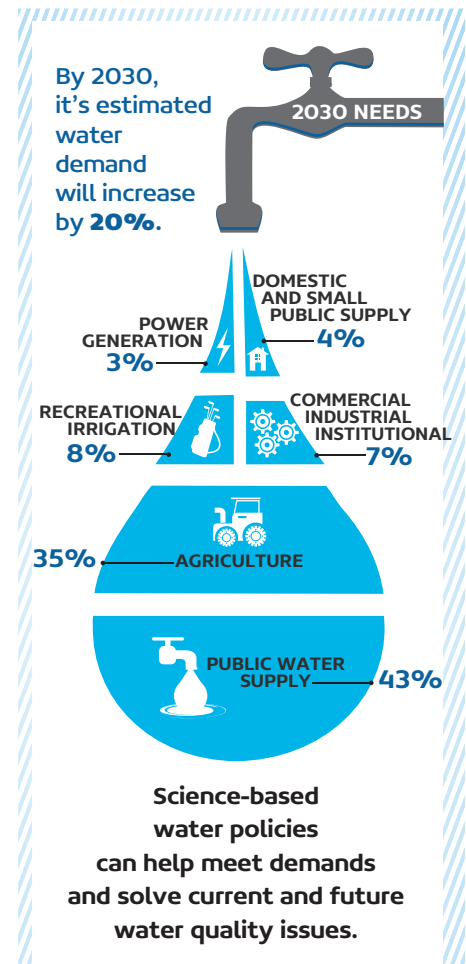
## Supporting Efficient and Sustainable Energy Solutions

The Florida Chamber fought against burdensome regulations on the safe production of energy and successfully fought for cost-efficient, sustainable energy practices. Additionally, lawmakers passed Florida Chamber-backed legislation decreasing the tax burden on solar technology. The Florida Chamber successfully pushed back against bans that would have disrupted the production and use of natural gas. There still is work to be done—courts in Florida have placed unneeded regulations on the transfer of electricity across municipal lines, and our efforts to correct this misplaced ruling will continue next year.

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

Florida wins when infrastructure investments help the private sector create jobs and fuel global competitiveness. The Florida Chamber will continue to protect Florida's transportation trust fund so major economic development investments in infrastructure connectivity continue. We will also continue to encourage private investment by keeping unnecessary local and state regulations to a minimum.

## Florida's Future Requires Long-Term Water Solutions



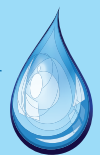
**THE GAP** With an estimated **9 billion gallons** of water consumed each day by 2030, Florida needs science-based solutions to meet future needs.

### GET INVOLVED:

Help secure Florida's water future by contacting

Christopher Emmanuel at

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



Sources: Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Florida Chamber Foundation



# Keeping Florida's Business Climate Competitive



Rep. Danny Burgess met with Florida Chamber members at this year's Capitol Days event, where he talked about the pending workers' comp cases and the need for Florida Chamber-backed legislation to be implemented.



“What gets said by our political leaders gets read by site selectors across the U.S. Unfortunately, we are already starting to see some apprehension toward Florida.”

TODD POWELL  
Weyerhaeuser Company

## WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

- ▶ Florida Association of Insurance Agents
- ▶ Florida Insurance Council
- ▶ Florida Justice Reform Institute
- ▶ Florida Realtors®
- ▶ Florida Retail Federation
- ▶ Florida's Small Business Development Center Network
- ▶ NAIOP
- ▶ Personal Insurance Federation of Florida

## Why It Matters To Florida

It's fair to say Florida is on the right track. We account for approximately one-in-10 new U.S. jobs, we are working to cut taxes that hurt businesses and workers alike, and we have chipped away outdated, redundant and costly government regulations. But when you compare where Florida is to where Florida could be, it's clear the fight isn't over. Florida's broken legal climate that ranks as one of the worst in the nation has been called a “judicial hellhole,” and we still have a patchwork of local regulations that stifle growth and stymie progress. Florida's ability to compete nationally and internationally remains, in a word, fragile. For that reason, we worked to build a business climate that attracts new investments and allows Florida's businesses and families to succeed.

### The Florida Chamber Successfully:

- ▶ Fought Government Regulations and Mandates
- ▶ Created Smarter Tax Policies
- ▶ Protected Private Property Rights
- ▶ Defeated the Trial Lawyers' Top Priority

### The Florida Chamber Will Continue:

- ▶ Improving Florida's Workers' Compensation System
- ▶ Stabilizing Insurance Markets
- ▶ Creating a Fair Liability Environment to Attract and Keep Medical Professionals



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

“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





# Business Climate & Competitiveness

## The Progress We've Made

### Fought Government Regulations and Mandates

Florida, spurred on by a dedicated business community, has eliminated 4,500 outdated, duplicative regulations under the leadership of Governor Scott. We kept up the pressure in the 2017 Legislative Session and fought to protect businesses from costly and unnecessary regulations that hurt Florida's national and international competitiveness.

### Created Smarter Tax Policies

While Florida already has one of the best tax climates in the nation, enacting smart and targeted tax reforms for job creators and consumers will produce greater economic growth. That's why the Florida Chamber continued to advocate for:

- ▶ Reducing unemployment compensation taxes,
- ▶ Reducing Florida's corporate income tax,
- ▶ Reducing the Florida-only tax on business rent,
- ▶ Increasing the Research & Development Tax Credit,
- ▶ Providing consumers with sales tax holidays, and
- ▶ Proposing a constitutional amendment that continues to cap assessments on non-homesteaded properties.

### Protected Private Property Rights

We carried on the 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.

### Defeated the Trial Lawyers' Top Priority

The Florida Chamber stopped the sue-and-settle scheme known as pre-judgment interest, the trial lawyer association's top priority. We also protected Floridians from so-called "Drive-By" lawsuits, together with our partners at the Florida Justice Reform Institute and the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Legal Reform.

## Rising Workers' Comp Rates Will Stunt Economic Opportunities

Florida's Supreme Court rulings mean workers' comp rates cost Florida 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:



**T  
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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 Florida more competitive. Contact Carolyn Johnson at [CJohnson@FLChamber.com](mailto:CJohnson@FLChamber.com).

Sources: Office of Insurance Regulation; Florida Chamber of Commerce



# Building the Perfect Climate for Business



Rep. Jim Boyd told Florida Chamber members about the urgent need to reform Florida's tax system to help businesses and families.

## The Fight For Free Enterprise Continues

Lawsuit abuse is a serious and costly problem that keeps getting worse for every Florida resident—except the trial lawyers. Things are so bad that Florida's legal climate ranks 44th out of 50 states. This bottom 10 legal climate costs Florida families \$3,400 a year. In addition to fighting lawsuit abuse, we will continue combating the Assignment of Benefits (AOB) insurance scam, and work to create a fair liability environment for medical professionals. For those reasons, the Florida Chamber will keep fighting for:

### Improving Florida's Workers' Compensation System

The Florida Legislature put short-term politics ahead of Florida's long-term prosperity when lawmakers refused to fix our broken workers' compensation system. The \$1.5 billion increase in workers' comp rates stunts economic opportunities and impacts employees, who should be receiving the health care they need and getting back to work quickly. The Florida Chamber will continue fighting to enact the reforms Florida needs to be competitive.

### Stabilizing Florida's Insurance Markets

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. We will continue fighting for stable insurance markets to ensure they are protected from fraud and unnecessary rate increases that keep insurance markets from being competitive and keep consumers from getting the services they need at prices they can afford.



**“The Florida Chamber works every day to ensure our state chooses opportunity and economic prosperity.”**

**KAREN MOORE**  
Moore Communications Group

### WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

- ▶ Florida Association of Insurance Agents
- ▶ Florida Insurance Council
- ▶ Florida Justice Reform Institute
- ▶ Florida Realtors®
- ▶ Florida Retail Federation
- ▶ Florida's Small Business Development Center Network
- ▶ NAIOP
- ▶ Personal Insurance Federation of Florida





# Business Climate & Competitiveness

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

An important aspect of Florida's long-term economic strategy is the development of high-wage jobs like those in the medical field. If we want to attract and keep world-class medical professionals, we must continue to ensure Florida has a medical liability environment where meritless, frivolous lawsuits are discouraged.



### THE AOB (ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS) INSURANCE

**SCAM** occurs when certain trial lawyers team up with shady contractors to drastically inflate home repair costs and encourage the property owner to sign over important legal rights. The Florida Chamber and its Consumer Protection Coalition will continue to fight to eliminate costly AOB fraud. Pushing for this common sense reform will also help fix Florida's broken legal system. Visit [www.FightFraud.Today](http://www.FightFraud.Today) to learn more about how AOB fraud can impact you.

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



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



FLORIDA'S LEGAL CLIMATE RANKING  
**#44<sup>TH</sup> WORST**

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:

Florida's bottom-10 legal climate hurts our ability to remain competitive in the global marketplace. Join the Florida Chamber's efforts to reform Florida's broken legal system by contacting [CJohnson@FLChamber.com](mailto:CJohnson@FLChamber.com).

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



# Making Government More Efficient



Outgoing Florida Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater reiterated the need for government transparency and less restriction on free enterprise at 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."**

**JEFF ATWATER**  
Florida Chief Financial Officer

**"The once-every-20-year review of Florida's Constitution is underway. We support the Florida Chamber's efforts to ensure the voice of the business community is heard in the Constitution Revision Commission process."**

**TROY McLELLAN**  
Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce

## WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

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

## Why It Matters To Florida

Florida's government systems should be efficient, transparent and sustainable. Otherwise, Florida's economic success will be hindered by excessive regulation, the specter of frivolous litigation and outdated taxation. As Florida prepares to accommodate approximately 26 million residents by 2030, it's imperative that the government provide taxpayers with the most economic freedoms and opportunities possible. That's why we advocated for modernizing Florida's government pension systems and kept special interests from buying their way into the Constitution Revision Commission process. We championed the elimination of burdensome regulations and policies that drain taxpayer dollars to make Florida's government as efficient as possible.

### The Florida Chamber Successfully:

- ▶ Protected Florida's Constitution
- ▶ Advocated for an Accountable, Impartial Judicial Branch

### The Florida Chamber Will Continue:

- ▶ Modernizing Florida's Government Pension Systems
- ▶ Improving Government Efficiencies and State Competitiveness
- ▶ Reforming Collective Bargaining



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

## The Progress We've Made

### Protected Florida's Constitution

The Florida Chamber is actively engaged in the Constitution Revision Commission process (CRC), which takes place every 20 years. The CRC has the power to place new amendments directly on the voter ballot, totally outside the legislative process. This helps ensure special interests don't buy their way into the Constitution.



# Civic & Governance Systems

## Advocated for an Accountable, Professional and Impartial Judicial Branch

A prerequisite for having a trusted and competent judiciary is the appointment of judges from a qualified applicant pool of attorneys refuse to impose personal politics on the impartial interpretation of the law. The Florida Chamber opposed moves to make our state the first to set term limits on its appellate judiciary. We believe this decision could increase the turnover of judges and lead to a number of unqualified lawyers getting on the bench, which could have the effect of decreasing the impartiality of sitting judges who might consider putting career implications before the good of Florida's citizens.

## 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—create jobs. We must also continue to fight to keep an accountable, impartial judiciary and to fight against efforts to infringe on the property rights of business owners. In order to keep Florida competitive, the Florida Chamber will continue to advocate for:

### Modernizing Florida's Government Pension Systems

Florida taxpayers spend more than \$800 million annually on paying down pension debt to an unfunded defined benefit system. The Florida Chamber believes that by taking responsible steps now Florida can avoid problems like credit downgrades and bankruptcies facing other states. We 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.

### Improving Government Efficiencies and State Competitiveness

Improving government efficiencies by eliminating burdensome regulations and processes will allow businesses to grow and succeed. That's why we will keep up the fight for property rights for business owners, better collective bargaining systems and fewer new regulations for local businesses.

### Reforming Collective Bargaining

We will continue to fight for the rights of employees and employers alike by reducing the economic burden of the unions' collective bargaining processes, which will reduce the burden on taxpayers as well.

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

Florida's budget has been growing and we've eliminated **4,500** unnecessary and outdated regulations since 2010.



### BUT THE THREATS ARE:

- » Unfunded local pension liabilities of more than **\$10 billion** statewide
- » A patchwork of local regulations

### SOLVING THESE PROBLEMS WILL ENSURE FLORIDA CAN:

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

Florida has a pension deficit of more than **\$24 billion**. We need to take steps now to reduce this deficit. Maintaining Florida's high credit rating is important to every aspect of the state budget.

### GET INVOLVED:

Florida's unfunded pension debt could lead to problems from credit downgrades to bankruptcy, just as it has in other states. Join the Florida Chamber's pension reform efforts by emailing [CEmanuel@FLChamber.com](mailto:CEmanuel@FLChamber.com).

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





# Championing Florida's Quality of Life



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

**“Quality of life in the Sunshine State goes far beyond a healthy dose of vitamin D. We recognize that the economic strength and viability of Florida is inextricably linked to the well-being and prosperity of children and families – our greatest natural resource.”**

**BRITTANY BIRKEN**  
Florida Children's Council

**“Destin is a family-oriented resort destination, and just like the rest of Florida, we want to ensure we keep that brand. That's why we support the Florida Chamber's effort to prevent the expansion of gambling.”**

**SHANE MOODY**  
Destin Area Chamber of Commerce

## WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

- ▶ BioFlorida, Inc.
- ▶ Florida Health Care Association
- ▶ No Casinos
- ▶ Seminole Tribe of Florida

## Why It Matters To Florida

Florida has much to offer its current and future residents and visitors from all over the world. It's no wonder Florida welcomed nearly 113 million visitors last year and is expected to increase its population to 26 million by 2030. However, our state's unique quality of life—the root of its family-friendly brand—is constantly under attack from special interests. Ensuring that Florida remains a great place to live has been and will remain a top priority for the Florida Chamber. That means focusing on affordable housing, stopping the expansion of Las Vegas-style casino gambling, breaking the cycle of generational poverty and embracing cost-saving adaptations to Florida's healthcare system.

### The Florida Chamber Successfully:

- ▶ Expanded Medical Education Opportunities
- ▶ Fought to Break the Cycle of Generational Poverty
- ▶ Continued to Oppose the Expansion of Las Vegas-Style Casino Gambling

### The Florida Chamber Will Continue:

- ▶ Championing Innovations in Healthcare
- ▶ Advocating for a Better Healthcare Delivery System with a Strong Focus on Better Outcomes



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

## The Progress We've Made

### Expanded Medical Education Opportunities

Providing targeted training and expanding access to key health education programs will help serve Florida's rapidly growing population. Meeting the increasing future need for more physicians and other healthcare professionals is crucial as our state continues to grow.

### Fought to Break the Cycle of Generational Poverty

Florida Chamber Foundation research shows 3.129 million people in Florida live in poverty—that's almost 16 percent of all Floridians—and, of that number, 944,415 are children under the age of 18. In other words, Florida has a 23.4 percent poverty rate for those 18 and younger. We will consistently fight to expand access to economic opportunity for these Floridians and break the cycle of generational poverty for good.



# Quality of Life & Quality Places

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

Florida needs more engineers, physicians, and teachers — not blackjack dealers. By focusing on high-wage, high-skill job creation, we can ensure Florida continues to remain the best place to work, live and play. The Florida Chamber led the fight to protect Florida's family-friendly brand by opposing the expansion of Las Vegas-style casino gambling. While we were successful in thwarting a massive gambling expansion, the Florida Chamber still continues to advocate for a renewed compact with the Seminole Tribe of Florida.



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

ANN REINERT | JPMorgan Chase & Co.

## The Fight For Free Enterprise Continues

Making Florida the best place to live, work, play and raise a family means making tough choices. We have to put Floridians' long-term prosperity ahead of the short-term fixes and self-serving solutions put forward by moneyed special interest groups that want to usurp Florida's family-friendly brand. To keep Florida as great as it deserves to be for the families that call it home, and for the visitors that make it the world's premier vacation destination, we will continue to advocate for:

### Innovations in Healthcare

The Florida Chamber believes fully embracing healthcare solutions like telehealth is an important next step in reducing medical costs for all Floridians. We will continue to pursue innovative policies that accentuate Florida's free-market environment and improve access to care.

### A Better Healthcare Delivery System with a Strong Focus on Outcomes

We remain dedicated to getting healthcare right in Florida, and we understand there is no one-size-fits-all solution. We will continue to advocate for better outcomes, and a more affordable and efficient healthcare system to help make Florida more competitive.

## Ending the Cycle of Generational Poverty and Expanding Opportunity for All Floridians

### Our research has shown:

- **45%** of working Floridians don't have access to \$400 in cash or credit
- **44%** of Americans live “on the edge of a crisis,” where one missed paycheck can force a choice between paying bills, gas for the car or food on the table
- Almost **1-of-every-4** Florida children under the age 18 – more than 944,000 kids – live below the poverty line
- Only **23%** of Floridians believe their region is well-positioned for prosperity and global competition

### BY 2030:

- **5.4 million more** people will call Florida home
- Futurists predict **50%** of all jobs will be disrupted by globalization and technology

Can Florida meet the needs of current and future Floridians?



**THE GAP** To meet the needs of 5.4 million more residents by 2030, Florida needs a comprehensive and long-term plan to expand economic opportunity and break the cycle of generational poverty. We can start this conversation by encouraging the creation of high-wage jobs and ensuring Floridians have sustainable, vibrant communities to call home.

### GET INVOLVED:

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

Sources: Keiser Family Foundation; The Florida Chamber Foundation



# CELEBRATING 12 YEARS OF FLORIDA'S MOST VALUABLE LEGISLATORS

Each year, the Florida Chamber usually honors one legislator as a Most Valuable Legislator, for their courage to champion business issues. Although in the 2017 Legislative Session no comparable champion emerged, we want to honor the last 12 years of steadfast leaders who stood firm against special interest agendas and fought for Florida's business community on the issues that will help secure Florida's future.



**REPRESENTATIVE  
ALLAN BENSE**  
2005 FLORIDA CHAMBER  
MOST VALUABLE LEGISLATOR

During his time as Speaker of the House, Rep. Bense was the architect of the bill to repeal joint and several liability. Allan Bense served

as a chair on the Florida Chamber's Board of Directors.



**REPRESENTATIVE  
DON BROWN**  
2006 FLORIDA CHAMBER  
MOST VALUABLE LEGISLATOR

Thanks to the leadership of Rep. Brown, Florida was able to pass historic legal reform by finally repealing joint and several liability. Against the

well-funded efforts of trial lawyers, Rep. Brown continued to fight for a just and fair legal system and was successful.



**REPRESENTATIVE  
STAN MAYFIELD**  
2007 FLORIDA CHAMBER  
MOST VALUABLE LEGISLATOR

Fiercely outnumbered by trial lawyers and labor unions, Rep. Mayfield stood steadfast for Florida's business by defeating the Guns at Work legislation.

He was one of 10 who stood against the bullying and intimidation of special interests and sent a message that private property owners matter.



**REPRESENTATIVE  
DENNIS ROSS**  
2008 FLORIDA CHAMBER  
MOST VALUABLE LEGISLATOR

Rep. Ross's battle for property insurance led to meaningful debates on Florida's property insurance crisis that focused on bringing

greater stability and predictability to the property insurance crisis and reducing risk for taxpayers.



**SENATOR  
GARRETT RICHTER**  
2009 FLORIDA CHAMBER  
MOST VALUABLE LEGISLATOR

Sen. Richter not only sought to streamline government by proposing cost benefit analysis of legislation, but worked to fix the workers' compensation

attorney fee glitch and pass meaningful property insurance reforms. Committed to fighting against the special interests of big labor unions, he also sought to protect the American right to secret ballot voting by leading the Save our Secret Ballot Initiative.



**SENATOR  
JOHN THRASHER**  
2010 FLORIDA CHAMBER  
MOST VALUABLE LEGISLATOR

Sen. Thrasher's commitment to education was unparalleled during his time in the Florida Senate. His focus in creating new jobs and transitioning

Florida's economy led him to firmly invest in quality teachers and students prepared for a global economy. Sen. Thrasher also stood as an advocate for initiatives that streamlined government by creating greater transparency and accountability in state contracts.



**SENATOR  
ELLYN BOGDANOFF**  
2011 FLORIDA CHAMBER  
MOST VALUABLE LEGISLATOR

Sen. Bogdanoff's commitment to creating jobs in Florida led her to champion R&D incentives and corporate income tax relief. She fought

amendments to Florida's constitution that would make our state less competitive and continued to advocate for meaningful reforms to property insurance and Florida's legal climate.



**REPRESENTATIVE  
DEAN CANNON**  
2012 FLORIDA CHAMBER  
MOST VALUABLE LEGISLATOR

Under his leadership as Speaker of the House in 2012, the Florida House defeated a proposal to expand gambling, saved job creators \$549 million

in unemployment compensation taxes, passed meaningful workers' compensation reform in the House and strengthened education. Rep. Cannon also led the charge that resulted in the elimination of 270 burdensome rules and further streamlined Florida's regulatory process.



**REPRESENTATIVE  
LARRY METZ**  
2013 FLORIDA CHAMBER  
MOST VALUABLE LEGISLATOR

As a champion of legal reform, Rep. Metz successfully updated a 90-year old standard for expert witnesses in Florida's

courts and brought Florida to the modern age of legal reform. His leadership brought about a new standard in courtrooms, the Daubert Standard—a multi-faceted test to determine the admissibility of expert testimony, creating stability and providing predictability to Florida's court proceedings.



**REPRESENTATIVE  
WILL WEATHERFORD**  
2014 FLORIDA CHAMBER  
MOST VALUABLE LEGISLATOR

Under his leadership as Speaker of the House, Rep. Weatherford brought forth bi-partisan solutions and provided the platform for

meaningful pension reform debate and legal reform. Rep. Weatherford's commitment to education and parental choice also led to a historic expansion of the Florida Tax Credit Scholarships program and helped place the future of Florida's children before the agendas of special interests. Will Weatherford currently serves as a member of the Florida Chamber's Board of Directors.



**REPRESENTATIVE  
STEVE CRISAFULLI**  
2016 FLORIDA CHAMBER  
MOST VALUABLE LEGISLATOR

As Speaker of the House, Rep. Crisafulli actively charged forward toward what is right for Florida, and his dedication to seeing beyond short-sighted political platforms

and willingness to pass bi-partisan efforts made a difference. Rep. Crisafulli consistently stood against environmental extremists and placed a premium on science-based solutions to protect Florida's natural resources, and led the charge to reform Florida's archaic and unsustainable pension system. Rep. Crisafulli also championed a \$1 billion tax cut package to help put more money back into the hands of Florida's families.

We look forward  
to working with  
legislators during  
the 2018 Legislative  
Session who have  
the courage to fight  
for free enterprise and  
will help us secure  
Florida's future.



# DISTINGUISHED ADVOCATE AWARDS



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

2017  
SENATE  
LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT  
CARD

GRADE EARNED  
2016 2017

NAME | DISTRICT

Dennis Baxley (R)   Lady Lake	97	79
Aaron Bean (R)   Jacksonville	93	88
Lizbeth Benacquisto (R)   Fort Myers	94	67
Lauren Book (D)   Plantation	—	54
Randolph Bracy (D)   Ocoee	73	52
Rob Bradley (R)   Orange Park	82	65
JEFF BRANDES (R)   Saint Petersburg	91	77
Oscar Braynon (D)   Miami Gardens	83	59
Doug Broxson (R)   Pensacola	100	85
Daphne Campbell (D)   North Miami Beach	74	63
Jeff Clemens (D)   Lake Worth	78	54
Gary Farmer (D)   Fort Lauderdale	—	55
Anitere Flores (R)   Miami	92	60

**Senator Jeff Brandes**

passed  
ridesharing and  
autonomous  
vehicle  
legislation that  
welcomes innovation  
and helps make  
Florida's transportation  
system more  
modern, efficient and  
competitive.



○ = Score earned while serving in the House of Representatives last year.

\*The 2017 Senate grades were calculated based on how each Senator voted on the issues contained in the Florida Chamber's 2017 Business Agenda.

NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EARNED	
	2016	2017

George Gainer (R)   Panama City	–	78
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Bill Galvano (R)   Bradenton	98	81
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René Garcia (R)   Hialeah	97	65
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Audrey Gibson (D)   Jacksonville	92	62
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Denise Grimsley (R)   Lake Placid	97	81
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Dorothy L. Hukill (R)   Port Orange	100	N/A
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Travis Hutson (R)   Palm Coast	93	60
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JACK LATVALA (R)   Clearwater	97	84
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Tom Lee (R)   Brandon	96	90
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Debbie Mayfield (R)   Vero Beach	95	80
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BILL MONTFORD (D)   Tallahassee	98	84
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Joe Negron (R)   Palm City	97	55
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Kathleen C. Passidomo (R)   Naples	100	83
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**Senator Bill Montford** worked side-by-side with the Florida Chamber to strengthen Florida's accountability system and ensure that students remain prepared to compete in the workforce.

**Senator Jack Latvala** fought for proven investments in economic development and tourism marketing, took a stand against repealing the Insurance Premium Tax Credit, and combated the trial lawyer agenda as the lone vote against prejudgment interest legislation in committee.

○ = Score earned while serving in the House of Representatives last year.

Learn how legislators voted on Florida Chamber-backed pro-business, pro-jobs legislation by visiting [www.LegislativeReportCard.com](http://www.LegislativeReportCard.com) or contact us at [gblose@FLChamber.com](mailto:gblose@FLChamber.com) or 850-521-1243.



# 2017 SENATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

NAME | DISTRICT

GRADE EARNED  
2016 2017

KEITH PERRY (R) | Gainesville

98

81

Bobby Powell (D) | West Palm Beach

80

55

Kevin Rader (D) | Boca Raton

81

58

José Javier Rodríguez (D) | Miami

55

70

Darryl Ervin Rouson (D) | Saint Petersburg

85

70

David Simmons (R) | Longwood

92

75

Wilton Simpson (R) | Spring Hill

90

81

KELLI STARGEL (R) | Lakeland

94

87

Greg Steube (R) | Sarasota

93

63

Linda Stewart (D) | Orlando

—

68

Perry E. Thurston, Jr. (D) | Fort Lauderdale

—

58

Victor M. Torres, Jr. (D) | Kissimmee

70

75

Dana Young (R) | Tampa

100

82



**Senator Keith Perry** passed legislation that would shield injured workers' private personal information from trial lawyers in workers' comp cases.

private personal information from trial lawyers in workers' comp cases.

**Senator Kelli Stargel** showed leadership in advocating for the Florida Chamber's education and tax priorities.



○ = Score earned while serving in the House of Representatives last year.

\*The 2017 Senate grades were calculated based on how each Senator voted on the issues contained in the Florida Chamber's 2017 Business Agenda.

# 2017 HOUSE LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

NAME | DISTRICT

GRADE EARNED  
2016 2017

Joseph Abruzzo (D) | Boca Raton

93

56

Larry Ahern (R) | Seminole

98

80

**BEN ALBRITTON** (R) | Bartow

100

83



**Representative Ben Albritton** fought to keep injured workers' personal information private for workers' comp claims.



Ramon Alexander (D) | Tallahassee

—

65

Thad Altman (R) | Indian River

97

71

Bruce Antone (D) | Orlando

85

54

Robert Asencio (D) | Miami

—

58

Loranne Ausley (D) | Tallahassee

—

56

Bryan Avila (R) | Hialeah

98

89

Daisy Baez (D) | Coral Gables

—

49

Lori Berman (D) | Boynton Beach

68

52

Halsey Beshears (R) | Monticello

97

86

**MICHAEL BILECA** (R) | Miami

96

77

**Representative Michael Bileca** fought for continued improvements to Florida's world-class educational systems.



○ = Score earned while serving in the Senate last year.

Learn how legislators voted on Florida Chamber-backed pro-business, pro-jobs legislation by visiting [www.LegislativeReportCard.com](http://www.LegislativeReportCard.com) or contact us at [gblouse@FLChamber.com](mailto:gblouse@FLChamber.com) or 850-521-1243.

2017  
HOUSE  
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**Representative**

**Jim Boyd** led efforts to reduce the business rent tax and offer other tax relief for Florida families and businesses.



NAME | DISTRICT

GRADE EARNED  
2016 2017

**JIM BOYD (R)** | Bradenton

97

83

**Jason T. Brodeur (R)** | Sanford

100

71

**Kamia L. Brown (D)** | Ocoee

—

57

**DANIEL WRIGHT “DANNY” BURGESS, JR. (R)** | Zephyrhills

97

79



**Colleen Burton (R)** | Lakeland

100

94

**Cord Byrd (R)** | Jacksonville

—

73

**Matt Caldwell (R)** | Lehigh Acres

97

81

**Charles Wesley “Chuck” Clemons (R)** | Jonesville

—

88

**Neil Combee (R)** | Auburndale

100

87

**Richard Corcoran (R)** | Lutz

97

74

**John Cortes (D)** | Kissimmee

69

60

**Robert “Bob” Cortes (R)** | Altamonte Springs

100

88

**Janet Cruz (D)** | Tampa

55

58

**W. Travis Cummings (R)** | Orange Park

100

73



**Representative**  
**Danny Burgess**

led the charge for major workers' compensation reforms, one of the Chamber's top priorities.

\*The 2017 Senate grades were calculated based on how each Senator voted on the issues contained in the Florida Chamber's 2017 Business Agenda.



○ = Score earned while serving in the House of Representatives last year.



**Representative  
Manny Diaz**

remained committed to students and teachers in Florida by advocating for a more flexible and accountable education environment that puts students first.



NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EARNED	
	2016	2017
Kimberly Daniels (D)   Jacksonville	—	67
Tracie Davis (D)   Jacksonville	—	62
Ben Diamond (D)   St. Petersburg	—	59
Jose Felix “Pepi” Diaz (R)   Miami	100	83
<b>MANNY DIAZ, JR. (R)   Hialeah Gardens</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>74</b>
Byron Donalds (R)   Naples	—	88
Brad Drake (R)   DeFuniak Springs	100	94
Bobby DuBose (D)   Fort Lauderdale	79	63
Nicholas X. Duran (D)   Miami	—	62
Dane Eagle (R)   Cape Coral	95	86
Katie A. Edwards (D)   Sunrise	88	62
Eric Eisnagle (R)   Orlando	100	95
<b>JAY FANT (R)   Jacksonville</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>96</b>



**Representative Jay Fant** fought the trial lawyer agenda on everything from prejudgment interest to

workers' comp to accuracy in damages this legislative session. He also supported funding economic development initiatives and tourism marketing.



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CARD

NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EARNED	
	2016	2017
Randy Fine (R)   Palm Bay	—	80
Jason Fischer (R)   Jacksonville	—	88
Heather Fitzenhagen (R)   Ft. Myers	100	71
Joe Geller (D)   Dania Beach	78	43
Julio Gonzalez (R)   Venice	100	81
Tom Goodson (R)   Merritt Island	98	79
Erin Grall (R)   Vero Beach	—	78
<b>JAMES “JW” GRANT (R)   Tampa</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>88</b>
Michael Grant (R)   Port Charlotte	—	77
Joe Gruters (R)   Sarasota	—	100
Bill Hager (R)   Boca Raton	100	92
Don Hahnfeldt (R)   The Villages	—	98
Roy Hardemon (D)   Miami	—	51

**Representative James “J.W.” Grant** worked to reduce Assignment of Benefits abuse, which is driving up property insurance rates for Floridians.



NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EARNED	
	2016	2017
Gayle Harrell (R)   Stuart	95	80
Shawn Harrison (R)   Tampa	95	59
Patrick Henry (D)   Daytona Beach	—	49
Blaise Ingoglia (R)   Spring Hill	97	88
Clay Ingram (R)   Pensacola	100	82
Kristin Jacobs (D)   Coconut Creek	69	57
Al Jacquet (D)   West Palm Beach	—	60
Evan Jenne (D)   Hollywood	58	40
Shevrin D. Jones (D)   West Park	81	50
Sam Killebrew (R)   Winter Haven	—	84
<b>MIKE LA ROSA (R)   Saint Cloud</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>88</b>
Chris Latvala (R)   Clearwater	96	87
Larry Lee Jr. (D)   Fort Pierce	87	66



**Representative Mike LaRosa**

led the House's efforts to protect Florida's family-friendly brand from the

expansion of Las Vegas-style casino gambling, and passed legislation that will help bring faster digital connections to all Floridians.



2017  
HOUSE  
LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT  
CARD

**Representative  
Tom Leek**

pushed for reforms to Florida's bottom-10 legal environment by passing legislation to slow down drive-by lawsuit abuse.



NAME | DISTRICT

GRADE EARNED

2016 2017

THOMAS J. "TOM" LEEK (R)   Daytona Beach	—	86
MaryLynn Magar (R)   Hobe Sound	98	78
Amber Mariano (R)   Port Richey	—	87
Ralph Massullo, Jr. (R)   Beverly Hills	—	82
Stan McClain (R)   Ocala	—	81
Kionne L. McGhee (D)   Cutler Bay	68	57
Amy Mercado (D)   Orlando	—	53
Larry Metz (R)   Groveland	100	81
Alexandra "Alex" Miller (R)   Sarasota	—	86
Mike Miller (R)   Orlando	100	94
George R. Moraitis (R)   Fort Lauderdale	95	79
Jared Evan Moskowitz (D)   Coral Springs	82	46
Wengay "Newt" Newton (D)   St. Petersburg	—	70

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NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EARNED	
	2016	2017
Jeanette M. Nuñez (R)   Miami	97	74
José R. Oliva (R)   Hialeah	97	73
Bobby Payne (R)   Palatka	—	90
Kathleen M. Peters (R)   Saint Petersburg	97	92
Cary Pigman (R)   Sebring	97	84
<b>SCOTT PLAKON (R)   Longwood</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>86</b>
Rene Plasencia (R)   Titusville	100	93
Mel Ponder (R)   Fort Walton Beach	—	85
Elizabeth W. Porter (R)   Lake City	100	80
Sharon Pritchett (D)   Miramar	69	45
Jake Raburn (R)   Valrico	100	88
Holly Merrill Raschein (R)   Key Largo	97	88
Daniel D. Raulerson (R)   Plant City	100	100



**Representative  
Scott Plakon**

fought against  
union leaders  
and for the rights  
of government  
workers by

pursuing transparency in  
the collective bargaining  
process.



\*The 2017 House grades were calculated based on how each Representative voted on the issues contained in the Florida Chamber's 2017 Business Agenda.

2017  
HOUSE  
LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT  
CARD

NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EARNED	
	2016	2017
Paul Renner (R)   Palm Coast	98	68
David Richardson (D)   Miami Beach	81	57
Ray Wesley Rodrigues (R)   Fort Myers	97	74
Bob Rommel (R)   Naples	—	85
Rick Roth (R)   Palm Beach Gardens	—	85
Barrington A. “Barry” Russell (D)   Lauderhill	—	58
David Santiago (R)   Deltona	97	88
Sean Shaw (D)   Tampa	—	57
David Silvers (D)   West Palm Beach	—	66
Emily Slosberg (D)   Delray Beach	—	57
Carlos Guillermo Smith (D)   Winter Park	—	51
Ross Spano (R)   Riverview	98	85
<b>CHRIS SPROWLS (R)   Clearwater</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>84</b>
Cynthia A. Stafford (D)   Opa Locka	68	43



**Representative Chris Sprowls** championed providing a consistent regulatory framework for innovative ridesharing technologies demanded by Floridians and visitors.





NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EARNED	
	2016	2017
Richard Stark (D)   Weston	78	62
Cyndi Stevenson (R)   Saint Augustine	100	85
Charlie Stone (R)   Ocala	100	91
Jennifer Sullivan (R)   Eustis	97	86
Jackie Toledo (R)   Tampa	—	82
Carlos Trujillo (R)   Doral	85	79
Jay Trumbull (R)   Panama City	100	88
Barbara Watson (D)   Miami Gardens	71	60
Clovis Watson, Jr. (D)   Gainesville	76	61
Frank White (R)   Pensacola	—	80
Matt Willhite (D)   Royal Palm Beach	—	60
Patricia H. Williams (D)   Fort Lauderdale	—	53
Jayer Williamson (R)   Pace	—	87
Clay Yarborough (R)   Jacksonville	—	83

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# 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

**W**hile 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 Florida 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. The members of the Florida Chamber Political Institute travel statewide and interview hundreds of new candidates. Prior to the interview process each candidate must complete a thorough and intensive questionnaire that outlines their positions on the issues important to Florida’s future.

Just as we predicted, the American free enterprise system was tested in the 2016 campaign season. Florida has already been invaded for the 2018 election cycle by out-of-state billionaires who want to run our state, set our policy and turn our state inside out. Trial lawyers and unions with special interest agendas are already attempting to bankroll their candidates into office. Together with businesses leaders, the Florida Chamber must be able to fight back.

Now more than ever, we cannot get complacent and we cannot stop fighting for free enterprise. We conducted more than 60 statewide political polls in 2016 and raised more than \$7.2 million to help elect pro-jobs candidates, but we must do more to be successful in the 2018 elections.

## 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.



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.

How can you help? You can help by hosting political fundraisers and by making political contributions to Florida Chamber-endorsed candidates. We urge you to join us in the arena and help Florida remain competitive.

## FLORIDA'S CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION

The Constitution Revision Commission, or CRC, is a group of 37 commissioners that meet every 20 years to examine the relevance and applicability of Florida's Constitution to current and future needs. Since being selected in February 2017, the CRC has held public meetings all around the state to gather input from Floridians. Florida is the only state that allows its state constitution to be revisited and changed through a regularly scheduled process, so monitoring the Commission's activity is essential to ensure a successful outcome for Florida's families and job-creators. Meet the members of the CRC and join the conversation about securing Florida's future through the constitutional revision process by visiting [www.FloridaChamber.com/CRC](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/CRC) or emailing [CEmanuel@flchamber.com](mailto:CEmanuel@flchamber.com).



## 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).

**If your company does business in Florida, you can't afford to miss out on the Florida Chamber's Corporate Political Briefings.**

These in-depth presentations by the Florida Chamber's political experts on the issues important to Florida's business community are offered exclusively to Board of Governors members and their leadership teams.

### Corporate Political Briefings include:

- ▶ A summary of recent polling data on the issues that matter to the business community,
- ▶ The latest demographic factors driving Florida's electorate,
- ▶ A look at the mega-trends that will dictate the 2018 election cycle, and
- ▶ A look into the world of anti-business activism and how you can protect your company.

Space is filling up fast, so don't miss out on this opportunity. Email [JShiver@FLChamber.com](mailto:JShiver@FLChamber.com) to schedule your Corporate Political Briefing today.



## 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](http://www.FloridaChamber.com) for more information.



# Planning for the Future

## 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



## The First Step in 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.

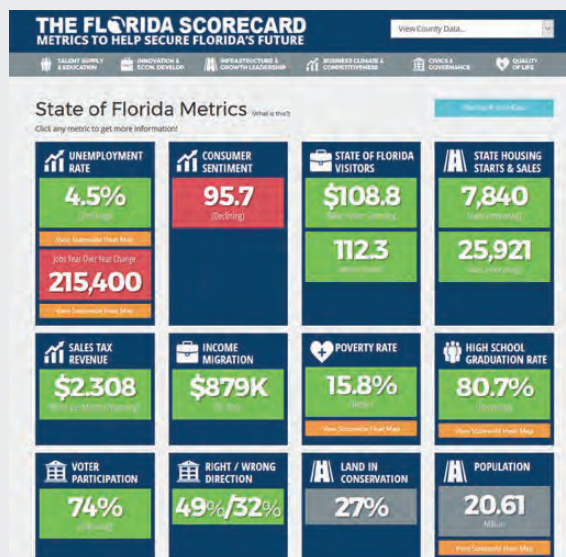
The Florida Chamber Foundation created the Six Pillars framework, a visioning platform that identifies the key factors that drive Florida's future economy and helps organizations speak with one voice. Communities, regional planning communities and state agencies from around Florida are currently using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

## 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).



## 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.



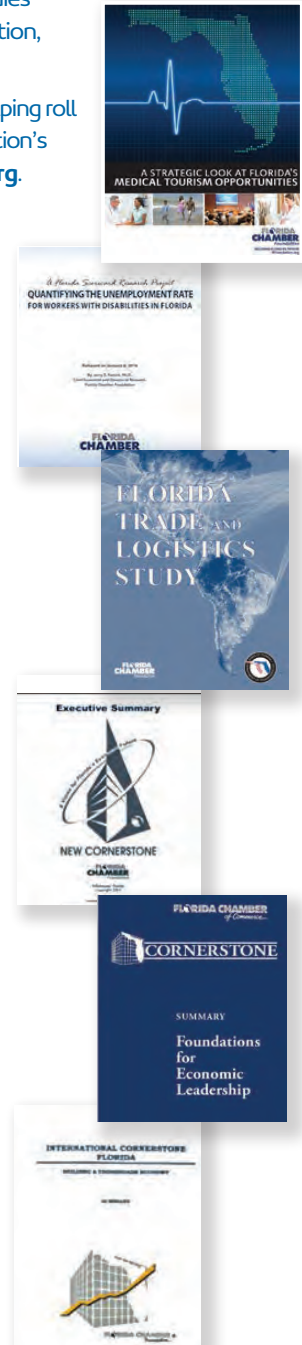
# Driving Tomorrow's Research Today

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.

Whether its recommending research projects, underwriting reports or helping roll out recommendations, you can be a part of the Florida Chamber Foundation's research initiatives. Contact our research team at [info@flfoundation.org](mailto:info@flfoundation.org).

## FLORIDA CHAMBER FOUNDATION RESEARCH

- 2017** Less Poverty, More Prosperity: Fiscal Cliffs Report
- 2017** Florida Jobs 2030
- 2016** Unemployment Rate for Workers with Disabilities
- 2016** Medical Tourism
- 2016** From Excuses to Excellence
- 2013** Florida Trade and Logistics Study 2.0
- 2011** Immigration and Florida's Economy
- 2010** Florida Trade and Logistics Study
- 2010** Closing the Talent Gap
- 2007** New Cornerstone Revisited
- 2006** Florida Summit on Affordable Living
- 2003** New Cornerstone Executive Summary
- 1999** Transportation Cornerstone Florida
- 1997** International Cornerstone Florida
- 1994** Cornerstone Revisited
- 1991** Enterprise Florida: Partnership for a Competitive Economy
- 1990** Crossroads: Designing Florida's Tax Structure
- 1989** Cornerstone: Foundations for Economic Leadership
- 1989** Enterprise Florida: Growing the Future
- 1986** The Role of Privatization in Florida's Growth



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# Planning for 2030 and Beyond

## The Florida 2030 Project

In 1989, the Florida Chamber Foundation launched its first Cornerstone report, which looked at how Florida could compete in a global and changing economy. This first report not only analyzed many of the issues we are still focused on today, it also highlighted a crucial insight: **Florida's potential is great, but its future is fragile.**

Today, Florida is the third most populous state and by 2030, 26 million residents will call Florida home and two million more jobs will be needed. Florida needs a plan that will address the challenges future growth will bring. That's where the Florida 2030 Project comes in.

Florida 2030, a two-year, multi-million dollar research initiative, is Florida's next, long-term, strategic plan, developed in part by Florida's top thinkers, futurists, business leaders and more than 9,000 Floridians all across the state. Florida 2030 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.

It's the next part of the Chamber Foundation's well-known Cornerstone report series and will build on the recommendations of the last Cornerstone report which, since its release, has helped to shape policy and put a long-term lens to Florida's future.

Florida 2030 is our opportunity to work together to strengthen your community, business and future. And you can be part of that. Visit [www.Florida2030.org](http://www.Florida2030.org) and see how your company can help drive Florida's 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).

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FLORIDA 2030 PARTNERS

### PILLAR LEADERSHIP PARTNERS



### SUSTAINING PILLAR PARTNERS



### ANNUAL PILLAR PARTNERS



### 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. From the Internship Program to the Business Alliance for Early Learning and more, share your voice by becoming a part of one of the Chamber Foundation's research initiatives.



You can help drive Florida's future. Get involved by contacting 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

### UPCOMING SIX PILLARS SUMMITS:

**AUGUST 8, 2017**  
Orlando  
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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[www.FLFoundation.org](http://www.FLFoundation.org)

# HELP MAKE FLORIDA MORE COMPETITIVE

## Join the Florida Chamber



Florida Chamber Chairman Syd Kitson discussed the importance of a united business community with Florida's top business leaders.

“The Florida Chamber has moved our state in the right direction for the past 100 years, and to this day remains a leader in our state and continues to make the difficult choices, when necessary, to secure our state's future.”

**SYD KITSON**  
Florida Chamber Chair  
Chairman & CEO of Kitson & Partners

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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, unrivaled political strategists, small business council, international outreach program and top-tier research foundation.

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

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

## How You Can Make Florida More Competitive

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

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

### GET INVOLVED WITH THE FLORIDA CHAMBER

Contact our Member Outreach office at 850-521-1244  
or by email at MFarris@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

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 850-521-1243.

## HOW THEY VOTED

Where Legislators Stood on 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 850-521-1243