



FLORIDA'S 2018 BUSINESS AGENDA



FLORIDA
CHAMBER
of Commerce
SECURING FLORIDA'S FUTURE
FloridaChamber.com

Closing Florida's Talent Gap by Improving Educational Opportunities

From small businesses to major corporations, a qualified workforce is a top concern for job creators. To secure Florida's future, employers need talent that is prepared to enter the workforce; a talented workforce is Florida's best long-term economic strategy. Florida wins when we close the talent gap by putting students ahead of special interest. To help advance meaningful education reform, the Florida Chamber's 2018 Business Agenda recommends:

- ▶ Advocating for increased attainment and more quality training programs to ensure Florida consistently has a diverse and talented workforce;
- ▶ Prioritizing early learning opportunities and programs;
- ▶ Renewing a focus on STEM initiatives throughout Florida's education system;
- ▶ Providing parents, students and teachers with the best educational options for success; and
- ▶ Continuing to support rigorous accountability standards for schools and effective measurements for student success.

Diversifying Florida's Economy to Create High-Wage Jobs

The key to creating jobs and attracting global business is diversifying Florida's economy. While agriculture, construction and tourism are the strengths of Florida's economic foundation, we must continue supporting initiatives that champion even more innovation and new technology. That means attracting and growing in targeted industries such as international trade, manufacturing, biotech and more. To continue diversifying Florida's economy, the Florida Chamber's 2018 Business Agenda recommends:

- ▶ Championing targeted economic development investments and global trade agreements to help strengthen Florida's manufacturing sector, create jobs and make Florida the leader in international trade;
- ▶ Supporting initiatives that create high-wage jobs and bring capital investment to Florida;
- ▶ Fueling an innovation economy by attracting targeted industries and emerging technology sectors;
- ▶ Providing capital options and opportunities for Florida's small businesses and supporting Florida's Small Business Development Center Network so more Florida start-ups succeed;
- ▶ Increasing Florida's share of venture capital dollars to spark innovation and create jobs;
- ▶ Continuing to strengthen Florida's historic leadership role in space exploration;
- ▶ Creating job opportunities and greater economic diversity in Florida's rural communities; and
- ▶ Seizing the opportunity of Florida's veteran population while growing our military and defense industries.

Securing Florida's Future



Preparing Florida's Infrastructure for Resiliency and Future Growth

As the third most populous state in the nation, getting infrastructure policies right is imperative to Florida's future. Florida's roads and bridges are ranked number one in the nation, but there is still much to be done. Water, energy, transportation and telecommunications infrastructure are the backbone of our economy. With an estimated 5.5 million new residents by 2030 and more than 112 million visitors to Florida last year alone, we must continue to invest in long-term solutions. To drive strategic solutions and continue growing in smart and efficient ways, the Florida Chamber's 2018 Business Agenda recommends:

- ▶ Protecting Florida's water future by supporting infrastructure investments and science-based solutions that allow our state to grow while protecting our most precious natural resources;
- ▶ Continuing to create and support reliable, efficient, affordable and sustainable energy solutions;
- ▶ Protecting Florida's transportation trust fund so investments in infrastructure connectivity can continue; and
- ▶ Supporting innovations in all transportation modes, including autonomous and connected vehicles.

Making Florida's Business Climate Even More Competitive

When Florida's businesses and families are prosperous, Florida wins. One way Florida can continue to lead the nation in job creation is to build a business climate that attracts new businesses and allows those already here to grow. That means spurring investments from around the world, creating stable insurance markets, expanding access to capital for small businesses and securing legal and regulatory reform. While Florida is moving in the right direction, to remain competitive, the Florida Chamber's 2018 Business Agenda recommends:

- ▶ Fighting against workers' comp rate hikes that hurt job creators and benefit lawyers that advertise on TV;
- ▶ Reforming Florida's bottom-five ranked legal climate, a system currently creating a \$3,400 "tax" for families each year;
- ▶ Creating competitive and stable insurance markets and reducing fraud that drives up rates;
- ▶ Creating a competitive tax system that puts money back into the pockets of small businesses and families and eliminates uncompetitive tax policies like the Florida-only Business Rent Tax;
- ▶ Supporting efforts that protect businesses from costly and unnecessary regulations and mandates;
- ▶ Protecting private property rights;
- ▶ Ensuring state and federal wage and benefit regulations benefit employees and employers;
- ▶ Lowering burdensome unemployment compensation taxes;
- ▶ Protecting employee choices by reducing the economic burden of unions' collective bargaining processes; and
- ▶ Championing a medical liability environment where meritless lawsuits are discouraged in order to help Florida attract world-class medical professionals.

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Making Florida Government More Efficient

Taxpayers deserve an efficient government that provides the highest return with the most economic freedoms and opportunity possible. This means, together, we must address issues that drain taxpayer dollars like unsustainable pension systems, outdated and inconsistent regulations, and unnecessary taxes and fees. Florida's success must not be hindered by taxation, regulation and litigation, but built on free enterprise principles that create jobs and opportunities. For more efficient government systems, the Florida Chamber's 2018 Business Agenda recommends:

- ▶ Eliminating burdensome regulations and processes that often hinder the ability for all businesses, but particularly small businesses, to grow and succeed;
- ▶ Modernizing Florida's retirement system and stopping taxpayer bailout of pensions; and
- ▶ Supporting consistent federal immigration policies;
- ▶ Protecting Florida's Constitution from unneeded amendments.

From workers' comp to healthcare, the Florida Chamber's task forces and coalitions are laser focused on helping Florida employers engage in making better policies and creating valuable jobs for everyone.

**INTERESTED IN ENGAGING?
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Championing Florida's Quality of Life

Protecting Florida's quality of life from special interest attacks is essential to our state's family-friendly brand. The Florida Chamber believes we can continue to make Florida the best place to visit, live and work by strengthening communities. This means focusing on workforce housing, stopping the expansion of Las Vegas-style casino gambling, breaking the cycle of generational poverty, and embracing cost-saving, value-driven adaptations to Florida's healthcare system. In order to protect Florida's unique quality of life, the Florida Chamber 2018 Business Agenda recommends:

- ▶ Advocating for value-based outcomes through a more affordable and efficient healthcare delivery system;
- ▶ Embracing telehealth policies and other healthcare innovations that accentuate Florida's free market environment, improve outcomes and lower costs;
- ▶ Creating an environment that fosters increased economic opportunity for all Floridians caught in the cycle of generational poverty;
- ▶ Expanding medical education opportunities and providing targeted training in key health education programs in order to address Florida's healthcare workforce shortage and growing population; and
- ▶ Continuing to oppose the expansion of Las Vegas-style casino gambling.

Florida's 2018 Florida Business Agenda



Securing Florida's future is not for the faint of heart—it takes tenacity, focus and significant resources. We either win the war for free enterprise by growing the private sector and creating jobs while getting government regulations, red tape and poor policy out of the way, or we lose it. Attacks on free enterprise are constant, and we need your help in standing up to those that wish to see us lose. This legislative session is an opportunity to defend the progress we've made and advance the jobs agenda. Together we can make Florida more competitive.



Help us secure Florida's future.

Remember when the Florida Chamber wins, Florida wins.

When Florida wins, America wins.

Contact us at 850-521-1215 or
visit our website at www.FloridaChamber.com

The Florida Chamber of Commerce



MAKING FLORIDA MORE COMPETITIVE

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
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