



FLORIDA'S 2019 BUSINESS AGENDA



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

Closing Florida's Talent Gap by Improving Educational Opportunities

Florida wins when we put students ahead of special interests. From local businesses to major corporations, a qualified workforce remains a top concern for job creators in Florida. The Florida Chamber continues to work closely with education, business, and workforce leaders to champion the best possible education and talent system for Florida and close the talent gap. To help advance meaningful education outcomes, the Florida Chamber's 2019 Business Agenda recommends:

- ▶ Supporting the inclusion of STEM concepts throughout Florida's education system;
- ▶ Providing all parents, students and teachers with the best educational options for success;
- ▶ Prioritizing early learning opportunities and programs;
- ▶ Advocating for increased attainment and quality training programs for a globally competitive workforce; and
- ▶ Preparing Florida's workforce by addressing the skills gap.

Diversifying Florida's Economy by Creating High-Wage Jobs

Florida has created more than 1.6 million private-sector jobs since December 2010. Growing and diversifying Florida's economy is essential to creating jobs and opportunities for all Floridians. At the Florida Chamber, we continue to believe that by building on Florida's foundational industries – tourism, agriculture and construction—and investing in innovative next generation sectors, Florida can attract a world class workforce and lead the way in job creation. To continue diversifying Florida's economy, the Florida Chamber's 2019 Business Agenda recommends:

- ▶ 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 can grow and succeed;
- ▶ Increasing Florida's share of venture capital and research dollars to spark innovation and commercialization;
- ▶ Continuing to strengthen Florida's leadership role in private and public 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.
- ▶ Championing targeted economic development investments and global trade agreements to help Florida remain a leader in international trade.

Securing Florida's Future



Preparing Florida's Infrastructure for Smarter Growth

According to research from the Florida Chamber Foundation, each day more than 1,000 new residents call Florida home, and by 2030, Florida's population will reach 26 million. The Florida Chamber is focused on creating long-term investments in Florida's energy, water, transportation, telecommunications, agriculture, and other infrastructure. Recognizing the need for new and disruptive technologies, the Florida Chamber supports welcoming policies for autonomous vehicles, and will continue to support reducing uncertainty in infrastructure projects – positioning Florida for smarter growth. To drive strategic solutions and continue growing in smart and efficient ways, the Florida Chamber's 2019 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.

Keeping Florida's Business Climate Competitive

As one of the nation's top business climates, Florida needs to remain focused on being globally competitive. While Florida boasts a growing economy and job creation numbers that outpace the national average, Florida also bears the title as the worst "Judicial Hellhole" in the nation. Florida is moving in the right direction, but in order to remain competitive, the Florida Chamber's 2019 Business Agenda recommends:

- ▶ Reforming Florida's bottom-five ranked legal climate, a system currently creating a \$3,400 "tax" for families each year;
- ▶ Maintaining competitive and stable insurance markets while reducing fraud and trial lawyer interference that drives up rates;
- ▶ Fighting against future workers' comp rate hikes that hurt job creators and benefit billboard trial lawyers;
- ▶ Creating a competitive tax system that keeps investments in 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 government mandates;
- ▶ Protecting private property rights;
- ▶ Ensuring state and federal wage and benefit regulations balance the needs of employers and employees;
- ▶ Protecting employee choices by reducing the economic burden of government 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.

www.FloridaChamber.com

@FLChamber



Making Florida Government More Efficient

As Florida prepares for 26 million residents by 2030, it is crucial that our government systems remain transparent, efficient and functional for taxpayers. The Florida Chamber continues to fight against burdensome regulations and out of-state special interests from buying their way into Florida's Constitution. The Florida Chamber will continue to advocate for an efficient government that provides the highest return to taxpayers with the lowest burden on job creators and residents. For more efficient government systems, the Florida Chamber's 2019 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 taxpayers' \$1 billion per year bailout of unfunded pensions;
- ▶ Supporting consistent federal immigration policies; and
- ▶ Protecting Florida's Constitution from inappropriate amendments.



Interested in getting involved with the Florida Chamber? Contact Tanya Bechtold, Investor Services Coordinator at the Florida Chamber, at TBechtold@FLChamber.com.

Championing Florida's Quality of Life

Protecting Florida's unique quality of life is essential to maintaining Florida's family-friendly brand. Florida welcomed more than 116 million visitors in 2017 and more than 1000 new residents each day. With an increasing population, and visitors from all over the world, it is important that we focus on creating a healthy and sustainable place for Florida's residents and visitors to work, live, play and learn. This means focusing on 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 2019 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.
- ▶ Supporting initiatives to expand affordable workforce housing options.

Florida's 2019 Florida Business Agenda



**“The Florida Chamber of Commerce is the non-partisan, non-profit
in Florida making sure that you don’t become one too.”**

MARK WILSON, President & CEO, Florida Chamber of Commerce



Help make Florida more competitive.

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

Make sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter @FLChamber

The Florida Chamber of Commerce



THE FLORIDA CHAMBER MAKES FLORIDA MORE COMPETITIVE FOR JOB CREATORS

“The Florida Chamber has always understood that in order to get the policy right you have to get the politics right and they continue to be a leader in that regard.”

WILL WEATHERFORD
Weatherford Capital

www.FloridaChamber.com

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @FLCHAMBER

