

March 12, 2021



The Florida Situation Report

Securing Florida's Future

Florida's Political Insights, Analysis, and Highlights

Welcome to the Florida Situation Report. The Florida Chamber political team constantly analyzes new voter registration trends, changes to House and Senate districts, and voter behavior as we work to recruit and elect pro-jobs candidates to Secure Florida's Future. Please share this report with your management team and send us a note if you have questions, perspectives, or recommendations. To be blunt, Florida is at a crossroads and we invite you to help us save it.

- **ChamberHub** is now LIVE - jump in the driver's seat of the Florida Chamber's exclusive voter file. Learn how to get access by e-mailing [Nick Catroppo](#).
- The **Florida Chamber Safety Council's** inaugural *Southeastern Leadership Conference on Safety, Health + Sustainability* will take place in Orlando at Disney's Coronado Resort, May 10-12. The event will feature national keynotes, a CEO panel, professional development and the latest data/research, industry benchmarks, and best practices for the EHS industry. Please consider sharing with your Safety/EHS/HR colleagues. [Registration is now open!](#)
- Nearly 800 professionals representing businesses across Florida have shared how their workforce needs are evolving amidst the pandemic. If you haven't taken the **Florida Chamber Foundation's 2021 Workforce Needs Survey**, please do so [here](#). Deadline is March 15.
- The Florida Chamber is continuing to encourage job creators to flee high-cost, high regulation states and move to Florida through its **"Open for Business" Campaign**. You can read more [here](#).
- **Florida Free Enterprise Fund**, a newly launched Florida Chamber initiative aimed at recruiting and electing pro-jobs candidates and advancing pro-Florida issues, invites your company to participate to help Secure Florida's Future. E-mail [Nick Catroppo](#) to get involved today.
- As we move into the 2022 Election Cycle, The **Florida Institute for Political Leadership (FIPL)** is partnering with local chambers of commerce and hosting virtual candidate schools on how to run a winning local political campaign. With over 4,000 local elections in the coming years, we're working with local chambers to help educate local business leaders about local opportunities to serve. [Click here to register and learn more.](#)
- Learn about legislative candidates and make decisions on how your company can strategically make political contributions by joining the **Florida Chamber Political Institute (FCPI)** which is led by Marian Johnson. [Learn more here.](#)
- Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 and Florida's economy by checking out [The Florida Scorecard](#) and visiting the Florida Chamber [Resource Center](#).

Chamber Members can access exclusive political intel here:

Chamber Member's Only Access

Florida: Behind The Numbers

ANALYSIS BY CHAMBERHUB - The Florida Chamber's Exclusive Voter File



Special Legislative Session Edition

Every Friday afternoon during the legislative session, the Florida Chamber Government Affairs team sends a legislative update to Chamber members. If you are a current Florida Chamber member and would like to receive this communication please e-mail [Anna Grace Lewis](#). If you are not a current member, please contact [Nick Catroppo](#) or [Frank Walker](#) to learn more about how your company can benefit with a Chamber membership.

Here is a preview of this week's legislative update:



Deal Struck on E-Fairness and Looming Unemployment Tax Increase Facing Employers

After an [announcement](#) Wednesday from President Wilton Simpson and Speaker Chris Sprowls, the Florida House Ways and Means Committee passed with bipartisan support an amendment to HB 15 to backfill the state unemployment compensation trust fund with the estimated \$1.3 billion in annual sales tax revenue from online sales that has largely gone uncollected. The amendment effectively combined two of the Florida Chamber's top priorities this legislative session by leveling the playing field for main street businesses and avoiding a \$713 million tax increase on Florida's job creators. The responsibility has long been on the consumer to remit their own tax on online purchases, and Rep. Clemons' bill simply shifts the collection point to internet retailers. Florida and Missouri are the only two states that collect a sales tax that have not passed such legislation.

 <p>Pro-Biz </p> <p>Representative Chuck Clemons R - District 21</p> <p>Florida Chamber SUPPORTS</p>	<h3>Internet Sales Tax</h3> <p>Modernizes Florida's tax code and levels the playing field for main street businesses by allowing for the collection of sales tax from internet retailers. Florida and Missouri are the only two states in the country that have not adopted an economic nexus to collect online sales tax after the Wayfair Supreme Court decision.</p>
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SB 50: Sen. Joe Gruters
Temporarily postponed on Second Reading.
Retained on Special Order Calendar.

HB 15: Rep. Chuck Clemons
Passed the House Ways & Means Committee,
16-2.

 <p>No-Biz </p> <p>Representative Evan Jenne D - District 99</p> <p>Florida Chamber OPPOSES</p>	<h3>Public Emergencies and Assistance</h3> <p>Creates a presumption that if a person contracts COVID-19 during the course of employment and interferes in insurance contracts by specifying that a business' compliance with a governmental order to close or reduce service counts as a business interruption for insurance purposes.</p>
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A Senate Bill Has Not Been Filed.

HB 1617: Rep. Evan Jenne
The House referred to committees 3/9/21.

From the Campaign Trail

“For the People Act” Threatens to Overhaul Election Law in Florida and Nationwide

The Big Picture: On March 5, 2021 the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, titled the *For the People Act*, in a 220-210 vote. The vote was almost exclusively conducted along party lines, with all Republicans opposing H.R. 1 and all Democrats voting for it with the lone exception of Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson.

Why it Matters: The proposed legislation would federalize a myriad of provisions that relate to voting and the conduct of elections. Among H.R. 1's many provisions are mandates for nationwide same-day voter registration at the polls on an election day, elimination of state voter ID laws, restrictions on a state's ability to remove inactive voters from its voter rolls, legalizes the practice of ballot harvesting, and establishes automatic voter registration for anyone using or applying for many government services. H.R. 1 also uses tax dollars to implement a 6:1 public matching fund scheme for donations, expands Presidential power over the Federal Elections Commission, mandates disclosure of donors to 501(c)(4) issue advocacy groups, and strips state legislatures of their power to draw Congressional district lines in

favor of independent commissions.

This legislation would fundamentally alter the way elections are conducted across the nation, particularly here in Florida. For many years Florida has been at the forefront nationally of balancing an ever-expanding range of ways people can vote with ensuring election integrity. H.R. 1 would reverse or drastically change many key provisions of these Florida election laws, nationalizing election law to a far greater extent than has ever previously been attempted and leaving state and local officials to sort out the changes prior to the 2022 elections. While the ability of Senate Republicans to filibuster H.R. 1 will likely prevent the legislation from wholesale implementation, many of these significant proposals to change election law may also be presented as stand-alone bills for consideration during this Congress.

[Join the Florida Chamber's Free Enterprise Fund - a non-partisan fund that works to support campaigns who promote and believe in free enterprise and job creation. A membership in the Florida Chamber Free Enterprise Fund is reserved for political donors at the \\$10,000 level or above.](#)

Spotlight

Florida Chamber Political Institute Gearing up for the 2022 Election

Florida Chamber Political Institute, the research-based arm of the Chamber's political operations department, understands that the candidate selection process is vital. Our engagement efforts begin by recruiting and electing pro-business, pro-jobs candidates, chosen by rigorous candidate interview sessions — Florida's most thorough and well-respected pro-business candidate review process. Contact [Marian Johnson](#) to find out how you can join us in the arena.

ICYMI: Florida Chamber's Chris Emmanuel Testifies on Autonomous Vehicle Infrastructure

Chris Emmanuel testified on Wednesday in support of SB 1620. This legislation will bring regulatory certainty to our state and make our roads safer. Watch it [here](#).

The Money Race *Florida Chamber Free Enterprise Fund*

Thank you to our members for your investment in Florida's Free Enterprise Fund this month!

The Florida Chamber Free Enterprise Fund is nonpartisan and works to support candidates and issue-based campaigns who promote and support a principled free enterprise and job creation agenda. It stands firmly on its purpose of Securing Florida's Future and its mission to be the leading voice of business and the driving force of Florida's future. A membership in the Florida Chamber Free Enterprise Fund is reserved for political donors at the \$10,000 level or above annually.

The stakes are high in the 2022 Election. With it being a redistricting year, the Governor, Cabinet, and all 160 legislative seats will be on the ballot. With the clock ticking, we invite you to get involved now. To learn more and make a contribution with a Florida Chamber Political Committee, click the link below.

[Learn More and Contribute](#)

Social Media Toolkit

Tweet Suggestions:

The @FLChamber applauds President @WiltonSimpson and Speaker @ChrisSprowls leadership to protect businesses and accelerate economic recovery from a pandemic-driven recession. Thanks for leveling the playing field on sales tax collections and providing relief from a \$713M tax increase. #FlaPol

Time is winding down to participate in the 2021 Workforce Needs Survey! Help us get Florida back on the right track by sharing your company's evolving workforce needs with us. Learn more and take the survey here: <https://t.co/fVlKeUsEI?amp=1>

Where We Stand - the @FLChamber's jobs and competitiveness agenda is here! See the issues that the Florida Chamber is taking on to keep #Florida moving forward in 2021 and beyond:

<http://ow.ly/ip3C50DpxNr>



What's Next: Upcoming Calls, Webinars, and Events

REGISTER NOW:

[Florida Chamber Safety Council's Southeastern Conference - May 10-12](#)

[Florida Chamber Business Leaders Solution Summit on Prosperity and Economic Opportunity - May 26](#)

[Florida Chamber Learners to Earners Workforce Solution Summit - June 15](#)

[Florida Chamber 35th Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School - July 20-23](#)

[Florida Chamber Technology and Innovation Solution Summit - August 5](#)

[Florida Chamber Future of Florida Forum and Annual Meeting - October 27-28](#)

To learn more, run for office, or help the Florida Chamber, please contact:

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