

# 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## **EDUCATION (K-12 THROUGH POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

*With local unemployment rate under 4%, many jobs are unfilled, and half of these jobs require technical training. We need a fully funded education system (Pre-K to Post-Secondary) to train workers for 21st Century jobs.*

- Eliminate the District Cost Differential (DCD) and establish a more equitable and non-arbitrary funding formula to ensure equity for all school districts.
- Expand current Mental Health Assistance Allocation to reduce ratio of students per mental health professional for the third year of this program.
- Provide an alternate pathway for students that are successful in the classroom but struggle with standardized testing to graduate from high school with a standard high school diploma.
- Post-Secondary Funding
  - Daytona State College - Deltona Campus building, \$3.9 million

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - TOURISM**

*Our local economy is a blend of service industry jobs (related to tourism) as well as technical jobs (related to construction, manufacturing, health care and other fields). The Chamber will support measures that will help grow these economic sectors.*

- Support regulation of Vacation Rental Units by city/county authorities (i.e. health, noise, fire code, zoning, as well as American Disabilities Act.) These units should also be responsible for collecting and remitting sales tax as well as Volusia's tourist development tax.
- Support funding for Space Florida, \$12.5 million
- Support funding for Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida.
- Support the reauthorization of F.S. 288.106 for Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund program, which is due to sunset on June 30, 2020.

## **HEALTH CARE**

*The cost of healthcare is a primary concern to local employers as they work to provide benefits for their employees. The Chamber will support measures that will help stabilize the cost of healthcare.*

- Support affordable, quality health care for our region i.e. no funding cuts to Medicaid All Patient Refined-Diagnosis Related Group & Enhanced Ambulatory Patient Grouping base rate payments.
- Support affordable healthcare programs for low-income children and families.

## **TAXES - BUSINESS REGULATION**

*The Chamber will support measures that will cut red tape for small business, make this region more economically competitive, and assist local entrepreneurs.*

- Reduce/Reform Communications Services Tax (CST)
- Support Internet Sales Tax i.e. require retailers with no physical presence in Florida to collect sales tax on sales of taxable items delivered to purchasers in Florida if they make a substantial number of sales in Florida.

## **SPECIFIC SUPPORT ISSUES**

- Affordable Housing
  - Support full use of the Sadowski Fund for affordable housing
- Human Services
  - Support school readiness programs and access to early childhood education
  - Support financial wellness programs, including VITA
  - Support social services for veterans and their families
- Health / Property Insurance
  - Support AOB reform related to Auto Glass claims and PIP reform with proper bad faith language
- Construction / Environment Issues
  - Support efforts to encourage the redevelopment of brownfields and the voluntary cleanup of contaminated properties, including funding the Voluntary Cleanup Tax Credit Program
  - Support Septic to Sewer conversions in Volusia
- Employer / Manufacturer Issues
  - Support Tort Reform i.e. meritless lawsuits from employees or ex-employees
  - Support reasonable leave that is fair to both employee and employer
  - Support reasonable safety regulations/medical marijuana use

## **LOCAL CAPITAL PROJECTS/INFRASTRUCTURE**

*Volusia is an ideal place to locate a business where I-95 intersects I-4. We need to maintain this geographical advantage by urging communities throughout Volusia to support regional efforts to address future intermodal transportation needs.*

- Support \$750,000 to assist City's 50% match cost of a \$3 million U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood mitigation study (congressionally approved and a prerequisite for any future federal funding to address Daytona Beach flooding).
- Support Surface and Ground Water Quality. Several water bodies in Volusia County have been identified as impaired for nutrients and/or bacteria. Four primary ways to improve water quality are: 1) eliminating septic tanks in watersheds of priority water bodies; 2) improving stormwater conveyance and treatment systems to reduce nutrient pollution; 3) developing meaningful education/outreach programs to inform citizens about water quality, (4) reducing nutrients from wastewater plant discharges to surface or ground water.

**THE CORNERSTONE OF THE CHAMBER'S MISSION IS TO ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF OUR MEMBERS AND TO COMMUNICATE THE VIEWS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JIM CAMERON 386.523.3673**