

WE SUPPORT

AEROSPACE

- Support policies and appropriations that strengthen Florida’s important role in supporting the aerospace industry.
- Encourage initiatives that attract, retain, and grow aerospace businesses, activities, and talent on the Space Coast and across the state.

ATTAINABLE HOUSING

- Monitor and support increased investment in programs aimed at supporting our community’s critical workforce housing needs including the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP), State Apartment Incentive Loan Program (SAIL), and the Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Fund.
- Monitor the implementation of the “Live Local Act.”

CHILDCARE

- Support legislation that provides access to high-quality early learning and childcare thus preventing undue strain on households and businesses.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support legislative efforts in coordination with FloridaCommerce, subsidiaries, and key stakeholders that promote economic development including business incentives and support.

EDUCATION

- Support strategies, initiatives, and equitable funding formulas that create high quality schools and other educational institutions which aides in business recruitment and the development, recruitment, and retention of local talent.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Support strategic investments and favorable policies designed to stimulate further growth opportunities for entrepreneurs.

ENVIRONMENT & RESILIENCY

- Advocate for the policies that continue to strengthen Florida’s environmental stewardship and improved management.
- Support funding for initiatives that aim to improve the health and resiliency of our unique Indian River Lagoon, beaches, waterways, and natural habitats from the impacts of natural and manmade hazards.

HEALTHCARE

- Create an environment that encourages the creation of Association Health Plans (AHPs) or Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements (MEWAs) that aid in the recruitment and retention of quality employees by allowing small businesses of 2-50 employees to join together via organizations of common interest or economic purpose to increase the opportunities for the lower health insurance prices and better coverage enjoyed by large employers.
- Support policies focused on improving the health of our workforce and community, especially for those lacking access to primary care.
- Expand access to mental health assessments and treatment.

HOME RULE

- Preserve local governments' broad "home rule" powers that allow them to directly address issues of local importance.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE & PORTS

- Support and encourage policies and appropriations that sustain and expand economic development in areas such as international trade, seaports, and manufacturing.

MILITARY & VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

- Monitor policy actions aimed at veteran-owned businesses or related benefits for those veteran owners and workforce members.
- Provide access to resources and opportunities for success during active service and while transitioning to civilian life.

PROPERTY INSURANCE

- Increase competitiveness within the property insurance industry, allowing for more affordable rates for consumers and additional policies to be removed from Citizens Property Insurance, the state's insurer of last resort.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Support increased state investment in public safety infrastructure and personnel to ensure the recruitment and retention of well-trained and properly equipped first responders.

TAXATION

- Support legislation resulting in the eventual elimination of the Florida-only business rent tax on commercial properties.

TOURISM

- Support efforts that encourage increased tourism in the State and initiatives that benefit the businesses that rely on the tourism industry. Advocate to fully fund Visit Florida.

TRANSPORTATION

- Support for fully funding Florida Department of Transportation's Five-Year Work Program to advance innovative and necessary infrastructure projects to meet the growth in our State.
- Support regional transportation priority projects that will help build stronger infrastructure and continue to facilitate regional economic growth.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Support initiatives that encourage economic diversification and the creation and retention of high-skill, high-wage jobs such as workforce readiness, skill development initiatives, apprenticeship programs, and state college funding.

ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER

<https://www.cocoabeachchamber.com/advocacy/>

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Chamber's Government Affairs Committee (GAC) promotes policies and initiatives that support a business-friendly climate, plans public policy programs and briefings, crafts our legislative agendas, and recommends policy positions to the Chamber's Board of Directors.



ADVOCACY RESOURCES

The Cocoa Beach Chamber has created the following list of advocacy resources that allow our investors to gain access to elected officials and key stakeholders, be viewed as an authority on issues, and serve in an advisory role to influence advocacy positions, while providing opportunities for active involvement in the process.



GUIDING POLICY PRINCIPLES

The Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce's Guiding Policy Principles provide a baseline allowing the Chamber to be nimble when considering positions on current and on-going issues at all levels of government. The principles will be reviewed and approved periodically by the Chamber's Board of Directors to ensure scope and relevance.



LEGISLATIVE AGENDA, LEGISLATIVE MATRIX, AND POSITION PAPERS

The Chamber periodically generates position papers on issues of importance to our business community, one of which is our Legislative Agenda. The Chamber's Legislative Agenda is developed annually by the Government Affairs Committee and communicates the Chamber's positions on issues at the state level of government. Working together with partner organizations, the Chamber promotes public policy decisions that reflect the priorities of our region's economy. Chamber investors are encouraged to complete the Legislative Matrix form for submission to the Government Affairs Committee for consideration of inclusion in our Legislative Agenda.



THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

The Florida Scorecard™ provides Florida leaders and local stakeholders with the metrics needed to measure progress within our community.

TheFloridaScorecard.org provides hundreds of data points, categorized by the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars, that are important to our community and Florida's economy.



ADVOCACY & POLICY EVENTS

The Chamber hosts various policy briefings and advocacy focused events throughout the year. These include "Pastries & Policy," "Pints & Policy," our "State of Series," and our advocacy trip to Tallahassee for Brevard Day at the Capitol.

