

# 2022 Joint Brevard Chamber's Legislative Priorities



## Talent Supply & Education

- Support an increase in programs that will provide high school students, college students, and young adults with career-ready, educational and on-the-job training opportunities in the skilled, manufacturing, and technical trades.
- Support increased funding & local flexibility in the use of state funds and greater local decision making for Florida's Pre K-12 public school system.
- Encourage increased industry participation in workforce apprenticeship programs by adopting measures (e.g., tax credits) to offset costs required to implement effective "earn-and-learn" programs that enable students to transition into longer-term career job opportunities. (HB 1447 - Rep. Giallombardo)
- Appropriations Projects:
  - Eastern Florida State College's C.I.T.E Project - \$1,900,000 - (HB 2859/LFIR 1363 - Rep. Sirois; Sen. Mayfield)
  - Eastern Florida State College's A.C.E Project - \$1,200,000 - (HB 3055/LFIR 1653 - Rep. Altman; Sen. Wright)
  - Florida Tech's Biomedical Aerospace Manufacturing (BAM) equipment platform - \$2,000,000 - (HB 2185/LFIR 1019 - Rep. Fine; Sen. Mayfield)
  - Palm Bay Magnet High School Firefighting Program - \$980,000 - (HB 2333/LFIR 1366 - Rep. Sirois; Sen. Mayfield)



## Economic Development & Competitiveness

- Encourage initiatives that attract, retain, and grow aerospace businesses, activities, and talent on the Space Coast, including space commerce and NASA's Artemis human exploration program.
- Support reinstatement of the performance-based Qualified Target Industry (QTI) tax credit program to attract and grow high-tech, high-wage jobs. (HB685/SB800 – Rep Drake; Sen. Albritton)
- Encourage the necessary support and funding for critical state economic development managed by programs such as Enterprise Florida, Space Florida, and Visit Florida.
- Support legislation and/or funding directed to the economic recovery of our state from COVID-19, including the preservation of existing liability protection for industry.
- Continue to reduce the Commercial Sales and Lease tax to align policies with the other 49 states that do not have this tax. (HB 6093/SB 1558 – Rep. Gregory; Sen. Gruters)
- Support efforts that encourage increased tourism in the State and initiatives that benefit the businesses that rely on the tourism industry.

## Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

- Support full funding for the Florida Department of Transportation Five-Year Work Program to provide critical infrastructure projects to meet the growth in our State.
- Support improvements to Brevard's roadways that are included in the Space Coast TPO's Transportation Plan that have direct effects on businesses, including its seaport and airports.
  - Ellis Road Widening – Fund construction for the widening of Ellis Road to four lanes.
  - Support accelerating implementation for replacement of the NASA Causeway Indian River bridge allowing for improved lagoon flow.
  - SR 528 Widening – Continue design update and fund construction to expand multimodal options and accommodations for increased freight, resiliency and water quality considerations.

## Quality of Life & Quality of Places

- Oppose the diversion of funds from the Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Fund for purposes other than affordable housing, including the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Program.
- Support state and local funding for initiatives that aim to improve the health and resiliency of our unique Indian River Lagoon, beaches, waterways and natural habitats.
- Appropriations Projects:
  - Brevard Zoo Aquarium Project: \$950,000 request for site construction and infrastructure (HB 2263/LFIR 1081 - Rep. Fine; Sen. Wright)
  - Restore Lagoon Inflow (RLI) research study - Phase 3 - \$921,500 - Florida Tech will continue work on 3rd phase Indian River Lagoon study (HB 4635/LFIR 1404 - Rep Altman; Sen. Mayfield)
  - Spring Creek Water Quality Improvement Project - \$1,300,000 - (HB 2187/LFIR 1091 - Rep. Fine; Sen. Wright)

