

# 2023 Brevard County Joint 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. (SB 240/HB1537 Sen. Hutson; Rep. Rizo.)
- 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., grants) to offset costs required to implement effective "earn-and-learn" programs that enable students to transition into longer-term career job opportunities (SB 1060/HB 461 Sen. Ingoglia; Rep. Giallombardo.)
- Appropriations Projects:
  - Cocoa Beach Jr./Sr. High School Aquaculture - Ecology Restoration Program - \$1,100,000 - (HSE 550/LFIR 1561- Rep. Sirois; Sen. Mayfield.)
  - Viera High School Secondary Carpentry CTE Program - \$950,000 (HSE 852/LFIR 1984 - Rep. Altman; Sen. Wright)
  - JA Hope Project at Cocoa Jr./Sr. High School and Heritage High School - \$150,000 (HSE 71/LFIR 2163 - Rep. Fine; Sen. Wright.)
  - Florida Tech Biomedical Aerospace Manufacturing (BAM) - \$2,000,000 (HSE 76/LFIR 1947 - Rep. Fine; Sen. Mayfield.)
  - Florida Tech AeroSpace Cybersecurity Engineering Development (ASCEND) - \$5,000,000 (HSE 894/LFIR 1567 - Rep. Fine; Sen. Mayfield.)
  - Eastern Florida State College Advanced Technologies Center (ATC) - \$3,600,000 (HSE 551/LFIR 1267 - Rep. Sirois; Sen. Mayfield.)



## INNOVATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 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.
- Encourage the reduction or elimination of the sales and lease tax on aircraft to be more in line with other Southern States in an effort to increase the number of general aircraft manufacturing jobs and economic impact in the state of Florida. (SB 1050/HB 711 Sen. Wright; Rep. Overdorf.)
- Encourage the necessary support and funding for critical state economic development managed by programs such as Enterprise Florida, Space Florida, and Visit Florida.



## BUSINESS CLIMATE & COMPETITIVENESS

- Support civil/legal reform that will keep Florida's economy and way of life at the top by improving the bottom five legal climate. (SB 236/HB 837 Sen. Hutson; Rep. Gregory.)
- Encourage simplification of permitting and regulations for business to increase business competitiveness.
- Continued reduction of the Business Rent Tax to align policies with the other 49 United States that do not have this tax.
- Encourage continued use of local/state incentives for community and economic development including maintaining CRA options.
- 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.



## INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH

- 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.
  - Ellis Road Widening
  - SR 528 Widening
  - SR 501 Clearlake Road Widening
  - SR 405 South Street Widening Project
- Increased funding for transportation that does not negatively impact the State Transportation Trust Fund.



## QUALITY OF LIFE & QUALITY OF PLACES

- Support measures to improve the availability of affordable housing options for the workforce. (SB 102/HB 627 Sen. Calatayud; Rep. Busatta.)
- Support impeding the legislature's ability to divert funds collected from real estate doc stamps (Sadowski Act) to use for purposes other than affordable housing, including the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Program.
- Support state cost share for Water Projects that reduce pollution sources, remove legacy loading, restore critical ecosystem functions, and provide sound, applied research for the Indian River Lagoon, St. John's River Upper Basin, and Lake Washington. Including dedicated state funding sufficient to sustain sand on Florida's beaches.
- Support policies focused on improving the health of our workforce and community, especially for those lacking access to primary care.
- Support measure that promotes the revitalization of historic structures in downtown areas. (SB 288/HB 499 Sen. Diceglie; Rep. Stark.)
- Appropriations Projects:
  - Brevard Zoo Aquarium Project - \$2,000,000 - (LFIR 2913 - Sen. Mayfield.)
  - Melbourne Espanola Baffle Box Water Quality Project - \$287,500 - (HSE 983/LFIR 1538 - Rep. Altman; Sen. Mayfield.)
  - City of Palm Bay Septic-to-Sewer Conversions - \$2,100,000 - (LFIR 1477 - Sen. Mayfield.)

