

BOCA CHAMBER
GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC POLICY
CONNECTION

June 2013



PROTECTING BUSINESS

IN THIS ISSUE:

2013 State Legislative Session Wrap-Up

A Moment with
Councilman Mike Mullaugh



www.bocaratonchamber.com



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

For Business - For Jobs - For Prosperity ... For Boca Raton

A MESSAGE FROM:

Troy M. McLellan, CCE, FCCP
President and CEO
Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce

By placing the long-term interests of Florida over short-term fixes, elected leaders and the business community continue working together to help ensure Florida's economy is coming back strong.

Leading by example during the 2013 Legislative Session, lawmakers helped make Florida more competitive by passing more than 25 business-backed bills. Florida continues to adopt policies that will help small businesses and families by standing up for free enterprise and growing the private sector.

The following key state initiatives endorsed by the Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors that passed through both the House and the Senate are:

- **Protection From Mandated Leave** – Protecting Florida businesses and jobs from union mandates by creating a single statewide leave standard.
- **Protecting Growth Management** – Clarification that an initiative or referendum process in regard to any local comprehensive plan amendment or map amendment is prohibited.
- **Supporting a Change in Worker's Compensation Reimbursement** - Revises requirements for determining amount of reimbursement for repackaged or relabeled prescription medication to lower business insurance cost.

The 2013 Florida Legislative Session was a win for job creation. Read the Pro-Business Legislative Summary in this issue of Government Connection for a more complete list of the progress made in Tallahassee that supports business.

Florida 2013 Pro-Business Legislative Summary

The following 2013 Legislative Session positive outcomes support business backed initiatives in the State of Florida.

Eliminating Sales Tax on Manufacturing Equipment & Investments in Economic Development

Eliminating the manufacturing sales tax that put Florida at a competitive disadvantage. Florida is the only state on the Atlantic seaboard and on the Gulf Coast that charges sales tax on manufacturing equipment. Saves employers \$9.6 million in interest assessments for unemployment compensation advances by paying this from a trust fund. Additionally decreases unemployment compensation fraud.

Funding for Enterprise Florida

Increases funding for Enterprise Florida's efforts to bring international business to Florida, including funding for offices in China, Israel and Japan. Also expands funding for Enterprise Florida's small business trade program.

Reducing Lawsuit Abuse By Eliminating Junk Science in Florida

Against the objections of plaintiff trial lawyers, eliminates junk science from the courtroom, brings Florida's expert evidence standards in line with all federal courts and many other states and restores predictability to Florida's legal system.

Medical Liability Reform

Makes Florida's legal environment more friendly for physicians by providing for a legislative fix to the Hasan case (doctors have a right to an attorney), and requires individuals testifying in medical liability lawsuits are practicing physicians in the same field.

Property Insurance Reform

Takes a step in the right direction to fix Florida's broken property insurance system. Helps reduce taxpayers' risk in the event of a catastrophic storm and creates a roadmap to help return Citizens to the insurer of last resort.

Transparency for Local Pension Plans

Increases local pension plan transparency and creates consistent standards for reporting of their fiscal health.

Increased Use of Public Private Partnerships

Provides private-sector participation in the delivery and financing of public buildings and infrastructure projects.

Reducing Medicaid Fraud

Reduces Medicaid fraud by adding controls and accountability. Addresses several gaps in the enforcement authority that will allow for greater oversight and less fraud.

A Moment With...

Mike Mullaugh, City Council Member, City of Boca Raton



1. What are your top 3 priorities for the City of Boca Raton?

My focus is always on expanding our economic base while maintaining our way of life. Specifics at the moment are:

- Foster mixed-use development so that we have the housing and work environments newer hi-tech businesses are looking for.
- Initiate environmentally sustainable efficiencies such as expanding use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles & installing solar panels as falling prices make that economically feasible.
- Open our waterways to all city residents by cooperating with the Palm Beach County in dredging kayak trails along the inter-coastal and developing the Wildflower property.

2. What do you foresee as the biggest challenge for the City?

Our perennial challenge is keeping both the lowest tax rate in the area and our AAA bond rating. Doing so is difficult and complex but the matter is being addressed. I would like to focus on a challenge that is not being addressed. Most of the City's employed residents work outside the City. What can be done to provide employment opportunities for those residents of Boca who travel elsewhere to work? I recognize we will always have more people working in Boca Raton than live here because of the huge number of companies attracted to our city's superior business climate. I would like to attract the actual businesses, or at least the type of businesses, that our residents commute to today. Doing so will not only tend to reduce commuting; it will also give our residents an even stronger attachment to their hometown.

3. What steps is the City taking to ensure we are headed in the right economic direction?

Boca Raton fosters a business friendly environment in order to help the businesses we have and to attract new ones. We do this with a low millage rate, an efficient permitting process, an informative web-site and innovative land use planning. We continually invest in our infrastructure, and have strong partnerships with the universities and hospital. We grant incentives new and expanding employers.

4. What is your greatest accomplishment while in office?

The greatest accomplishment is getting the cooperation of outside agencies and communities in order to recycle 100% of our municipal waste water for irrigation. This water would otherwise have been dumped into the ocean. For years Boca has recycled some waste water for irrigation. In recent years we have expanded the recycling capacity of our water treatment plant, negotiated with various government entities to grant right-of-ways for recycled-water pipes and acquired agreements with large landowners to commit to using recycled water for irrigation. This has not only reduced the amount of waste water being dumped into the ocean, it has also reduced the amount of water being pumped out of the ground.

5. What steps is the City taking with other governmental entities to ensure Boca Raton remains the premier location for the relocation of business?

We work closely with Palm Beach County Business Development Board and Enterprise Florida to leverage our jobs incentive program and to assure that the information being given directly to business relocation firms, and the information on our web-site, is correct and complete.

6. Personally, what do you appreciate most about the City?

The most wonderful time of day to be out and about in Boca is the morning and I am a morning person.

This is the trip you can't plan on your own - the Palm Beach County Chambers of Commerce Washington Fly-In!

Have conversations with National Representatives! Ask questions of the Pundits! Discuss key issues including Healthcare Legislation, Immigration Policies, Federal Deficit, Job Growth Initiative, Defense Issues and more with members of Congress! Join your fellow business and community leaders and take the "Voice of the Palm Beach County Business Community" to the Congressional Delegation October 28th – 30th, 2013. Click [here](#) to register, for the agenda, and hotel information.

LEGISLATOR LOOK-UP

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BLU-PAC

Business Leaders United Political Action Committee
*Supporting candidates who support
a pro-business environment in
Boca Raton*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The Boca Chamber's Government Affairs Committee meets the 2nd Thursday
of every month at the Boca Chamber from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

US Chamber Info: www.uschamber.com • Florida Chamber of Commerce Info: www.flchamber.com
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