

Business Climate

- Limit burdensome taxes and create equity in Florida’s tax system including the lease tax on commercial properties
- Assure stable and competitive workers’ compensation premiums
- Support state preemption of local governments from mandating paid sick leave
- Support resolving employment regulation issues in a timely and effective way in order to lower the burden on small business and tax-payers.
- Lower the burden of unemployment compensation taxes to create global competitive employers
- Support legal reform to reduce the number of meritless lawsuits that drive up the cost of doing business in the state
- Support additional opportunities for small businesses to gain access to capital
- Increase Florida’s national share of venture capital
- Support Visit Florida’s funding request for 2014-2015
- Replenish Governor’s Quick Action Closing Fund

Federal Issues

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business organization representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions. The Boca Chamber, as a member of the US Chamber counts on that organization to be voice for business in Washington D.C. and advocate for pro-business policies that create jobs and grow our economy.

- Support legislation that works to lessen the burden of the new government health care law while promoting strategies and solutions to help businesses get costs under control, improve quality, and increase coverage of the uninsured.
- Support an immigration policy that encourages employment base immigration reform.
- Support a national effort to encourage pro-growth energy action that increases diverse energy supplies, improves efficiency, and promotes environmental stewardship while putting Americans back to work.
- Oppose tax increases that reduce businesses’ ability to grow, invest, and create jobs.
- Support fair workplace rules that protect workers and promote employer flexibility and economic growth, while opposing harmful proposals and burdensome regulations that will generate litigation instead of jobs.
- Support work to strengthen the nation’s educational standards, promote effective workforce training programs, and advocate for commonsense immigration and reform.
- Support legislation to end lawsuit abuse and to ensure that businesses receive the fair, efficient, and consistent justice system they deserve.
- Support the charge to modernize and expand our nation’s transportation, telecommunications, energy and water networks.

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Protecting Business



The objective of the Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce Legislative Agenda is to advocate for our members as it relates to Federal, State and local government agendas.

MISSION

To promote and sustain economic prosperity in Boca Raton and South Palm Beach County.

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Chuck Stout, CBIZ Meridian Insurance Group
Philip Studer, Bank of America-Merrill Lynch

City Issues

- Support the best use of city dedicated economic development dollars by creating an oversight advisory board to ensure that those funds are used for their original intent to create jobs and foster economic prosperity.
- Support annexation of areas that provide opportunity to enhance Boca Raton and increase revenue potential specifically in the area of economic development specifically to: 1.) create jobs 2.) support economic development 3.) broaden the tax base.
- Support economic development in Boca Raton, inclusive of the downtown, the 20th Street Overlay District and the Planned Mobility efforts that address multiple uses of property.
- Support reform to sustain the city of Boca Raton retirement system and mitigate financial risk to the city.
- Support public policy that sustains Boca Raton’s quality of place for business and families.
- Support and assist the city’s permitting procedures to more appropriately enhance the local economy through efficient and effective policy that encourages job creation.
- Support an ordinance that allows a local preference positive adjustment in the bid process when the company holds a Business Tax Receipt issued by the City of Boca Raton.
- Support the creation of an Independent Community Redevelopment Administration Director to enhance the CRA district and create a sense of place in downtown Boca Raton.
- Encourage the City of Boca Raton to create additional parking opportunities that meet the demands of sustainable growth.

County Issues

- Support passenger service for the FEC railway tracks
- Support the research for alternative water resources on the east coast of Florida
- Support legislation that defines and establishes minimum regulatory standards for sober home facilities and allows for more stringent local regulation of these facilities
- Support annual line-item budgeting for beach projects by the Palm Beach County Commission.

State Issues

The Florida Chamber of Commerce, Florida’s voice of business, based on input from local chambers of commerce, such as the Boca Chamber creates a yearly business agenda. The six pillars framework used by the Florida Chamber, and created by the Florida Chamber Foundation serves as an organizing force for planning at the state, county and local levels.

Talent & Education

- Advocate for a unified adoption of anticipated “in-demand” STEMM initiatives (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine) and creating a greater emphasis on the need for medical training programs.
- Expand the cost effectiveness of digital learning and virtual education options for students throughout Florida’s education system.
- Ensure that Florida remains a national leader in producing a talented workforce through the Quick Response Training Grant Program and other high value programs.
- Implement higher Florida standards to encourage continued enhancement of K-12 assessments and accountability systems.

- Improve professional development and benefit options for teachers.
- Require the same levels of accountability for student performance, assessment, class size reduction, school grading and adherence to state curricular and fiscal standards, and facilities for both traditional public schools and charter schools/ charter school systems
- Designate an alternative funding source for capital maintenance and construction for state universities, and to provide additional flexibility for current authority and funding sources
- Support Florida Atlantic University as it seeks funding parity in the 2014 Florida Legislative Session
- Support Florida Atlantic University’s focus on leveraging resources and strategic partnerships in the development of programs that foster entrepreneurship, utilize bioscience research for drug discovery, and advance the use of technology

Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

- Develop water quality standards and alternative water supplies that promote sustainable economic growth
- Streamline the court systems to expedite the existing foreclosure process in order to revive Florida’s housing market and improve the overall economy
- Create reliable and effective energy policies with a long-term focus in mind
- Fund infrastructure needs and create strategic intermodal systems that work to improve major trade and freight corridors in order to meet Florida’s long-term needs
- Support comprehensive growth management reforms that yield to smart and proactive economic planning
- Support funding for quiet zone improvements along the FECRR grade crossings in response to the All Aboard Florida Project.

Innovation

- Support smart and competitive incentives for job creators to create high-skill, high-wage jobs in targeted clusters
- Proactively support Enterprise Florida, Inc., Florida’s state wide economic development agency.
- Attract businesses in qualified targeted areas and emerging technologies
- Support military and defense jobs by opposing cuts to defense and military bases
- Encourage targeted investments in technological advancements for both civil and commercial space projects.

Governance

- Create fiscally stable state and local governments through modern and sustainable retirement systems
- Improve efficiency by streamlining the permitting process
- Reform collective bargaining in a meaningful way in order to reduce the burden placed on taxpayers and the state
- Discover additional efficiencies in Florida’s largest state agencies
- Oppose state proposals regarding immigration that hurt Florida’s economy or international reputation while supporting a consistent federal policy of enforcement that doesn’t place unreasonable burdens on Florida employers.

Quality of Life

- Support an innovative and proactive healthcare system that bends the healthcare cost curve, produces better outcomes and works to conditionally expand insurance coverage to low-income Floridians
- Support a medical liability environment that prevents meritless lawsuits and penalties in order to attract and retain world class healthcare professionals.