

## 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.

## Elected Officials

### FEDERAL OFFICIALS UNITED STATES SEN- ATE

**Marco Rubio**  
8669 NW 36th Street, Suite  
110  
Miami, FL 33166  
305-418-8553  
B40A Dirksen Senate Office  
Building

Washington, D.C., 20510  
202-224-3041  
www.rubio.senate.gov

### Bill Nelson

413 Clematis Street, Suite  
210  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
Phone: 561-514-0189  
Fax: 561-514-4078

### UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENT- ATIVES

**Ted Deutch, District 21**  
8177 West Glades Road,  
Suite 211  
Boca Raton, FL 33434  
561-470-5540  
1024 Longworth House  
Office Building

Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-3001  
www.deutch.house.gov  
**Lois Frankel, District 22**  
2500 N. Military Trail, Suite 490  
West Palm Beach, Florida  
33431  
Phone: 561-998-9045  
1037 Longworth House Office  
Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-3026  
www.frankel.house.gov

**Alcee L. Hastings, District 20**  
2701 West Oakland Park Blvd.,  
Suite 200  
561-676-7911  
2353 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515  
202-225-1313  
www.alceehastings.house.gov

**Patrick Murphy, District 18**  
2000 PGA Blvd., Suite A3220  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL  
33408  
561-253-8433  
1517 Longworth House Office  
Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-3026  
www.patrickmurphy.house.  
gov

### STATE OFFICIALS FLORIDA CABINET STATE OFFICIALS

**Rick Scott**  
Governor, State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001  
850-488-7146  
www.flgov.com

**Ken Detzner**  
Secretary of State  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250  
850-245-6500  
www.dos.state.fl.us

**Jeff Atwater**  
Chief Financial Officer  
200 East Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0300  
850-413-2850  
www.fldfs.com

**Pam Bondi**  
Attorney General  
Office of Attorney General  
State of Florida  
The Capitol PL-01  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050  
850-414-3300  
www.myfloridalegal.com

**Adam Putnam**  
Commissioner of Agricul-  
ture  
Florida Department of  
Agriculture and  
Consumer Services  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800  
850-488-3022  
www.doacs.state.fl.us

### STATE SENATE

**Joseph Abruzzo – District 25**  
12300 West Forest Hill  
Blvd., Suite 200  
Wellington, FL 33414  
561-791-4774  
abruzzo.joseph.web@  
flsenate.gov

**Maria Sachs, District 34**  
955 N.W. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite  
E  
Delray Beach, FL 33445  
561-279-1427  
sachs.maria.web@flsenate.  
gov

### FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Lori Berman, District 90**  
2300 High Ridge Road,  
Suite 161  
Boynton Beach, FL 33426  
561-374-7850  
lori.berman@myflorida-  
house.gov

**Bill Hager, District 87**  
301 Yamato Rd., Ste. 1240  
Boca Raton, FL 33431  
561-470-6607  
bill.hager@myfloridahouse.  
gov

**Kevin Rader, District 81**  
9045 LaFontana Blvd., Suite  
117  
Boca Raton, FL 33434  
561-218-5010  
kevin.rader@myflorida-  
house.gov

**Irving L. "Irv" Slosberg,  
District 91**  
7499 W. Atlantic Avenue,  
Suite 200  
Delray Beach, FL 33446  
561-496-5940  
irving.slosberg@myflorida-  
house.gov

### Local Officials COUNTY COMMISSION- ERS

www.pbcgov.com  
301 N. Olive Avenue  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

### Steven L. Abrams,

**District 4**  
561-276-1220  
sabrams@pbcgov.org

**Priscilla A. Taylor, Mayor,  
District 7**  
561-276-1350  
ptaylor@pbcgov.org

**Hal Valeche, District 1**  
561-355-2201  
hvaleche@pbcgov.org

**Paulette Burdick, Vice  
Chair, District 2**  
561-355-2202  
pburdick@pbcgov.com

**Shelley Vana, District 3**  
561-355-2203  
svana@pbcgov.org

**Mary Lou Berger, District  
5**  
561-355-2205  
mberger@pbcgov.com

**Jess R. Santamaria, Dis-  
trict 6**  
561-355-6300  
jsantama@pbcgov.org

### CITY OF BOCA RATON

**COUNCIL**  
www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us  
201 W. Palmetto Park Road  
Boca Raton, FL 33432  
561.393.7708

**Mayor Susan Whelchel**  
swhelchel@ci.boca-raton.  
fl.us

**Deputy Mayor Susan  
Haynie**  
shaynie@ci.boca-raton.fl.us

**Councilman Anthony  
Majhess**  
amajhess@ci.boca-raton.  
fl.us

**Councilman Michael Mul-  
laugh**  
mmullaugh@ci.boca-raton.  
fl.us

**Councilwoman Con-  
stance J. Scott**  
cscott@ci.boca-raton.fl.us

# 2014 Business Legislative Agenda



**boca chamber**  
serving south palm beach county

## 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.

#### OFFICERS

**Randy Nobles, Croskey Lanni**, Chair

**Jerry Fedele, Boca Raton Regional Hospital**, Chair Elect

**Ethel Isaacs Williams, Florida Power and Light**, Vice Chair

**Rick Hayduk, Boca Raton Resort & Club**, Treasurer

**Troy M. McLellan, CCE, FCCP, Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce**, President & CEO/Secretary

**Keith O'Donnell, Avison Young** Immediate Past Chair

#### DIRECTORS

**Anthony Barbar**, Barbar & Associates, LLC

**Vic Beninate**, AT&T

**Dennis Crudele**, Florida Atlantic University

**Michael Daszkal**, Daszkal Bolton LLP

**Melanie Dickinson**, South Florida Business Journal

**John Duffy**, 3Cinteractive, LLC

**Jim Dunn**, JM Lexus

**Mark Edoff**, ADT Corporation

**Mitch Feldman**, West Boca Medical Center

**Dr. Peter Gallo**, St. Andrew's School

**Elisa Garcia**, Office Depot, Inc.

**Larry Katz**, Wells Fargo

**Mike Kaufman**, Kaufman Lynn Construction

**Bonnie Kaye**, Kaye Communications

**John Maloney**, Bluegreen Vacations

**Jackie Reeves**, Bell Rock Capital

**Rocki Rockingham**, Jarden Consumer Solutions

**Dr. Kevin Ross**, Lynn University

**Tim Snow**, George Snow Scholarship Fund

**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" STEM 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.