

Federal Issues

- 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 to lower the U.S. business tax rate—to reduce or eliminate the competitive disadvantage American businesses face in the global economy, encourage investment from both domestic and foreign sources, and drive job creation in the United States. Allow for comprehensive tax reform changes to be made permanent to ensure certainty for businesses striving to expand, create jobs, and remain competitive in the United States and abroad.
- Support legislation that works to lessen the burden of the 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-based and national security immigration reform as well as job protections for US citizens.
- 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.
- Support work to strengthen the nation's educational standards and promote effective workforce training programs.



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2017 South Palm Beach County Business Legislative Agenda



boca chamber
serving south palm beach county

Protecting Business



The objective of the Boca Chamber's 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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City Issues

- Create 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.
- Streamline Boca Raton's building permit issuance procedures, Individual Development Approvals and fully implement the pattern book/IDG. Fully implement all Planned-Mobility ("PM") districts in the City.
- Support Florida Atlantic University's efforts to work in collaboration with the City of Boca Raton on the reinvention of the 20th St. district and the development of an ongoing comprehensive "Town and Gown" relationship. In addition, the Chamber supports the University as it seeks to achieve these goals by creating a steering committee of partners, which include representatives from the University's administration, student body, faculty, and police and fire departments; representatives from the City of Boca Raton's leadership; and community representation, including Chamber leaders, local business owners, and residents.
- Create an Independent CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency) Director to enhance the CRA district and create a sense of place in Downtown Boca Raton.
- Support targeted and timely annexation of those areas that provide opportunity to enhance the City of Boca Raton and increase its tax base tax and revenue, create jobs and support economic development.
- Support the BID (Business Improvement District) Steering Committee and its activities to provide a funding mechanism to enhance and improve the Downtown infrastructure, parking, and transportation - to include the construction of a parking garage, and an establishment of a Downtown and FAU circulator.
- Support the Research Park at Florida Atlantic University's efforts to further integrate its activities with those of the wider business community and Florida Atlantic University in order to ensure a viable environment for technology entrepreneurs to develop and grow successful companies that create jobs and improve the quality of place in Boca Raton.
- Support a Foreign Trade Zone ("FTZ") encompassing the airport, the Research Park at FAU and adjoining commercial areas.
- Advocate for the use of public/private partnerships to deliver capital and infrastructure improvements in the City of Boca Raton.
- Invest the revenue generated by the one cent sales-tax in areas of economic development, including necessary infrastructure needs in the city of Boca Raton.

County Issues

- Allocate funding generated by the one cent sales-tax to address the deteriorating infrastructure in unincorporated Boca Raton (e.g. bridges and roads) to ensure safety including but not limited to striping the roads.
- Create more public/private partnerships to deliver capital and infrastructure improvements in the County.
- Advocate for Palm Beach County School Board to find efficiencies in cost and services and enhance educational and management performance.

State Issues

- Support Palm Tran to further serve Boca Raton and contribute to Boca's efforts to improve and coordinate public transportation circulation between downtown, the train station and FAU campus.
- Support Florida Atlantic University's leveraging of its resources and strategic partnerships to enhance and/or develop programs that foster entrepreneurship and expand the region's high tech workforce.
- Support the research and enhancement for alternative water resources on the east coast of Florida.
- Support a regional approach for beach re-nourishment projects by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.

- Support the elimination of the statewide sales tax on commercial leases, using a multi-year step-down to ease the budget impact, starting with immediately eliminating the tax on the property tax portion of rent considered to be double taxation.
- Support appropriate workers' compensation reforms which will provide a significant reduction or outright elimination of the proposed increase resulting from the court 2016 Florida Supreme Court ruling eliminating attorney fee caps.
- Support the funding and mission of Enterprise Florida to coordinate the economic development interests of the various counties, to market Florida as the ideal business destination, and to represent Florida's business community overseas.
- Increase financial support for Florida Atlantic University's Tech Runway.
- Enhance State funding to enable school districts to grow student participation in career academy and adult education programs by at least 10%.
- Oppose any reduction of available credits to companies performing Research and Development in Florida.
- Oppose adopting new legal guidelines for personal injury that allow pre-judgement interest to begin accruing on the date of injury.
- Oppose workplace initiatives which seek to inhibit employer rights by expanding employee rights in vague and unenforceable ways that interfere with employer-employee relationships.
- Support efforts to ease the regulatory burden of business in order to promote job and economic growth.
- Support passage of statewide guidelines to ensure that employers continue to have the right to maintain and enforce a drug free workplace as it relates to the legalization of medical marijuana.
- Support the efforts of the Florida Constitutional Commission to propose revisions which will ease the regulatory burden of business in order to promote job and economic growth.

