

Federal Issues

- Regulatory Structure—Promote a forward-looking, coherent regulatory structure that closes gaps, minimizes future systemic risk, and ends duplicative regulation. Support Regulatory Accountability Act
- Promote and advance thoughtful legislative and regulatory changes to permit greater flexibility in benefit design and coverage that will improve health, reduce unnecessary costs, and reward high-value care.
- 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.
- 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 to ensure certainty for Small Businesses striving to expand, create jobs, and remain competitive in the United States and abroad.
- 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.
- 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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2018 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

- Advocate that Boca Raton equitably structure the Fire Service Fee and seek cost reductions for fire protection services.
- Support investing the city revenue generated by the one cent sales-tax in areas of economic development and necessary public infrastructure needs in Boca Raton.
- 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 the establishment of a Downtown and FAU circulator.
- 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.
- Implement streamlining measures to Boca Raton's building permit issuance procedures and Individual Development Approvals. Fully implement the pattern book/IDG in 2018. Fully implement all Planned-Mobility ("PM") districts in the City.
- Support coordinated efforts of the Palm Beach County School Board, Boca Raton City Council and residents to alleviate transportation and traffic issues during school rebuild/construction (Addison Mizner and Verde Elementary).
- 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.
- Oppose any increase in taxes or additional fees for businesses to offset any lost revenue derived from the proposed additional homestead exemption.
- Support local private and public efforts to reduce homelessness.
- 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 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.

County Issues

- Oppose any increase in taxes or additional fees for businesses to offset any lost revenue derived from the proposed additional homestead exemption
- Increase the funding necessary to enforce sober-home regulation.
- Increase the funding necessary to fight the Opioid-Crisis.
- Advocate for Palm Beach County School Board to find efficiencies in administrative costs and services and enhance educational and management performance while addressing overcrowding in South Palm Beach County public schools.

- Support Florida Atlantic University and the Research Park at FAU'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.
- Ensure Palm Tran further serves Boca Raton and contribute to Boca's efforts to improve and coordinate public transportation circulation between downtown, the train station, Research Park, and FAU campus.
- 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.

State Issues

- Continue to 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 related to the 2016 Florida Supreme Court ruling eliminating attorney fee caps.
- Support the funding and mission of Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida to coordinate the economic development interests of the various counties, to market Florida as the ideal business and tourism destination, and to represent Florida's business community overseas.
- Oppose adopting new legal guidelines for personal injury that allows prejudgment interest to begin accruing on the date of injury.
- Support passage of statewide guidelines to allow employers the opportunity to continue to have the right to maintain and enforce a drug free workplace as it relates to the legalization of medical marijuana.
- 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 funding for Florida Atlantic University. Specifically, support FAU's efforts to expand its graduate and undergraduate research portfolio, increase entrepreneurship through its Tech Runway program, and replace the aging A.D. Henderson University Lab School facility
- Oppose legislation that holds private businesses liable for barring concealed-weapons license holders from carrying guns on their property
- Provide additional funding, resources and research to fight opioid crisis
- Enhance State funding to enable school districts to grow student participation in career academy and adult education programs by at least 10%.
- Increase the cap on available credits to companies performing Research and Development in Florida.
- Support the allocation of additional construction funding (Public Education Capital Outlay, PECO) for new buildings on Palm Beach State College's campuses.
- Support efforts to increase opportunities for Palm Beach State College and the School District to collaborate on programs to ensure that students are college and work ready.
- Support efforts to ease the regulatory burden of business in order to promote job and economic growth.
- Fund the Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research at least at its 2016 level, promoting technology-based economic development in areas of research already invested in by the state through universities and research institutes.