

SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY

Legislative Business Agenda

2021

bacachamber
serving south palm beach county

Cities

BOCA RATON

- Advocate that business taxes and fees remain unchanged.
- Support efforts to create standard operating procedures (such as we have for hurricanes) for The City of Boca Raton for health and safety threats with prescribed actions aligned with data benchmarks.
- Create a business ready environment through engagement with and support of Palm Beach State College, Florida Atlantic University and Lynn University, in their efforts to partner with the City of Boca Raton for internships, workforce development and small business training.
- Support the expansion of Boca Regional Hospital as a center of excellence in healthcare.
- Advocate for the use of public/private partnerships, including public-facing application programming interfaces (APIs), to deliver capital, technology, and infrastructure improvements in the City of Boca Raton.
- Support development of workforce housing programs.
- Continue support for the Art in Public Places initiative but oppose any required business and/or development fees/assessments to fund it.
- Support initiatives to harden existing public internet access (City Hall, libraries, schools) to ensure availability after extreme weather events/power outages.
- Prepare Boca Raton for the rollout of 5G, including becoming a test site for mobile providers.
- Support the adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding of the Town and Gown initiative between Florida Atlantic University and the City of Boca Raton for the reinvention of the 20th Street district, with a focus on Infrastructure and streetscapes.
- Continue to streamline Boca Raton's building permit issuance procedures and Individual Development Approvals.
- 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.
- Advocate for a more equitable fee structure, cost reductions, or shifting of fees for our dedicated Boca Raton Fire Services Department

BOYNTON BEACH

- Advocate that business taxes and fees remain unchanged.
- Support efforts to create standard operating procedures (such as we have for hurricanes) for The City of Boynton Beach for health and safety threats with prescribed actions aligned with data benchmarks.
- Create short and long-term strategy that identifies tourism growth opportunities within Boynton Beach.
- Support the creation of a business seat on the Art's Board.
- Support the reduction of the Art's Assessment fee from 1% to 0.5% on projects that are \$10 million and above.
- Propose the elimination of the CRA Advisory Board
- Promote the re-appointment of the two citizen members to the CRA Board.
- Support development of workforce housing programs.
- Support Impact Fee Credit Reimbursements for projects that make non-site related road improvements that add capacity.
- Create a business-ready environment through engagement with and support of Palm Beach State College, Florida Atlantic University and Lynn University, in their efforts to partner with the City of Boynton Beach for internships, workforce development and small business training.

County

PALM BEACH COUNTY

- Advocate that business taxes and fees remain unchanged.
- Support efforts to create standard operating procedures (such as we have for hurricanes) for Palm Beach County for health and safety threats such as we have for hurricanes with prescribed actions aligned with data benchmarks.
- Ensure tourism revenue generating cities receive equitable allocation of tourism investment.
- Support the School District's continued review and enhancement of the safety and security of school campuses based on the identification of new procedures and best practices for technology, health and safety threats.
- Support efforts to increase opportunities for Palm Beach State College and Palm Beach County School District to collaborate on career, certificate, vocational and apprenticeship programs to ensure that students are college and/or work ready.
- Support Florida Atlantic University and the Research Park at Florida Atlantic University in 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 private and public efforts to reduce homelessness and increase affordable housing opportunities
- Support necessary enforcement of sober-home regulations. Support the funding and proper allocation necessary to fight the Opioid-Crisis.
- Continue to support Palm Tran in its efforts to serve South Palm Beach County by further improving and coordinating public transportation circulation between downtowns, the train station, Research Park, and educational facilities.
- Support a regional approach for beach re-nourishment projects by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.
- Support solutions for and funding of science-based energy and water policy to address Red Tide, toxic algae, and other clean water initiatives.

State

FLORIDA

- Support legislation with a retroactive effective date of January 1, 2020, that provides blanket immunity for employers from liability lawsuits related to any aspect of COVID 19.
- Advocate that business taxes and fees remain unchanged.
- Support legislation that enables Florida to collect online sales tax from companies without a physical presence in Florida.
- Support efforts to create standard operating procedures (such as we have for hurricanes) for Florida for health and safety threats with prescribed actions aligned with data benchmarks.
- Support the reauthorization of a state incentive program to attract high paying jobs in industry clusters to the state of Florida
- Support the renewal of the Qualified Targeted Industry Refund (QTI) Program
- Oppose any repeal or reduction of the Aviation Fuel Tax, ensuring adequate investment in Florida's critical airport infrastructure.
- Continue to support the elimination of the statewide sales tax on commercial leases.
- Support the full funding and missions of Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida, to provide incentives to bring new businesses and jobs to Florida
- Continue funding the Job Growth Grant Fund

State continued FLORIDA

- Support targeted economic development investments and global trade agreements to help Florida remain a leader in international trade.
 - Create an improved and HIPAA-protected system to identify those with signs of mental illness, including the appropriate and secure recording of critical information to a central repository with access by all relevant law enforcement and health care agencies.
 - Oppose workplace initiatives and/or regulations which seek to inhibit employer rights by expanding employee rights in vague and unenforceable ways that interfere with employer-employee relationships.
 - 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 cannabis.
 - Support appropriate workers' compensation reforms related to the 2016 Florida Supreme Court ruling that eliminated attorney fee caps.
 - Support workforce funding for Palm Beach State College to assist with rapid credentialing and retooling those negatively impacted by the pandemic.
 - Support the allocation of appropriate funding of outstanding capital projects at Florida Atlantic University and Palm Beach State College.
 - Support identifying an alternative funding source for Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funding for K-12, Florida College System, and State University System buildings.
 - Support science-based energy and water policy solutions that allow for Florida's continued economic growth. Support the continued dedicated funding for dune restoration as part of the beach-management funding program.
 - Create a film, television, and digital media targeted grant program within the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO).
 - Support legislation that prohibits the sale of assault rifles.
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Federal UNITED STATES

- 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.
- 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 work to strengthen the nation's educational standards and promote effective workforce training programs.
- Support an immigration policy that encourages employment-based and national security immigration reform as well as job protections for U.S. 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 legislation to end lawsuit abuse and to ensure that businesses receive a fair, efficient, and consistent justice system.
- Support modernization and expansion of our nation's transportation system, along with our telecommunications (including 5G rollout), energy and water infrastructure.