



The Daytona Regional Chamber will advocate on the following issues as a priority in 2021. To form broad-based solutions, we will convene stakeholder groups and research issues based on our overall philosophy regarding the topic.

## 2021 City County Priorities

### BUSINESS SUPPORT

*Basic Philosophy: We support efforts to revitalize growth in all sectors of our industry. Due to the COVID pandemic we are additionally concerned about small business closures and the heavy impacts to our hospitality industry.*

With this in mind we will engage solutions for potential new shut-downs, post COVID restarts and focus on areas of blight as a result of shuttered businesses.

### INFRASTRUCTURE/TRANSPORTATION

*Basic Philosophy: We must improve our infrastructure and facilitate the free flow of goods and commerce along with the mobility of our citizens for business and recreational activities.*

With this in mind we will focus on keeping East ISB in the forefront of transportation officials and work on potential beautification of main corridors in our City and County.

### GOVERNANCE

*Basic Philosophy: The Chamber believes that elected entities are the best ways and means to make the critical decisions affecting the entire community.*

With this in mind, we will suggest improvements and efficiencies to area permitting, workforce housing and competitive bidding processes.

## 2021 State Legislative Priorities

### COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

*Basic Philosophy: The Chamber believes Florida must maintain an austere fiscal strategy in order to bring back the jobs and investment lost as a result of the pandemic. While Florida has ranked highly in job growth, it still ranks 45th in legal climate. Our elected officials must make policy decisions that will help create jobs, grow our state's economy and maintain Florida's competitiveness in the global marketplace.*

With this in mind we will support tort reform measures that will protect our local businesses in their day-to-day operations and maintain a stable insurance market.

### COMPETITIVE TAX POLICY

*Basic Philosophy: With significant revenue shortfalls, Florida faces a tough challenge in "re-stabilizing" its FY 2020-21 budget. The Chamber believes an innovative business tax environment is necessary to promote Florida's strengthening fiscal health.*

With this in mind we will support tax fairness measures i.e. protect Florida's businesses by closing the Internet sales tax loophole. In addition, take caution regarding re-building Florida's unemployment compensation fund.

## **HIGH QUALITY JOB CREATION**

*Basic Philosophy: In a post-pandemic economy, employers will need skilled workers to fill critical jobs to grow their business. The Chamber believes that Florida must continue innovative means to create new jobs and help current employers re-build their workforce. To do so, we must ensure today's students have the skills needed to move our economy forward.*

With this in mind, we will support sufficient funding for Education (K-12 and Post Secondary), Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida; and oppose mandates on businesses that are detrimental to the employer-employee relationship

## **2021 Federal Priorities**

### **COVID-19 RELIEF**

*Basic Philosophy: COVID-19 led to an economic recession putting many local employees out of work. The CARES Act i.e. PPP loans helped more than 5 million small businesses (including 8,000 in Volusia) to endure the economic impact. However, many of these small businesses are still struggling and need a second loan.*

With this in mind we support policies to stimulate the economy, keep businesses open, and keep citizens safe in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **TAX AND BUDGET REFORM**

*Basic Philosophy: Due to the financial effects of COVID-19, the deficit for 2020 is expected to reach \$3.3 trillion and this does not include the potential of an additional COVID-19 relief package, which would likely add another \$1 trillion or more. These combined deficits could also negatively impact the nation's credit rating and cause major trust funds (Social Security and Medicare) to go broke faster as a result of the economic downturn. Rising debt with no viable plan to curb it puts America at risk of a financial crisis.*

With this in mind we urge Congress to address the serious fiscal challenges that continue to exacerbate the annual budget deficit and growing national debt.

### **IMMIGRATION REFORM**

*Basic Philosophy: Immigration reform is especially important to the tech community. The brightest talent and the hardest workers from around the globe want to come to America because they believe it is still the land of opportunity. The business community believes it's the right thing for our society, for our economy, for our workforce, and for businesses of every size and sector.*

With this in mind we urge Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform that benefits employers and workforce.

### **HEALTH CARE**

*Basic Philosophy: Access to comprehensive, quality health care services is important for promoting and maintaining health, preventing and managing disease, reducing unnecessary disability, and achieving health equity for all Americans*

With this in mind we will support health care reform that lowers costs, improves quality, expands access to health care, and protects American jobs and the employers who create them.