

2017 Legislative Recommendations

Construction Industry

- Support funding for Dept of Business & Professional Regulation to curb unlicensed contracting in Florida.

Tourism Industry

- Support legislation that will requires vacation rental properties to register to collect sales taxes and disclose their Florida sales tax number in all advertising.
- Oppose legislation which would expand the use of Tourist Development Taxes.
- Support funding for VISIT FLORIDA to enable it to accomplish the organization's strategic plan endorsed by the tourism industry.

K-12 Education

- Restore the state's investment in K-12 education by increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by at least 5% annually.
- Allow school districts more flexibility in selecting supplemental evaluations to substitute for the state required assessments and provide alternate concordant scores.
- Provide an alternate pathway for students that are successful in the classroom but struggle with standardized testing to graduate from high school with a standard high school diploma. Eliminate the practice of using student performance on a single standardized test as the sole basis of student and school performance.

Higher Education

- Support \$1 million in planning funds for the new Daytona State College Deltona Campus Building to house workforce programs i.e. machining and other trade certificates benefiting Volusia County business and industry.
- Support \$10 million for Bethune-Cookman University to support: Access and Retention; Small, Women and Minority-Owned Business; Health Initiatives; Bridge to Success Program; Library Resources; Project Child; and Black Male Explorers.
- Support \$3 million to expand Stetson University's energy and water efficient central chilled water plant to provide air conditioning for the planned expansion of our Science and Athletic Buildings and further reduce consumption of clean water from the aquifer by 5 million gallons per year.

Employment Issues

- Support legislation to curb the recent 14.5 percent increase in Workers' Compensation rates.
- Oppose legislation that would create a presumption for firefighters and/or paramedics and/or law enforcement officers that any type of cancer is incurred in the line of duty.

Health Care

- With Florida's current Medicaid 1115 Waiver expiring on June 30, 2017, develop a new Florida-specific waiver designed to provide high-quality, efficient and affordable health care.

Legal Reform

- Oppose prejudgment interest legislation in that it would allow interest to be charged on damages from the date the injury or tort occurred, not from the date the legal decision was made.

Volusia County Projects

- Water Quality Project Funding Request Indian River/Mosquito Lagoon - Design of Sanitary Sewer Collections System for the Elimination of Onsite Septic Systems Requested \$200,000 / Total Cost - \$400,000 and support legislation that would allow Volusia County to regulate the location and functionality of new septic systems in critical areas where water quality is a concern.
- Support additional funding to improve surface and ground water quality which would assist local governments fund water quality improvement projects to preserve ecosystems and protect human health in our surface and groundwater.
- Support legislation which allows local governments to implement sustainable long-term transportation funding by endorsing revenue options as defined in the Florida MPO Advisory Council Transportation Revenue Study including -
 - Implement a 2-cent fuel tax increase per year for five years (total increase of 10 cents), indexed for inflation (STATE)
 - Index all fuel taxes not currently indexed (LOCAL)
 - Allow up to a 1-cent municipal optional sales tax (cities > 100,000 population) (LOCAL)
 - Conduct a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) study
 - Increase the local diesel tax by 5-cents (LOCAL)