



# Daytona Regional CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## ADVOCACY IN ACTION

### *Unemployment Benefits*

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis did not violate the law by ending the federal unemployment benefits ruled by Circuit Court Judge J. Layne Smith. Gov. DeSantis stopped the extra federal unemployment benefits at the end of June, ahead of the September 6th expiration set by the federal government.

A group of unemployed Floridians sued over the extra \$300 a week of supplemental federal COVID unemployment relief benefits. Judge Smith ruled that the State of Florida wasn't required to use the money; he also questioned how the funds would be applied retroactively. Judge Smith stated that the lawsuit failed to prove the state violated the law.

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity released a statement following the decision:

“The court ruling issued today affirms that the State of Florida’s successful Return to Work Initiative and subsequent withdrawing participation from the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program was the right decision legally and has proven to increase employment and workforce participation.

Governor DeSantis has always been a champion for working Floridians and Florida’s business community. Because of Governor DeSantis’ leadership, the economic facts have proven that the state continues to outpace the rest of the nation in economic recovery.

## *Unemployment Benefits*

Florida's unemployment rate is currently at 5.1% and continues to fall below the national average for 12 consecutive months, currently at 5.4%. Florida has experienced 15 consecutive months of job growth and has gained 964,400 jobs since April 2020." Currently, the unemployment rate in Volusia County is 5.1%, with an increase of jobs year over year of 27,035.

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