

# ADVOCACY & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

## Volusia County Council Goals

Five months into their first year of serving together, the Volusia County Council laid out its goals for the county at the May 10th meeting.

The goal-setting session highlighted the overall priorities for the new council. It is important to remember that five of the seven council members are serving their first term as a Volusia County Council member. The overall goal was to make it easier for people to do business with Volusia County and beef up its entertainment and recreation offerings.

### The Volusia County Goals

- Create a more efficient regulatory framework.
- Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of government operations, particularly public safety, and economic development.
- Develop and implement a plan for fiscal stewardship of expanded recreation and sports tourism activities.
- Continue and enhance fiscal stewardship.
- Foster and support a solution-oriented culture.
- Function as a highly effective Council with demonstrated impact.

### [Volusia County Goals: Full List](#)

Analytica, the firm the county hired to manage the strategic planning, shared some ideas on the county's goals, although actions still need to be finalized.

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## Volusia County Council Goals

- Reduce expenses in county government and make the county stronger in case of a recession or other challenge.
- Get rid of regulations that have little value or impact.
- Review stormwater, flood management, and road maintenance policies.
- Make permitting easier and get rid of unnecessary county regulations. Ideas include creating a one-stop shop for permitting and giving more authority to county staff and the Planning and Land Development Regulation Commission on certain decisions.
- Attract more entertainment to the Ocean Center.
- Expand access to recreation such as sports fields, water activities, and space for motocross and ATV access.
- Look into ending community redevelopment areas and hospital authorities.

Councilman David Santiago, a former State Representative who as State Representative covered the 27th District, which stretches from Oak Hill to DeBary, said the county can do better with its state lobbying efforts and said one possibility is focusing the county's contracted lobbyists on appropriations. He emphasized the strength of the current legislative delegation and followed up by saying, "I think we failed to capitalize on the potential of what we have access to."

Councilman Don Dempsey, an attorney based in Deland, suggested that the county create an office for the taxpayers who are frustrated with the county processes such as permits.

Chairman Jeff Brower recommended streamlining the permitting process for home improvements but eliminating some of the required permits.

What do you think of the County Council's goals? Should the Daytona Regional Chamber advocate for additional goals?