



Daytona Regional
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WHERE WE STAND

BEACH

Basic Philosophy: The Chamber advocates a safe, clean, environmentally friendly beach that appeals to locals and draws tourists alike.

Core Tourist District - Support the enhancement of the core tourist/resort section of Daytona Beach (from University Blvd to Silver Beach Ave) and encourage city-county cooperation toward the:

- Continued support for the aesthetic and infrastructure improvements to east International Speedway Blvd (Halifax River to A1A).
- Continued acquisition of off-beach parking with attractive amenities. (2019)

Beachside Redevelopment Committee (BRC) Recommendations - the Chamber encourages Ormond Beach, Daytona Beach and Daytona Beach Shores to adopt the recommendations of the Beachside Redevelopment Advisory Committee in helping to enhance this area for visitors and residents. (2018)

Compromise for Oceanfront Development and Beach Parking - The Chamber supports the concept of the proposed compromise plan regarding beach parking and oceanfront development and encourages the process to move forward. The Chamber also wants the plan to show specific economic development and tax benefits to Daytona Beach taxpayers. (2014)

Offshore Drilling — The Chamber supports allowing offshore energy exploration, with temporary drilling rigs no closer to shore than 3 nautical miles. (2010)

Law Enforcement on Volusia Beaches — The Chamber supports the proposal to incorporate the Beach Patrol (and lifeguards) into the Sheriff's Department to maintain a seamless means of public safety and customer service for our beach visitors. (2006)

Beach Access Fees/Off-beach Parking — Annual vehicle access fees for non-county residents should be increased (as opposed to County residents) with additional revenue earmarked for land acquisition, construction of off-beach parking lots, in addition to maintenance of lots; The Chamber supports a daily set price for off-beach parking lots and that land be considered east and west of A1A. (2005)

Driving on Volusia County Beaches — The Chamber supports the implementation of traffic free zones on the beach, combined with designated driving areas to reflect the tradition of beach driving. (2003)

Volusia Beach Reorganization Plan — The Chamber supports the County's Beach Reorganization Plan to improve efficiencies in the delivery of beach services. We also support the Volusia County Long-Range plan for establishing extensive off beach parking, safe walkways, ample directional signage and beautification efforts to make the entrance to our beaches appealing. Security should be of ultimate concern in all plans for beach access and user amenities. (2002)

Timeshare Solicitation/Regulation Plan — The Chamber supports the licensing and regulating of timeshare solicitation with one central entity to issue licenses consistent between all beachside cities and the county. (1999)

Beach lighting Ordinance/Habitat Conservation Plan — The Chamber supports a good faith effort to adhere to beach lighting standards as recommended by the Fish & Wildlife Service, while taking into consideration that the safety of our visitors and local citizens are first and foremost. Beachside properties need to be properly informed of any changes in lighting standards in an efficient manner. (1996)

Beach Concessionaires/Appearance Standards — The Chamber supports a consistent appearance standard regarding concessionaires' vehicles on Volusia County beaches. (1996)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Basic Philosophy: The Chamber believes in a balanced approach in working with residents and other facets of the community in providing a diversified tax base and vibrant economy the benefits everyone.

Downtown Daytona Beach Riverfront Park Redevelopment - The Daytona Regional Chamber supports creating the Brown Riverfront Park Foundation, a \$15 million a nonprofit organization that would restore 23 acres of Riverfront Park along Beach Street between Orange Avenue and Main Street. (2018)

Amendment to the Volusia County Charter (Volusia Growth Management Commission – VGMC) The Chamber supports limiting the scope the purview of the VGMC whereby it would no longer analyze small-scale projects and while they can bring forth concerns, local governments/elected officials will have the final say. The VGMC must now reply in a timely manner and appointed commissioners can be removed by their designated entity. As for citizen standing, residents or third parties, must now petition their own city/council government to have a public hearing on their behalf. Citizens are still able to comment on proposed land projects with their city planning boards and council/commissions who have standing. (2016)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Basic Philosophy: We envision Daytona Beach as a core city, providing a strong job base that serves as the economic hub for Volusia County. We believe that striving for a diverse economic base is imperative to the stability of the economy. Job growth must be a number one priority and anti-business legislation including expanded taxes and mandates are detrimental. We need to promote a sound business climate that would encourage the retention and expansion of existing business and industry and the attraction of new-targeted business and industry. We need continued cooperation with private and public sectors to ensure continued, sound economic growth and the preservation of the quality of life.

Private Sector Development: The Chamber will support private sector projects that:

- Project provides a minimum of 75 new employees i.e. full-time equivalent positions (temporary construction jobs involved with the project's facilities may be considered) **OR**
- The project will pay a minimum of 15% above Volusia's average wage \$18.20 or \$37,858 annual wage **AND** include a minimum of 25 new jobs. **OR**
- Completion of the project will retain at least 50 permanent positions in the Daytona Beach/ Volusia County workforce with a minimum salary of \$40,000. (2019)

Land Development Code — The Chamber supports the recommendations put forth by the Volusia County Association for Responsible Development (VCARD) when finalizing the re-write of the City's Land Development Code. (2014)

CRA's — The Chamber believes productive reuse of existing urban land and space resources within existing urban areas is vital to addressing inner-city decay and maintaining the vitality of existing urban centers. Zoning and building code ordinances should be structured to accommodate and encourage this type of redevelopment which is driven by the economic and physical needs of the local community. Private/Public partnerships should be enabled and encouraged. (2013)

Space Volusia — The Chamber supports the efforts of Space Florida to help Florida "regain" its top ranking as a viable site for commercial space launches. (2013). We will support economic development projects that target the aerospace and technology sector including but not limited to the redevelopment of non-traditional existing buildings. (2013/2019)

Motorsports Entertainment Complexes — The Chamber supports legislation that would allow a single certified motorsports complex to receive up to \$2 million per year of sales tax generated for up to 30 years provided that these funds are reinvested into the facility. This is the same benefit currently received by other professional sports facilities in Florida. (2012)

Daytona Beach International Airport — The Chamber continues to support Airport officials in their efforts to secure additional airline service locally. (2011)

Daytona Beach E-Zone — The Chamber supports the plans for the E-Zone in the vicinity of the Ocean Center and to work with the County to assure its success. We encourage adequate parking and the attraction of quality hotel rooms and an improved image by upgrading businesses along A1A. (2011)

Economic Development Partners — The Chamber supports continued cooperation between the Daytona Beach Economic Advisory Board, Volusia Department of Economic Development, TEAM Volusia and CEO Business Alliance to attract and retain businesses in Volusia County. (2011)

Technology Infrastructure — The Chamber supports working with the Volusia Tech Council to enhance our Internet infrastructure and work with existing Internet providers to enhance our network connection capabilities to help attract new businesses to Volusia County. (2011)

Economic Development Incentive Programs — The Chamber supports Enterprise Florida's incentive programs that reward employee growth and expansion. (Qualified Target Industry, Economic Development Transportation Fund/Road Fund and the technical assistance in the Economic Gardening Program). (2010)

Site-Specific Incentives — The Chamber supports incentives that help sustain the local economy, improve the tax base, and can be publicly substantiated; when considering incentives, priorities should include business attraction, business retention/expansion and a strong workforce development effort to help provide a sustainable tax base and satisfactory quality-of-life. (2010)

City's Review and Permitting Process — The Chamber supports expediting the process to develop a project within pre-determined redevelopment areas. When feasible, consider the idea of joint advisory board meetings on certain building projects. (2009)

Home Ownership Incentives — The Chamber supports the continued efforts to increase homeownership in Daytona Beach by using incentive packages to encourage builders to develop neighborhoods in the Mid- Town and Main St. redevelopment areas. (2008)

Public-Private Partnerships: The Chamber supports exploring creative public-private funding opportunities to retain and attract business in and to Volusia County. (2004)

EDUCATION

Basic Philosophy: The Chamber advocates a school system that educates students that is equipped with the latest technology and prepares our students to compete in the workforce. A thorough and efficient system of public education that affords every resident an opportunity to receive a quality education through high school and that offers access to post-secondary training and education is essential to the quality of life and economic growth in Volusia County. It must be accountable to the public and offer its services at a reasonable cost to taxpayers, consumers and business. Such an education system, through a variety of choices, will provide excellent elementary and secondary education including career and technical training. This system of education will provide access to post- secondary education and training in degree, certificate and continuing professional development programs in colleges, universities, career and technical institutes and other public and private providers.

District Cost Differential - Eliminate the District Cost Differential (DCD) and establish a more equitable and non-arbitrary funding formula to ensure equity for all school districts. (2019)

Volusia School District Finances - The Chamber recommends that the Volusia School District exercise fiscal responsibility and discourages the use of reserve funds that take them below a 5% reserve fund balance, to balance its operating expense budget. Volusia School District officials should discuss defined benefit plans that reflect the present-day market, which commonly includes significant employee participation. (2016)

Higher Education Capital Projects — The Chamber supports State Funding for Capital projects on the campuses of Volusia's College and University facilities based upon the approval of their own governing boards. (2014)

Florida Education State Standards — The Chamber supports the full implementation of the Florida Education State Standards for Florida schools. (2013)

Half-Cent Sales Tax Extension for Volusia Schools — The Chamber supports the proposed referendum to extend the current half-cent sales tax for Volusia Schools (January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2032) provided that a citizens' oversight committee continues to monitor expenditures. (2014)

Outsourcing Custodial/Grounds Keeping Services — The Chamber supports outsourcing district custodial/grounds maintenance jobs to a private firm provided that the new entity that is selected for this contract hire the displaced school employees. (2013)

Property Tax — The Chamber supports the proposed 1 mill property tax for Volusia Schools provided that an oversight committee of business leaders is established to ensure the money is spent as intended. (2012)

District Cost Differential - The Chamber supports a study to review the state funding formula wages component of the District Cost Differential (DCD) to ensure fair and equitable funding for all school districts. (2004)* updated statement 2019.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Basic Philosophy: The Chamber seeks a balance between economic growth and protection of the natural environment. We believe that economic and environmental objectives can best be achieved through consensus building and cooperation between the business, the general community and the environmental community.

Water Quality - Support research/funding to address red tide; accelerate construction of the reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee to alleviate high water discharges; eliminate septic tanks near watersheds/springsheds of priority water bodies, estuaries/lagoons; provide funding for local stormwater projects to reduce nutrient pollution. 2019

Climate Change/Cap & Trade — The Chamber opposes policies that jeopardize American jobs and create trade inequalities, and support legislation that minimizes the impact on major emitters; reduces price instability for consumers; protects global competitiveness; invests in renewable energy sources; takes advantage of nuclear power; streamlines the permit system; makes us the "Saudi Arabia of clean coal" by fostering carbon capture; increases our own energy security/efficiency; and strengthens the hand of our international negotiators. (2010)

GOVERNANCE

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

Our system of governance is based on a democratic republic where by voters elect specific office holders (that are accountable at each new election) to make decisions on the community as opposed to direct democracy whereby voters decide on every issue related to the city or county.

Daytona Beach Charter Review — While the Chamber believes that a city/county is best governed when citizens elect office holders to make policy decisions, we also support citizen involvement via a period charter review process whereby amendments are decided via referendum of citizens. (2014)

Amendments to the Daytona Beach City Charter (2014)

- The Chamber supports reducing the Planning Board from 11 to 7 members with at least one member from each commission zone because the planning board approval is vital to business development.
- The Chamber supports requiring 10% of city voters to sign an initiative petition to place a referendum on the ballot. This brings the city in line with the state statutes.
- The Chamber opposes authorizing a new position of City Auditor who may be hired by and report directly to the city commission because it would mean excessive costs and duplicate services.

City Budget — The Chamber supports maintaining a competitive tax rate for the city as a means to entice new business. We encourage the City to keep a watchful eye on the City's overall long-term debt and when possible use savings from various sources to pay down unfunded liabilities. (2010)

County Budget — The Chamber supports adopting a budget that is accountable to needs of the community while continuing to review and minimize burdensome regulations. We encourage the County to keep a watchful eye on the County's overall long-term debt and when possible use savings from various sources to pay down unfunded liabilities. (2010)

Fire/Rescue Services — The Chamber supports the Halifax Civic League's recommendations to streamline overlapping Fire/Rescue services. In addition, continue to address unfunded pension liability issue and examine differences between defined benefit vs defined contribution plans particularly for new hires. (2010)

Employee Free Choice Act (Union Card Check) — The Chamber opposes Union Card Check or any "compromise" proposals that threatens to the protection of a private ballot or interfere with an employer's right to communicate with their workers. (2010)

Local Government Pension Reform — The Chamber supports pension reform legislation that would require that cities/counties move from defined benefit programs for police and fire pensions as well as other workers to defined contribution programs. (2009)

HEALTH CARE

Basic Philosophy: The Chamber believes that Floridians must have access to affordable healthcare. Government should build on the strengths of market-based employer-sponsored systems or purchasing pools to obtain stable premiums while enacting reform to lower costs, improve quality and access and build a more value-driven system. We are opposed to a government-run health care system that would impose mandates and cost shifting, hindering fair market competition.

Health Care Expansion — The Chamber supports Health Care expansion of Medicaid in Florida and encourages the State to accept federal funds available through the Affordable Care Act. (2013)

HOMELESSNESS

Basic Philosophy: The Chamber seeks to maintain its community role to help provide adequate food and shelter for those in need. We support a central one-stop facility (330 North St, Daytona Beach) whereby homeless individuals can receive basic needs (food, clothing, medical care, counseling, job assistance, mail). As for shelter, the Chamber supports any facility that qualifies for funding under HUD's new guidelines.

Panhandling Ordinance/City of Daytona Beach - The Daytona Regional Chamber supports any ordinance that will curb panhandling solicitation in the City of Daytona Beach, in a manner that is enforceable and protects the constitutional rights of all parties. (2018)

First Step Shelter - The Chamber supports a proactive, community-wide approach to assisting homeless people in Volusia County that utilizes the combined financial participation and resources of the county, cities and private sector. (2017)

Hope Place/Homeless Families – *the Chamber supports converting the former Hurst Elementary School in Daytona Beach to become Hope Place, to house 180–200 people specifically children/families and unaccompanied youth.* (2016)

Options to Address Homelessness in Volusia County - The Chamber currently supports a long range plan to address the needs of homeless individuals in Volusia County that includes access to a “come as you are” facility or facilities that provide "temporary beds" and are available 24/7 for those needing shelter. These facilities should link case management and be considered as transitional housing as individuals are assessed and as more permanent housing is sought after in which to place the individual and believe that appropriate oversight and accountability for those providing services to the homeless should be a requirement for any operations managed or provided to the homeless that utilize public funds. (2016)

The Chamber supports the proposed the Safe Harbor project as a *first step* to address homelessness in Volusia under the following conditions: Safe Harbor should be recognized a *jail diversion* program for individuals seeking a means to “get off the streets”. The proposed budget remains stable with *no more than a 5% increase for operations’ costs* over a 5- year period. The total budget must include a financial contribution from *a minimum of 12 cities* as well as the county. Governmental entities must *commit to a minimum of 5 years* and can only withdraw upon a 2 years notice. The project must have 25 % financial participation of the operating budget from non-profit entities that work with homeless individuals. All local government entities should have a consistent policy that declares how their police departments will address homeless individuals and uses Safe Harbor as a first resort. In addition to Safe Harbor, the Chamber recommends that attention continued to be given to shelter for homeless families and adolescents. (2014)

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. We believe that we need to better plan for adequate infrastructure to accommodate anticipated growth in our region. Improvements and expansion of our transportation network will require significant investment of funding. In addition, improvements to and the expansion of our water and sewer systems to assure effective operations for our residents and businesses alike are critical to our competitiveness in the market.

Infrastructure/Half-Cent Sales Tax Referendum (2018) - the Chamber supports the proposed half-cent sales tax referendum to be used to fund infrastructure projects throughout Volusia County, provided that –

- a clear and concise list of infrastructure projects based on the most critical needs in each city and the county (including the cost of each) is presented prior to the referendum.
- these infrastructure projects are to be completed within a designated timeframe and within budget and without “scope creep”.
- an oversight committee including stakeholders including representatives of each city, the County as well as the business community is enlisted to supervise the progress of infrastructure projects and their costs.
- the oversight committee shall meet quarterly in a public forum to hear from and comment to staff members involved with each project.
- a semi-annual update should be presented at the Elected Officials Roundtable meeting to update the public of progress from each project.
- a sunset provision is provided.

International Speedway Boulevard — The Chamber supports exploring the idea of roundabouts on International Speedway Blvd at Ridgewood Ave, Peninsula Dr and SR A1A as a means to expedite traffic flow and enhance the aesthetics in these areas. (2014)

I-4/95 Interchange — The Chamber supports an I-4/I-95 interchange that is safe for travelers and serve as a hub from which to effectively able to transport commercial loads from Volusia to other locations in Florida and elsewhere. (2014)

SunRail — The Chamber supports Federal, State and local funding to establish SunRail as a means to provide regional rush-hour commuter service from Kissimmee to Orlando to DeLand. (2007)

MANUFACTURING

Basic Philosophy: The Chamber recognizes the crucial role manufacturing plays in Volusia’s economy in terms of wage base. We support efforts to revitalize growth in all sectors of the industry.

Manufacturing Development Programs — The Chamber supports authorizing local governments to establish local manufacturing development programs that provide for master development approval for certain sites and requires the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to develop a model ordinance that local governments may adopt. (2012)

Depreciation — The Chamber supports providing manufacturers the ability to depreciate all capital assets over a 10-year period. Manufacturers should be provided a tax credit for research and development of products. (2006)

TAXES/REGULATION

Basic Philosophy: We advocate a broad-based review of the entire tax structure and oppose the adoption of burdensome reporting requirements, fees and regulations.

Support Internet Sales Tax – The Chamber supports requiring retailers with no physical presence in Florida to collect sales tax on sales of taxable items delivered to purchasers in Florida if they make a substantial number of sales in Florida. (2020)

Sadowski Trust Fund - The Chamber supports the use of the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund monies solely for Workforce Housing. (2019)

Tax Reform - The Chamber advocates a broad-based review of the entire tax structure and opposes the adoption of burdensome reporting requirements, fees and regulations. The business community as a whole, must keep in mind that there must be compromise. The same was true for the 1986 tax reform package. However, if we are to pursue lowering marginal tax rates in order to provide long-term economic growth, the Chamber believes in a holistic approach as Congress seeks to modernize our outdated tax code. (2017)

Sales Tax on Commercial Lease Properties — The Chamber supports legislation to reduce sales tax on commercial leases by 1% starting in 2015. (2014)

Communication Services Tax — The Chamber supports reducing Florida’s communication services tax rate. (2014)

Wholesale Taxes for Online Travel Companies — The Chamber opposes codifying the current practice of online travel companies (OTCs) paying taxes on the wholesale accommodations rate rather than the retail accommodations rate. (2009)

Florida’s Property Tax System — The Chamber supports equity between Homestead properties (protected by an annual 3% Save our Homes Assessment cap) and Non-Homestead Properties (where assessments may increase up to 10% on commercial, residential rentals and vacation condos). (2009)

Internet Sales Tax — The Chamber supports protecting Florida’s businesses by closing the Internet sales tax loophole. (2007)

TOURISM

Basic Philosophy: The Chamber recognizes the crucial role travel and tourism plays in our community and in our state’s economy. We support efforts to revitalize growth in all sectors of the industry.

Vacation Rental Units - The Daytona Regional Chamber supports regulation of Vacation Rental Units by city/county authorities i.e. health, noise, fire code, zoning, as well as American Disabilities Act. These units should also be responsible for collecting and remitting sales tax as well as Volusia’s tourist development tax. (2019)

Visit Florida - Increase funding for Visit Florida for tourism advertising and promotion to \$120 million by 2020. (2014)

Bed Tax Dollars - State-authorized bed tax revenues should go to advertising/marketing to generate sustained growth in the local tourism economy. Oppose any expansion in how bed tax revenues may be used. (2014)

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Basic Philosophy: We believe that our community partners must be committed to developing a highly skilled, well-educated population that will have more opportunities, more job choices and more job security. A partnership of action and cooperation between the public and private sectors is needed to ensure accountability and success.

Minimum Wage - while the Chamber does not oppose an increase in the minimum wage, it should be based on consumer price index (CPI). (2019)

Background Screening (“Ban the Box”) – oppose legislation that prohibits employers from inquiring into an applicant’s criminal history prior to the applicant’s initial interview and prior to making a conditional offer of employment (2015)

Apprenticeships — The Chamber supports education and training programs offered through Daytona State College/ATC, High School Academies and other local educational institutions provided they are industry driven, incorporate relevant industry certifications, and include cooperative education, internships as well as On-The-Job-Training programs specifically leveraging the resources of Volusia-Flagler Career Source. (2014)

Apprenticeships - The Chamber opposes any requirement or incentive for companies to have a State Certified Apprenticeship program on the grounds that there are very limited programs in our area and that it would result in an exclusionary program that would tend to place small local business at a disadvantage, and work counter to the intent of the local bid preference. (2014)

Manufacturing Jobs - Continue the state's effort to provide manufacturing skills training to enhance workforce as a career choice for middle and high school students. (2014)