Daytona Regional
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CENTER OF INFLUENCE
ADVOCACY &
ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Accredited Chamber
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

2027

Where We Stand

ANNUAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENDA






Daytona Regional
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CENTER OF INFLUENCE
ADVOCACY & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY



JORDAN JILOTY
2027-2028 CHAIR, DAYTONA REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



KRISTIN WEISS, CCE, IOM
PRESIDENT AND CEO, DAYTONA REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A LETTER TO VOLUSIA'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Members of Volusia's Business Community,

Volusia County's next chapter holds tremendous promise. Our educational institutions, growing aviation and aerospace industries, manufacturing base, small businesses, and tourism economy give us a strong foundation for continued success. The opportunity before us is to turn these strengths into higher wages, greater economic mobility, and lasting prosperity for the people who call Volusia home.

Achieving that vision requires a business community willing to lead. The Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce's 2027 Where We Stand outlines our commitment to advancing policies and partnerships that help businesses invest, create jobs, and compete, while preparing our region for the demands of tomorrow.

We have meaningful progress to build upon. Improving student achievement, strong high school graduation outcomes, and career and technical education programs are strengthening our talent pipeline. Our colleges, universities, and industry partners are opening doors to innovation and new careers. Yet challenges remain. Employers need access to skilled workers, families face housing and other affordability pressures, and too many residents encounter barriers to economic opportunity.

Guided by the Florida Chamber's Six Pillars Framework, this agenda connects those challenges to a shared direction for Volusia County. It begins with early learning and continues through education, workforce training, and partnerships that connect local talent with local careers. It supports a more diverse economy by encouraging entrepreneurship, strengthening existing businesses, and positioning Volusia to compete for investment in aviation, aerospace, manufacturing, logistics, and emerging technologies.

Our future also depends on how thoughtfully we prepare for growth. Transportation, attainable housing, reliable utilities, and regional flood mitigation are essential to business success and workforce participation. A competitive tax and regulatory environment, a fair and predictable legal system, and a stable insurance market help employers plan and invest with confidence. Effective government, accessible healthcare, and stewardship of our beaches, springs, and natural spaces strengthen the communities where businesses and families put down roots.

These priorities require sustained collaboration among employers, educators, elected officials, and community partners. The Chamber will continue bringing these voices together and advocating for practical solutions at the local, state, and federal levels.

Your participation gives that work its strength. We invite you to share your business's challenges, engage in our committees and workforce initiatives, and help policymakers understand how their decisions affect your employees, customers, and ability to grow.

Together, we can build a Volusia where businesses can start, stay, and grow—and where more residents can share in the prosperity they help create.

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VOLUSIA COUNTY'S FRAMEWORK FOR ECONOMIC SUCESS

Volusia County is one of the next major growth areas in Florida. As we grow, the challenge that faces Volusia County is becoming a higher-productivity, higher-wage growth county.

Volusia has the population, infrastructure, natural assets, and economic foundation to compete with other leading regional economies across Florida. To do so, we must focus on converting our existing assets into higher educational attainment, more competitive wages, and greater household prosperity.

Volusia County has seen success across many metrics:

- 3rd grade reading scores have continued to improve year-over-year, now at **61%.**
- Volusia County Schools have been **A-rated in back-to-back years**, and CTE programs continue to provide workforce skills
- High school graduation rate is one of the highest across the State at **95.6%**
- **11,812** manufacturing jobs provides a strong industrial base, which can continue to grow as aerospace and aviation industries continue to move north along the Space Coast.
- **99.4%** of the County has high-speed communications which provide necessary connectivity for growth
- **37%** of land in conservation provides many quality of place benefits - from beaches to springs and beyond.
- Homeowners Insurance Affordability has continued to improve as Volusia is now **26th of 67** counties in affordability.

Improvements must now focus on areas such as:

- Encouraging post-secondary degree attainment. Volusia currently lags behind similar counties with only 41% of students earning an AA+ and only 28.6% earning a Bachelor degree or higher
- Continue reducing both child poverty and overall poverty rates. Child poverty sits at 16.2% and the general poverty rate is 9.9%. While improving, further steps are needed.
- Expand access to affordable rental housing units. More than half of Volusia's renters are housing-cost burdened.
- Narrowing the wage gap between Volusia and similar counties. Volusia's wages for similar industries, such as manufacturing, lag significantly behind those of other counties of similar size and economy.
- Strengthen employer-driven workforce training. Volusia's unemployment rate of 5.3% is higher than other similar counties.

Based on these metrics, Volusia County is growing, has business start-ups to support the growth, and has the infrastructure to support it as well. We can improve as a County by providing better avenues for residents to be able to afford to participate in the growth, and translating growth into higher household prosperity.

FLORIDA'S SIX PILLARS GUIDE VOLUSIA'S FRAMEWORK

The Florida Chamber of Commerce has created a tool entitled "Florida's Six Pillars Framework" which identifies the key factors driving Florida's future economy. The Six Pillars identified by the Florida Chamber are: **Talent Supply & Education, Innovation & Economic Development, Infrastructure & Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic & Governance Systems, and Quality of Life and Quality of Places.** Using these pillars, the Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce has created its framework to communicate the most pressing economic issues being faced by Volusia County residents.



The Volusia Scorecard - is an interactive online tool maintained by the Florida Chamber as part of its Florida Scorecard. The tool is publicly available to track key metrics within the Six Pillars Framework at the County level.

The Florida Gap Map - A data visualization which can be used to explore the challenges Volusia's children and families face.

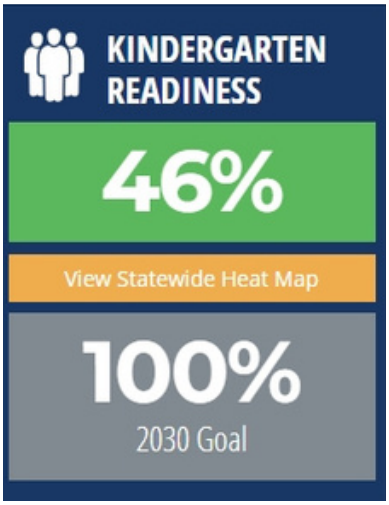
EQUIPPING VOLUSIA'S TALENT PIPELINE TO COMPETE AND SUCCEED

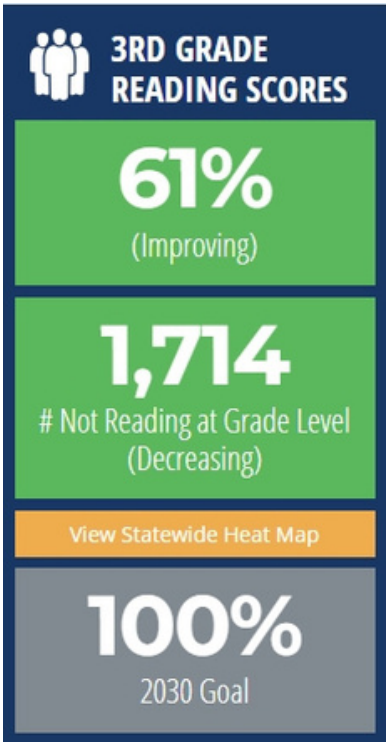
Better Early Learning Outcomes, Better Long-Term Educational Success

The Daytona Regional Chamber is committed to improving access to affordable, high-quality early learning programs for children between birth and 5 years old.

The Florida Chambers' ***2030 Blueprint*** provides specific goals to achieve related to positive early learning outcomes. The first steps in achieving these goals are ensuring 100% of Florida children are kindergarten-ready by age 5, and that 100% of Florida children can read at or above grade level by 3rd grade.

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports initiatives that improve early learning outcomes, such as Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten, *Kindergarten Ready. Workforce Ready.* and *Readers to Leaders.* Investing in and supporting these programs helps ensure that Volusia County is doing their part to improve early learning metrics and prepares our future generation for the workforce.





Learn more about DRCC Early Learning Efforts by visiting the following links:

Kindergarten Ready, Workforce Ready

Readers to Leaders

K-12 Education & Workforce Readiness

High-quality, foundational education is paramount to long-term student outcomes. According to Niche reports, Volusia County Schools rank 33/67 in the State in 2026. Looking at 2027 and beyond, one priority should be to continue to improve the quality of our public education system in Volusia. The Daytona Regional Chamber supports assessments and systems designed to meet student needs. The Daytona Regional Chamber supports universal school choice, so parents can make the best education decisions for their children. The Daytona Regional Chamber also supports providing students with workforce development and CTE opportunities, aligned with workforce and industry needs, to ease the transition from our schools to the workforce. Finally, the Daytona Regional Chamber supports competitive teacher pay to help hire and retain the most qualified candidates.

Workforce & Education Committee

The Daytona Regional Chamber is committed to enhancing our education systems and meeting workforce needs in our region. The Workforce & Education Committee brings local partners together to focus on workforce development, talent attraction & retention, and leadership development.

Contact Ken Phelps, Ken@daytonachamber.com, for more information



The Daytona Regional Chamber hosts a panel including Dr. Kristin Pierce (Volusia County Schools), Bree Castelli (Daytona State College), & Matt Wittwer (Carter Electric) to discuss the importance of CTE programs in our educational institutions

Preparing the Workforce of Tomorrow, Today

The Daytona Regional Chamber understands that to attract new companies to Volusia County, we must have the necessary workforce skills to suit their industry needs. The Daytona Regional Chamber will continue to support programs that help students develop the skills that will give them a competitive advantage in the workforce.

We will continue to work alongside our high schools, colleges, universities, and technical & career training schools to ensure Volusia has a diverse, skilled workforce. The Daytona Regional Chamber supports CTE and experiential learning opportunities being available for all Volusia County students based on data-driven analysis of local industry needs.

Daytona Regional Chamber Education & Workforce Programs

Level Up: Professional Skills and Personal Branding

Manufacturing & Technology Day

Contact Ken Phelps, ken@daytonachamber.com, for more information on how to become invloved with these events.

Colleges, Universities and the Talent Pipeline

Florida has continued to hold the top ranking for higher education institutions for a tenth consecutive year in 2026. Florida has also been the most affordable State to pursue higher education at a 4-year public institution. In Volusia, our higher education institutions continue to receive strong rankings from the US News and World Report with ERAU and Stetson ranking inside the top 10 for regional universities in the South.

The Daytona Regional Chamber will continue to support collaboration between our educational institutions and the private sector to meet workforce demands. The Chamber also supports research and development in our universities that encourage innovation.



Ken Phelps (VP, Resource Development) hosts Level Up, a Soft Skills Summit for Volusia County students.

BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND DYNAMIC LOCAL ECONOMY

Economic Diversification

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports a strong and diverse business community in Volusia County. In order to keep Volusia's economy competitive, the Daytona Regional Chamber supports business-friendly policies to attract new industries and create high paying jobs.

Aerospace & Aviation

We recognize the consistent and expanding growth in the aviation and aerospace industry in Central Florida. Given our location on the northern point of the Space Triangle, the Daytona Regional Chamber supports efforts to expand the 50+ aviation and aerospace companies currently located in Volusia County, by providing workforce training partnerships to fit industry needs. We also support specialized education programs in aviation and aerospace offered by ERAU and Daytona State College. We collaborate with Team Volusia EDC, whose strategic plan focuses on aviation and aerospace as a key target industry for our area. We also support partnerships with FDOT and Space Florida to establish Florida as the leader in the aerospace and aviation industry.



Kelly White, Founder of KW Digital, gives a presentation on the importance of adapting to AI .

Adopting Evolving Technology

We will work with appropriate government stakeholders to support policies which allow for innovation in the tech space, while also protecting Florida's children, families, businesses and consumers. The Daytona Regional Chamber supports responsible AI development to remain economically competitive.

A Golden Age for Manufacturing





We support a strong manufacturing sector to bring jobs and economic development to our region. As manufacturing growth continues, the Chamber also supports improving the manufacturing talent pipeline, relieving burdensome regulations, as well as the recommendations contained in the Florida Chamber's Trade and Logistics 2030 Study.

> "Volusia County is on the forefront of growth in several key job-creating industries – including aviation and aerospace, manufacturing, and logistics – given the strength of our geographic and strategic assets. Our welcoming business community is buffered by innovative stakeholders and opportunities in business development, higher education, training, and workforce expansion. In addition, key factors in Team Volusia's ongoing national and international marketing of Volusia County include the promotion of available inventory and the readiness of sites to companies looking to locate or expand here."

Keith Norden,
President &CEO of Team Volusia Economic Development Corporation

Supporting Small Businesses

Small businesses are the cornerstone of our business community. The Daytona Regional Chamber believes reducing regulatory burdens, lowering barriers to entry and providing access to capital for aspiring entrepreneurs so that business startups can thrive in Volusia County.





Tourism

The Chamber supports our local tourism efforts. We oppose measures that harm tourism entities, including allowing for bed taxes to be used in areas outside of tourism promotion.

Research & Development

We support efforts to encourage research and development in Volusia County. This includes tax credit programs to incentivize companies to innovate in our region and fill our economic gaps.

Business Connections Groups

Business Connections Groups are a key networking tool available to Daytona Regional Chamber members. Whether it be leads, advice, or just friendship, our Business Connections Groups is the place to find it!

Contact Lori McMullin, lori@daytonachamber.com, for more information

Learn about our programs supporting small businesses:

Lunch with Leaders

Brew & Build

Contact Lori McMullin, lori@daytonachamber.com, for more information

Driving Regional Prosperity





The Chamber supports efforts to grow GDP in our County by attracting venture capital investment, infrastructure investments, and site readiness investments to encourage new industries to expand into Florida. We also encourage rural connectivity efforts to open more areas of the County to growth.



Thursday's BCG visiting the Daytona Tortugas during their weekly meeting.

PLANNING TODAY FOR THE VOLUSIA OF TOMORROW

Pay to Pave: Better Transportation & Infrastructure Investments

The Daytona Regional Chamber understands that as our population across the State grows, so will our need for a modernized transportation systems to handle the increased volume of drivers and goods being delivered. The Daytona Regional Chamber supports the efforts of FDOT District 5 and the River to Sea TPO to address the needs of our region. We oppose efforts to use the Transportation Trust Fund on non-transportation projects.

New Ways to Move

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports innovation in the transportation space to provide modern options for Florida travelers.

We support the exploration and recruitment of autonomous, connected, shared, and electric vehicles and aircrafts to our region.

TheChamber also supports policy to modernize the regulatory framework for both land and air travel to embrace innovative ways to move people and goods.

> "When we talk about transportation, we are really talking about people. Whether it's helping people get to work, supporting local businesses, or improving safety, the transportation investments we make today will have a lasting impact. FDOT is committed to working with our partners to support the success of Volusia County."
>
> **Secretary John Tyler**
> *FDOT District 5 Secretary*

Telecommunications & Connectivity



The Daytona Regional Chamber supports a regulatory environment which enables the private sector to address telecommunications needs in our region.

The Chamber also supports policies that seek to allow for expansion of existing services into underserved areas to meet the 2030 goal of 100% connectivity to high-speed communications.

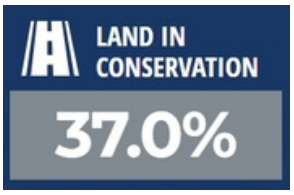
Critical Infrastructure

We support measures to ensure that Volusia County's critical infrastructure is protected, including the electrical grid, pipelines and transmission systems, water and food supplies, and telecommunications infrastructure from threats. The Daytona Regional Chamber encourages private sector collaboration to ensure that our critical infrastructure is resilient and preserved.

Stormwater Management

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports stormwater projects to help mitigate flooding in our region, including the recommendations made by the Volusia County Stormwater Mitigation and Flooding Subcommittee. The Daytona Regional Chamber also encourages municipalities to take an approach which includes regional collbaoration to address flooding issues in Volusia County.

Protecting Our Natural Resources



The Daytona Regional Chamber supports investment in water infrastructure to improve quality of water supply and wastewater treatment so that we may preserve Volusia's lakes, springs, aquifers for future tourism, agriculture, and quality of life benefits. The Daytona Regional Chamber also supports protecting Florida's water rights from encroachment. Finally, the Daytona Regional Chamber supports Volusia Forever recommendations, as well as data-driven environmental policies to protect these resources while still encouraging economic growth.

Honoring our Agricultural Roots

Florida can trace its agricultural roots back to the 1700s and the creation of the first State Legislature as a way to settle lot disputes among cattle ranchers. The Daytona Regional Chamber supports the right to farm and recognizes the key role that agriculture and agritourism plays in our local communities by creating jobs and ensuring Florida and the United States is food secure.

Bolstering Energy Supply

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports energy policy that encourages reliable and cost-effective energy sources. The Daytona Regional Chamber encourages striving for energy independence, and employing advanced technologies that promote sustainable growth.



Dr. Barry Butler, President of Embry-Riddle, speaks about the exciting future of aerospace and aviation in Volusia County.

Affordable & Attainable Housing

The Daytona Regional Chamber understands the cost of housing has been a significant issue for many Volusia County residents. Housing costs can also pose a problem for employers seeking to hire and retain talent in the area.

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports policy measures which increase housing access and affordability, including ensuring fairness in local zoning restrictions and regulations, as well as fully funding the Sadowski Trust Fund.





> "A strong and reliable energy infrastructure is essential to supporting Volusia County's continued growth and quality of life. Investing in a resilient energy system helps ensure our communities and local businesses are prepared to meet both today's needs and the opportunities of tomorrow."
>
> **Linda Dubea**
> Daytona Regional Chamber Board Chair 2025-26

CREATING A VOLUSIA WHERE BUSINESSES CAN START, STAY, AND GROW

Tort Reform Successes

During the 2022 and 2023 Sessions, the Florida Legislature passed sweeping tort reform in an effort to improve Florida's legal climate that was rife with lawsuit abuse. Thanks to these reforms, unnecessary litigation has been reduced, litigation costs have been reduced, and causes of action have become more uniform in their standards. Bills in the 2024 and 2025 Session sought to undo some of these reforms, and the Daytona Regional Chamber thanks the Legisature for standing strong against these proposals.

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports keeping the 2022 & 2023 reforms in place and supports seeking additional reform measures to further improve Florida's legal climate including, transparency in third-party litigation financing, protecting private property by reforming liability standards to hold at-fault parties accountable, making strides to reduce frivolous medical malpractice cases, and reducing frivolous lawsuits and excessive verdicts.

Common-Sense Regulation

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports policies and regulations that are uniform and do not place unnecessarily burdensome costs on businesses or consumers. The Daytona Regional Chamber also supports policies and regulations, such as licensing requirements, that promote economic growth and development while affording consumers protection from bad actors.

The Daytona Regional Chamber opposes measures that impose unreasonable costs on businesses or consumers, including, price controls, mandates, or other unreasonable or non-uniform laws or regulations.

Business Impact Council

The Business Impact Council oversees the conceptualization, planning, and execution of programming designed to expand the opportunity for business success in our region.

Contact Ken Phelps, ken@daytonachamber.com, for more information

Business After Hours

Business After Hours is a monthly program that fosters a feeling of community by showcasing member businesses and providing networking opportunities in a social setting.

Contact Ken Phelps, ken@daytonachamber.com, for more information

ReEmployment Assistance

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports tax policies that keep the unemployment compensation tax low and competitive. The Daytona Regional Chamber supports the efforts of the Florida Chamber to keep these costs low and consistent to allow employers to create high-quality jobs in our communities.

Insuring Volusia County



The Daytona Regional Chamber supports measures that continues to stabilize the private insurance market and to reduce the number of people on the State's public insurance plan. The Daytona Regional Chamber supports rates which are based on risk assessments, produced by competitive markets, and are actuarially sound.

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports measures to that will reduce the cost burden on consumers such as addressing frivolous lawsuits, attorney fees, and other cost drivers. As Volusia seeks to improve its affordability, lowering the risk of assessments is one path the County should consider.

> "Lawsuit abuse acts as a hidden tax on every Florida family, consumer, and business. Thanks to the reforms enacted in 2022 and 2023, and the leadership of local Senator Tom Leek and others, balance was restored to our legal system and excessive litigation was curbed. We are already seeing the benefits from this work in the property insurance market, with new carriers entering the market and rates declining. We must protect these hard-earned gains and continue pushing for a legal climate that supports affordability, economic growth, innovation, and job creation."
>
> **Kelly Kwiatek**
> Chief Legal Office, *Halifax Health* & Board Member of the *FL Chamber of Commerce*

Lower Taxes & Fees, More Investment

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports keeping tax rates reasonable and competitive to attract new businesses and promote investment in Volusia County.

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports a local millage rate and fee schedule, including development fees, that keeps Volusia County competitive with other regions in Florida.

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports thoughtful, meaningful, and effective property tax reform aimed at providing relief to homeowners while maintaining key local government services. The Daytona Regional Chamber suggests allowing the 2027 Tax and Budget Reform Commission to analyze this issue and provide guidance on future reform proposals.

Market Watch Economic Forecast

Inform your business decisions for the coming year with a forecast of the regional and national economies at the Market Watch Economic Forecast.

Contact Ken Phelps, ken@daytonachamber.com, for more information

IMPROVING HOW VOLUSIA WORKS TOGETHER AND LEADS TOGETHER

Better Governmental Efficiency

The Daytona Regional Chamber believes that elected entities are the best ways and means to make the critical decisions affecting the entire community. The Daytona Regional Chamber recognizes the important role that governments can play in making progress on our goals for economic development, and believes government should be a partner in this process. The Daytona Regional Chamber believes in a government that makes data-driven policy decisions, taxes and spends responsibly, and serves the needs of all Florida residents.

Growing Community Leaders

The Daytona Regional Chamber believes that the private sector plays a key role in helping to develop the leaders of tomorrow. Through programs like Leadership Daytona, the Daytona Regional Chamber supports providing community members with the knowledge and skills that will help to drive our region forward, both from the public and private sectors.

Leadership Daytona

Leadership Daytona is the Daytona Regional Chamber's premier civic engagement and leadership program. Leadership Daytona equips attendees with the knowledge and skills to make a positive impact in our community.

Contact Janet Kersey, janet@daytonachamber.com, for more information.

Leadership Daytona Class XLVI



Cornerstone Committee

The Cornerstone Committee is the Daytona Regional Chamber's main advocacy arm. This Committee works alongside our elected officials and government staff to ensure government is working for the business community.

Contact Drake Wyman, drake@daytonachamber.com, for more information.

Supporting Private Property

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports policies that afford private property owners the right and responsibility to determine what happens to their private property. The Daytona Regional Chamber opposes measures which would allow for government intrusion into private property matters.



Drake Wyman, Advocacy Director, welcomes attendees to Hobnob 2026

Collective Bargaining

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports policies that allow for collective bargaining when they do not create undue burdens on the taxpayers or fiscal health of the State, and which allow employees to dictate how their dues are spent.

Immigration

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports consistent federal policies to improve border security. The Daytona Regional Chamber opposes any State policies that would interfere with the federal government's enforcement authority or that would undermine Florida's economy.

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports policies to improve the opertaion of and access to legal immigration pathways.

Judicial Systems

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports a judiciary which allows business to resolve disputes efficiently, effectively, and consistently.

Advocacy Task Force

The Advocacy Task Force is responsible for conducting candidate interviews and making endorsements in local elections to support candidates who represent the values of the business community.

Contact Drake Wyman, drake@daytonachamber.com, for more information.

> "We must ensure that Florida's Constitution and the Volusia Charter are focused on serving the residents of our State and County - not out-of-state special interests seeking to buy influence in Florida."
>
> **Kristin Weiss**, Daytona Regional Chamber CEO

Protecting our Guiding Documents

The Daytona Regional Chamber believes that the Florida Constitution and, where allowable, local Charters, should organize the structures of their respective governments and protect the rights of citizens, businesses, and institutions.

The Daytona Regional Chamber believes in limiting amendments to these governing documents to only issues which cannot be resolved by simple legislative actions, through local ordinances, or through rulemaking authority.

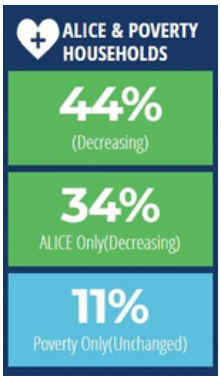
The Daytona Regional Chamber supports reforms to the citizen's initiative process to ensure that the interests of Florida residents, businesses, and insitutions are put before those of out-of-state actors.

INVESTING IN THE PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT MAKE VOLUSIA HOME

Improving Poverty Metrics

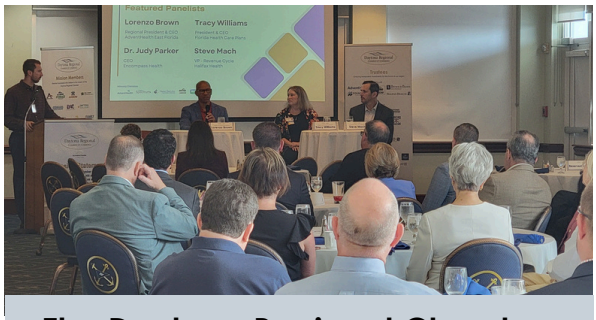
The Daytona Regional Chamber supports policies that are aimed at reducing the level of poverty in Volusia County. The Daytona Regional Chamber believes that businesses and the private sector are best equipped to provide solutions to this issue, as opposed to a government-led initiative. The Daytona Regional Chamber supports intiatives to reduce the root causes of poverty to prevent futher increases in our impoverished population.





Increasing Access to Quality Healthcare

The Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce believes that all Floridians must have access to affordable healthcare. The Daytona Regional Chamber supports policies that 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 - including the expansion of Medicaid in Florida to increase the amount of federal healthcare funds available, and expanding access to telehealth services to better serve rural and underserved communities. The Daytona Regional Chamber opposes any government-run healthcare system that would impose mandates and cost shifting and hinder fair market competition.



The Daytona Regional Chamber hosts a panel discussion on the State of Healthcare in Volusia County, featuring panelists from AdventHealth, Florida Health Care Plans, and Halifax Health.

Advancing Mental Health Services

The Daytona Regional Chamber believes that mental health & wellness is a key piece of overall health and wellness and believes that a healthy workforce is the business community's greatest asset. The Daytona Regional Chamber supports policies to expand access to mental health services.

Medical Malpractice Reform

The Daytona Regional Chamber acknowledges that Florida's high-level of lawsuit abuse, especially in medical malpractice cases, has driven up insurance premiums and has deterred healthcare professionals from practicing in Florida, as well as increased healthcare costs for Florida families. The Daytona Regional Chamber supports medical malpractice reforms to help attract healthcare professionals to Florida and rein in costs for Florida families.

Preserving Volusia's Natural Beauty

The Daytona Regional Chamber recognizes that one of the many benefits of living in Volusia County is the access to our many natural beauties including our beaches, rivers, springs, green spaces, and forests. The Daytona Regional Chamber believes in seeking a balance between economic growth and the protection of our natural environment. The Daytona Regional Chamber supports the continued success of environmental programs using voter approved initiatives for environmental conservation, such as, Volusia Forever and Volusia ECHO.

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports protecting the history and beauty of our beaches in Volusia County. The Daytona Regional Chamber supports compromising on beach driving ordinances to allow for vehicle-free zones, while also allowing beach driving in designated zones to honor Daytona Beach's history. The Daytona Regional Chamber also supports placing the majority of beach-related fees on tourists so that our residents may enjoy our beaches at lower costs.

Promoting Prosperity for All

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports efforts to provide equal opportunity for success for all Florida residents. The Daytona Regional Chamber supports policies to address the root causes of generational poverty such as addressing the "Benefits Cliff" of our social services that keep people in the cycle of poverty. The Daytona Regional Chamber supports business-led solutions to reducing poverty rates as opposed to a top-down government program.

> "As we continue to grow as a community, programs like Volusia Forever ensure that natural spaces are set aside for the continued enjoyment of future generations and for the wildlife that call them home. This program allows for balanced growth and preservation of the quality of life within our County."
>
> **Jessica Gow**
> Volusia Forever Chair, Daytona Regional Chamber Board Member

ELEVATE Daytona Beach

Elevate Daytona Beach

Elevate Daytona Beach's mission is to identify, share and support community leadership, innovative ideas, and local improvement programs.

Contact Ken Phelps, ken@daytonachamber.com, for more information

Gambling

The Daytona Regional Chamber is committed to maintaining a family-friendly environment in Volusia County while allowing adults to responsibly enjoy risk-based games. The Daytona Regional Chamber supports the Seminole Gaming Compact as a compromise to allow gambling while limiting casinos to tribal lands. The Daytona Regional Chamber opposes measures to adopt Las Vegas-style casino gaming.

DAYTONA REGIONAL CHAMBER ADVOCACY STAFF

The Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce is committed to advocating for a strong and competitive business environment on behalf of its members. The Daytona Regional Chamber is constantly monitoring new policy and regulatory developments at the local, state, and federal levels and ensures the business community's voice is heard and positive outcomes are achieved.



KRISTIN WEIS, CCE, IOM

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CENTER OF INFLUENCE
ADVOCACY & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Candidate Recruitment

Daytona Regional Chamber Candidate Bootcamp

The Daytona Regional Chamber is committed to assisting the right candidates run for office. Through our bi-annual *Candidate Bootcamp*, the Daytona Regional Chamber hosts training opportunities for people interested in running for elected office to better understand the needs of our community, how to run a successful campaign, and ultimately how to be an effective policymaker if they are elected. This process is the first step in the Daytona Regional Chamber's efforts to ensure that our elected officials work in partnership with our business community. ***For more information, contact Drake Wyman, Advocacy Director, drake@daytonachamber.com.***

Candidate Endorsements

Each election year, the Daytona Regional Chamber's Advocacy Task Force rigorously interviews candidates for elected office to find out where they stand of the issues that matter to our business community. Through this process, the Daytona Regional Chamber makes candidate endorsements to support those candidates who are committed to improving the business environment in our region.

Issue Support

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports or opposes policy issues that may have an impact on our business community. Through the Cornerstone Committee, the Daytona Regional Chamber tracks and makes position statements on the issues that matter most to our members. The Daytona Regional Chamber is committed to ensuring our members' voices are heard.

Getting Results

The Daytona Regional Chamber doesn't just believe in advocating for our members, we believe in delivering positive results for our business community. Through our advocacy efforts, the Daytona Regional Chamber successfully helped to defeat Amendment 3 (2024) which sought to implant California and New York-style drug laws in Florida.

The Daytona Regional Chamber also saw **7 of 8 endorsed candidates successfully be elected to office in our region.** These candidates are committed to delivering pro-business, pro-growth results in our community and we are proud to have stood by these candidates during the 2024 election cycle.

In 2026, the Daytona Regional Chamber saw **9 of 14 endorsed candidates successfully be elected to office.** These candidates will continue to help grow the economy and promote pro-business policy in Volusia.

DAYTONA REGIONAL CHAMBER
2027 KEY EVENTS

2027 Annual Meeting presented by HalifaxHealth

February 4, 2027
5:00 - 9:00 PM

Bike Week 2027

March 5-14, 2027

https://officialbikeweek.com/

Volusia Days 2027 presented by AdventHealth

March 22 - 24, 2027
Florida State Capitol, Tallahassee, FL

2027 Business Links Golf Tournament presented by Brown & Brown

April 26, 2027
8 AM - 2:30 PM
Plantation Bay Golf Course

Leadership Daytona Class XLVII

Dates TBA

CENTER OF INFLUENCE
ADVOCACY & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

2027 InterCity Trip

Date & Location TBA

2027 Annual Awards

October 2027
Location TBA

4th Annual One Table Grateful Gathering

November 2027

2027 Market Watch Economic Forecast

December 2027

For more information on any of these events, contact any Chamber staff member.

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 that benefits everyone.**

1. Intergovernmental Coordination - The Chamber supports limiting the scope of 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/county 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.
    a. **Historic Applications:** Amendment to the Volusia County Charter (Volusia Growth Management Commission - VGMC) (2016)
2. Moratoriums - The Chamber in general is hesitant about moratoriums by municipalities and will review each proposal case by case. Additionally, we encourage local governments to work directly with the key stakeholders to identify proactive solutions to concerns. (2023)
3. Land Development Code - The Chamber supports reasonable regulation of growth and development put forth by the Volusia County Association for Responsible Development (VCARD) when finalizing the rewrite of the City's Land Development Code. (2014)
4. City's Review and Permitting Process - The Chamber supports efforts to expedite the process. (2009)
5. Home Ownership Incentives - The Chamber supports the continued efforts to increase homeownership and affordable housing in Daytona Beach by using incentive packages to encourage builders to develop neighborhoods in the Midtown and Main Street redevelopment areas. (2008)
6. Homelessness - 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.
    a. **Historic Applications:** *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)

b. **Historic Applications:** First Step Shelter - The Chamber supports the proposed Safe Harbor project as a first step to address homelessness in Volusia under the following conditions: Safe Harbor should be recognized as 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 in operation costs over a 5-year period. The total budget must include a financial contribution from a minimum of twelve cities as well as the county. Governmental entities must commit to a minimum of 5 years and can only withdraw upon a 2-year notice. The project must have 25% financial participation of the operating budget from non-profit entities that work with homeless individuals. All local governments 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 be given to shelter for homeless families and adolescents. (2014)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

***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. We need to continue to promote a sound business climate that would encourage the retention and expansion of existing business and industry and the attraction of newly 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. The Chamber supports state level economic development incentives, performance-based programs and those programs that benefit our community. The Chamber recognizes the crucial role travel and tourism play in our community and in our state's economy. We support efforts to revitalize growth in all sectors of the industry. We advocate for a safe, clean, environmentally friendly beach that appeals to locals and draws tourists alike.**

1. *Small Business Bill of Rights* - The Chamber supports the US Chamber's Small Business Bill of Rights that encompasses protection against frivolous lawsuits, onerous regulations, government interference in the operations of business and the right for businesses to establish their own policies in relation to their workforce. (2023)
2. *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)
3. *Space Volusia* - The Chamber supports the efforts of Space Florida to help Florida maintain its top ranking as a viable site for commercial space launches. (2013)
4. *Daytona Beach International Airport* - The Chamber continues to support Airport officials in their efforts to secure additional airline service locally. (2011)

5. *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)
6. *Economic Development Partners* - The Chamber supports continued cooperation between the Daytona Beach Economic Advisory Board, Volusia Department of Economic Development, TEAM Volusia, CEO Business Alliance and Chamber of Commerce partners to attract and retain businesses in Volusia County. (2011)
7. *Economic Development Incentive Programs* - The Chamber supports 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)
8. *Public-Private Partnerships* - The Chamber supports exploring creative public-private funding opportunities to retain and attract business in and to Volusia County. (2004)
    a. *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)
9. *Visit Florida* - The Chamber supports funding for tourism advertising. (2014) and the continued funding of Visit Florida for tourism marketing (2023)
10. *Regulation of Vacation Rental Units* - We support regulation by city/county authorities regarding health, noise, fire code, zoning, as well as American Disabilities Act. Vacation rental units should also be responsible for collecting and remitting sales tax as well as Volusia's tourist development tax. (2019)
11. *Bed Tax Revenues* - We believe that State-authorized bed tax revenues should go to advertising/marketing to generate sustained growth in the local tourism economy, and we oppose any expansion in how bed tax revenues may be used. (2014)
12. *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)
    a. **Historic Applications:** *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. In addition to improvements to Granada Blvd., Seabreeze Blvd., Oakridge Blvd, Main Street, International Speedway Blvd., Silver Beach Ave and Dunlawton Ave, the Chamber supports the BRC Recommendations. Additionally we support A1A Corridor improvements including coordinated lighting program for all bridges leading to the beach side and more pedestrian space along east and west sides of South Atlantic Ave; Redevelopment Projects to address the area from Seabreeze Blvd to Silver Beach Ave first; take

advantage of economic conditions and availability of state and federal funding; Ocean Center/Main Street develop an RFP for a Public-Private Partnership whereby city/county-owned lands can be used for a mixed- use development that may include residential dwelling units, convention hotel, parking garage and public space; Update and improve streetscape; enhance code enforcement to improve marketability of Seabreeze Blvd./Oakridge Blvd area; provide incentives for residential development; and we increase code enforcement presence within Daytona Beach's core area and ensure homestead exemptions are properly awarded and strictly enforced. (2018)

13. *Offshore Drilling* - The Chamber supports allowing offshore energy exploration, with temporary drilling rigs no closer to shore than three nautical miles. (2010)
14. *Law Enforcement on Volusia Beaches* - The Chamber supports the incorporation of 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)
15. *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)
16. *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)
17. *Volusia Beach Reorganization Plan* - The Chamber supports efforts to improve efficiency 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)
18. *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)
19. *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)
20. *Beach Concessionaires/Appearance Standards* - The Chamber supports a consistent appearance standard regarding concessionaires' vehicles on Volusia County beaches. (1996)
21. *American Space Commerce Act* - The Chamber supports the American Space Commerce Act which would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide bonus depreciation for certain space launch expenditures and for other purposes. (2020)
22. *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)

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Basic Philosophy: **The Chamber supports initiatives that provide our school system with the latest technology and prepares our students to compete in the workforce. Such an education system, through a variety of choices, will provide excellent elementary and secondary education including 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. 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.**

1. *Leadership* - The Chamber believes strong leadership and collaboration will continue to move Volusia County schools in the right direction and add stability to our students, teachers, and the community.
   a. **Historic Applications:** Chamber letter to Dr. Fritz (2022)
2. *Volusia School District Finances* - The Chamber recommends that the Volusia School District exercise fiscal responsibility and discourage the use of reserve funds that take them below a 5% reserve fund balance, to balance its operating expense budget.
   a. Volusia School District officials should discuss defined benefit plans that reflect the present-day market, which commonly includes significant employee participation. (2016)
   b. 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)
3. *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)
4. *Florida Education State Standards* - The Chamber supports efforts to increase Volusia County metrics in testing. (2013)
5. *Outsourcing Custodial/Groundskeeping 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 hires the displaced school employees. (2013)
6. *Property Tax* - The Chamber supports exploring revenue sources for Volusia Schools provided that an oversight committee of business leaders is established to ensure the money is spent as intended, including:
   a. One mill property tax proposal (2012)
   b. Half-Cent Sales Tax Extension for Volusia Schools (2014)
7. *Raise the Wage Act* - The Chamber opposes federal HR 603 (Raise the Wage Act of 2021) based on Florida's approval (2020) to raise the State's minimum wage on an escalating scale through 2026. (2021)

8. *Protecting the Right to Organize* - The Chamber opposes federal HR 842 (Pro Act) due to unneeded and unfair workplace labor laws harming both employees and employers. (2021)
9. *Raising the Minimum Wage* - The Chamber opposes Amendment 2 to increase Florida's minimum wage to $15 an hour out of concern for our hospitality industry and small businesses. The opposition centers on our opposition to placing issues in the Florida Constitution that can be addressed through the legislative process. (2020)
10. *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. The Chamber also urges all business as well as local construction-related companies to utilize and support these programs in that they can help create better trained and higher waged workers.
    a. The Chamber opposes any requirement or incentive for companies to have a State Certified Apprenticeship program on the grounds that there are limited programs in our area resulting 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)
    b. Additionally, we support the state's continued effort to provide manufacturing skills training to enhance the workforce as a career choice for middle and high school students. (2014)
11. *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)

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 business, the general community, and the environmental community. The Chamber supports for continued success of environmental programs using voter approved initiatives for environmental conservation.**

1. *Volusia ECHO* - The Chamber supports the renewal of the Volusia ECHO referendum to levy an additional ad valorem tax not to exceed one-fifth mill for 20 years and the authorization to issue limited tax general obligation bonds not to exceed $40 million which would finance acquisition, restoration, construction, and improvement of ECHO (Environmental, Cultural, Historical, Outdoor) projects. (2020)
2. *Volusia Forever* - The Chamber supports the County's language to renew the referendum allowing the Volusia County Council to levy an additional one-fifth mill ad valorem tax for an additional twenty years to fund the acquisition of water resource and environmentally sensitive land for conservation and public use. (2020)
3. *Climate Change/Cap & Trade* - The Chamber opposes policies that jeopardize American jobs and create trade inequalities, reduces price instability for consumers; protects global competitiveness; invests in renewable energy sources; takes advantage of nuclear power; streamlines the permit system; increases our own energy security/efficiency. (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.**

1. *President Biden's Executive Order on Vaccine Mandates* - The Chamber opposes the Biden plan until it is shown through the rulemaking process that employers will have the resources, guidance, and flexibility necessary to ensure both the safety of the employees and customers, without disruption to business operations. (2021)
2. *General Budgets*
    a. *City Budget* - The Chamber supports maintaining a competitive tax rate for the City 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)
    b. *County Budget* - The Chamber supports adopting a budget that is accountable to the 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)
3. *Daytona Beach Charter Review* - While the Chamber believes that a city/county is best governed when citizens elect officeholders to make policy decisions, we also support citizen involvement via a periodic charter review process whereby amendments are decided via referendum of citizens. (2014)
    a. **Historic Applications:** *Amendments to the Daytona Beach City Charter* - The Chamber supports reducing the Planning Board from 11 to 7 members with at least one member from each commission zone. 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, and the Chamber opposes authorizing a new position of City Auditor who may be hired by and report directly to the city commission due to excessive costs and duplicate services. (2014)
4. *First Responders*
    a. *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 issues and examine differences between defined benefit vs defined contribution plans particularly for new hires. (2010)
    b. *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.**

1. *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)

IMMIGRATION

***Basic Philosophy:* The Chamber supports policies to improve border security paired with policies that will improve the operation of our legal immigration system.**

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.**

1. *Infrastructure/Half-Cent Sales Tax Referendum* - 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 and a sunset provision is provided. (2018)
2. *International Speedway Boulevard* - The Chamber supports exploring the idea of roundabouts on International Speedway Blvd at Ridgewood Ave, Peninsula Dr and SR A1A to expedite traffic flow and enhance the aesthetics in these areas. (2014)

3. *I-4/95 Interchange* - The Chamber supports an I-4/I-95 interchange that is safe for travelers and serves as a hub from which to effectively able to transport commercial loads from Volusia to other locations in Florida and elsewhere. (2014)
4. *Technology Infrastructure* - The Chamber supports working 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)
5. *SunRail* - The Chamber supports Federal, State, and local funding to continue SunRail expansion to provide regional rush-hour commuter service from Kissimmee to Orlando to DeLand. (2007)

INTERNATIONAL & TRADE

***Basic Philosophy:* The Chamber recognizes the crucial role of international trade to support the prosperity of Volusia's manufacturing community.**

1. *U.S. - Mexico-Canada-Agreement* - Support the proposed USMCA to facilitate trade between these countries. (2019)
2. *Temporary Family Visitation Act* - amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish a separate nonimmigrant classification under B visa category for family members of US citizens and permanent residents. (2019)

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**

1. *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)
2. *Depreciation* - The Chamber supports providing manufacturers with 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.**

1. *Sales Tax on Commercial Lease Properties* – The Chamber supports legislation to reduce sales tax on commercial leases by 1% starting in 2015. (2014)
2. *Communication Services Tax* - The Chamber supports reducing Florida's communication services tax rate. (2014)

3. *Wholesale Taxes for Online Travel Companies* - The Chamber opposes codifying the current practic online travel companies (OTCs) paying taxes on the wholesale accommodations rate rather than the retail accommodations rate. (2009)
4. *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 condominiums). (2009)
5. *Internet Sales Tax* - The Chamber supports protecting Florida's businesses by closing the Internet sales tax loophole. (2007)
6. *Half-cent Sales Tax* - The Chamber will support the proposed half-cent sales tax referendum to be used to fund infrastructure projects throughout Volusia County (2018)

PROPERTY INSURANCE

Basic Philosophy: **We support a competitive and stable insurance market and a reduction of size and exposure to Citizens' Insurance.**

Daytona Regional
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CENTER OF INFLUENCE
ADVOCACY & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Accredited Chamber
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