



2016 Chamber Recommendations for Volusia County

Quality of Life

1. The Chamber supports a proactive, community-wide approach to assisting homeless people in Volusia County, such as Safe Harbor, rapid rehousing and other plans that utilize the combined financial participation and resources of the county, cities and private sector.

Importance to business – To be successful, all local business districts (retail, service or professional) must provide an environment for their customers and clients that projects a safe and secure place to do business.

2. The Chamber supports the enhancement of the core tourist/resort section of Daytona Beach (from University Blvd to Silver Beach Ave) through:
 - a. The continued acquisition of off-beach parking,
 - b. Pursuit of the planned expansion of the Boardwalk
 - c. Greater utilization of the beach and beachfront for events and activities that promote entertainment and recreation for tourists and citizens.

Importance to business – A healthy Daytona Beach core tourist district is vital to the success of convention business (Ocean Center) and traditional tourism, both of which are critically important to the economy of east Volusia.

Build/Maintain Infrastructure

3. The Chamber supports the pursuit of public funding for Volusia County's transportation infrastructure, including roadway maintenance and expansion, Votran, Sunrail, etc. Various funding sources should be considered, including a half-cent sales tax and matching funds from state and federal sources.

Importance to business – Public transportation and an effective road network are vital for any city/county in terms of economic development.

4. The Chamber supports the County's cooperative involvement with the City of Daytona Beach in the redevelopment of East International Speedway Blvd (Halifax River to A1A) and will facilitate joint efforts to bring about needed improvements.

Importance to business – ISB (Halifax River to A1A) is the Gateway to the beachside and provides our visitors' first impression of the entire tourist district.

Position Statements for Ongoing Issues.....

- The Chamber supports County incentives for major economic development projects and encourages requirements for firms receiving such assistance to use Volusia home/office based contractors for a specified percentage of the project's work.

Importance to business – Volusia's construction businesses plays in vital role in our local economy by providing jobs, paying taxes and supporting local organizations.

- The Chamber supports a frugal (but responsible) budget that is not disproportionately burdensome to local businesses, so we remain competitive with surrounding counties yet able to fund our needs.

Importance to business – Property taxes on local businesses in large part subsidize homesteaded properties that in aggregate require substantially more government services. Equitable tax treatment is critical to a vibrant business sector and can help reduce inflation of prices for goods and services.

- The Chamber supports continued exploration of fire and emergency medical services consolidation between the County and various municipalities.

Importance to business – Cost savings and operating efficiencies can be gained through unified service areas which in turn should create budget savings.