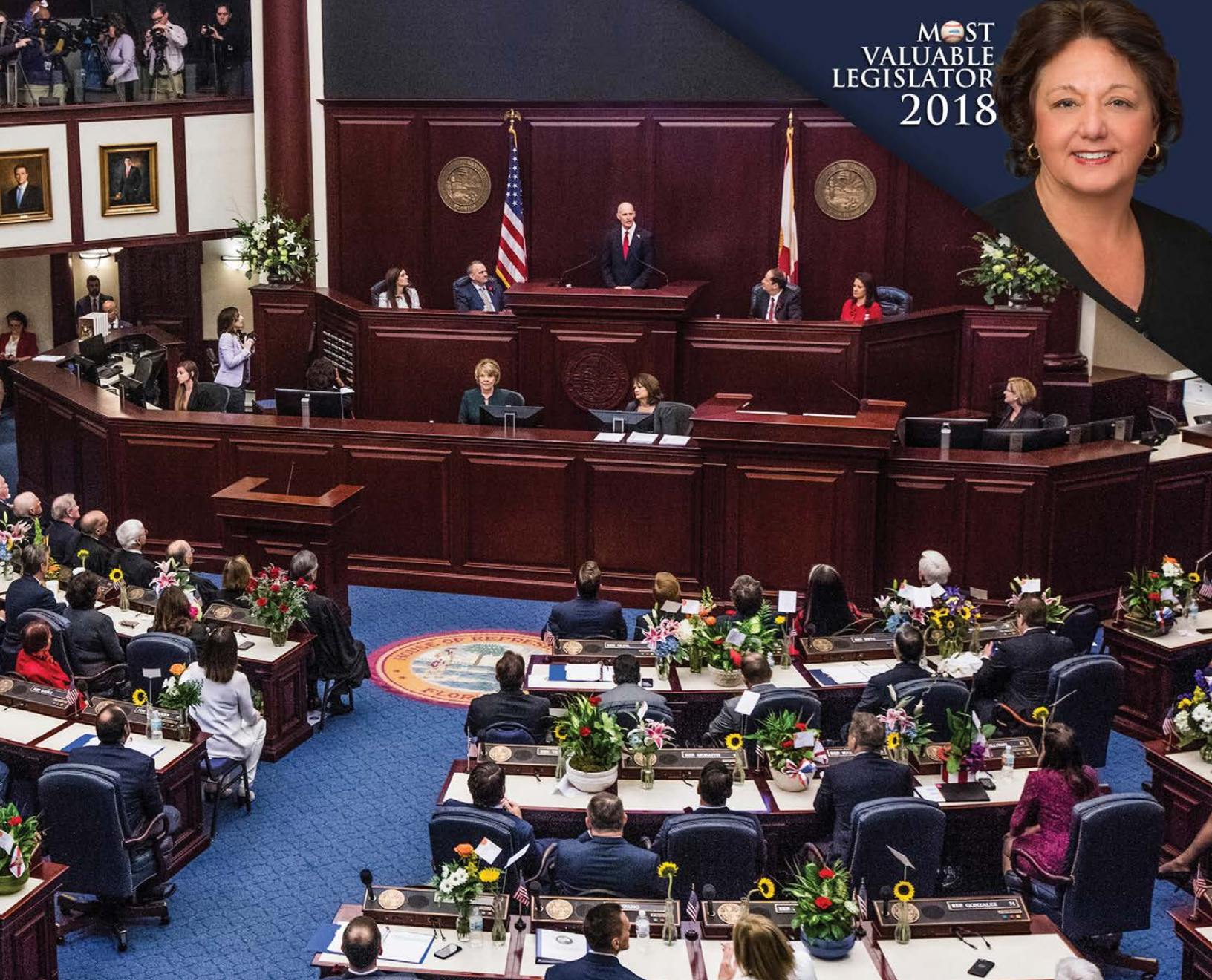


**MOST VALUABLE LEGISLATOR 2018**



# HOW THEY VOTED

Where Legislators Stood on the Florida Chamber's 2018 Jobs and Competitiveness Agenda



**FLORIDA CHAMBER**  
*of Commerce*

SECURING FLORIDA'S FUTURE  
FloridaChamber.com



# 2018 Legislative Summary



**Bob Grammig**  
2017-2018 Chair  
Florida Chamber of Commerce



**Mark Wilson**  
President and CEO  
Florida Chamber of Commerce

Florida Chamber Members and Friends,

Last fall, two months before the start of the 2018 Legislative Session, the Florida Chamber of Commerce put forward legislative recommendations designed to make Florida more competitive. The 2018 Jobs Agenda provided a road-map to continue strengthening Florida's economy, spur smart growth, and create quality jobs and economic opportunity for everyone.

Year after year, the Florida Chamber has been at the forefront of solving issues that impact Florida's business climate. We set off the 2018 Legislative Session with three priorities in mind: reducing the cost of living, reducing the cost of doing business and preparing for the future.

With only weeks remaining in the 60-day session, tragedy occurred, and rightfully so, lawmakers took steps to pass school safety measures. However, on the whole, lawmakers ultimately made it a bit more expensive for families and small businesses and a little less competitive for Florida job creators.

Recognizing that economic, political and demographic shifts have placed Florida in a fragile and changing position, it's vital that Florida's business community elect pro-jobs candidates to ensure unfinished business from this year's legislative session makes it across the finish line next session.

In November, voters will elect a new governor, and three other members of the Florida Cabinet, 120 members of the Florida House and 20 members to the Florida Senate. Our focus will continue to be on unifying Florida's business community to not only make sure the right things happen in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C., but that the right people are elected in order to keep those seeking to slow job creation out of office.

The Florida Chamber's 2018 edition of **How They Voted** includes:

- ▶ Results of the Florida Chamber's 2018 Jobs Agenda, including details of how the Florida Chamber stopped 14 job killing proposals that would have hurt growth
- ▶ The Florida Chamber's Annual Legislative Report Card, a comprehensive report based on thousands of individual votes cast by lawmakers, which provides members with objective information on how legislators voted on your key legislative priorities.

We look forward to continuing to work with elected leaders in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C., to make sure the right things continue to happen in Florida.

Sincerely,

**Bob Grammig**  
2017-2018 Chair  
Florida Chamber of Commerce

**Mark Wilson**  
President and CEO  
Florida Chamber of Commerce

## GET INVOLVED:

Make a difference by contacting Joshua Gabel in our Grassroots Engagement office at 850-521-1215, by email at [jgabel@flchamber.com](mailto:jgabel@flchamber.com) or visit [www.FloridaChamber.com](http://www.FloridaChamber.com) for more information.

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# Free Enterprise Isn't Free



Doug Davidson, Chair, Florida Chamber Foundation Board of Trustees, and Bob Grammig, Chair, Florida Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors at the Florida Chamber Foundation's 2017 Future of Florida Forum.

“The Florida Chamber of Commerce is the non-profit in Florida fighting to make sure you don't become one too.”

**MARK WILSON**  
President and CEO  
Florida Chamber of Commerce

## GET INVOLVED:

Help the Florida Chamber make Florida more competitive by contacting Joshua Gabel in our Grassroots Engagement office at 850-521-1215, by email at [jgabel@flchamber.com](mailto:jgabel@flchamber.com) or visit [www.FloridaChamber.com](http://www.FloridaChamber.com) for more information.

Every day, the Florida Chamber of Commerce unifies Florida's business community. Our focus, through smart policy, helping to elect pro-jobs candidates and forward-looking research, is to make Florida more competitive so Florida's job creators can create quality jobs, and economic prosperity for all.

Today, Florida's future remains our number one priority as we continue to be the state that others look to for leadership.

Consider the facts:

- ▶ We predict Florida will become a \$1 trillion economy in 2018,
- ▶ Florida is the third most populous state in the nation, and is expected to grow to 26 million people by 2030—that's 5 million more residents,
- ▶ Nearly 1 in 14 jobs in the United States are created in Florida,
- ▶ Voter turnout continues to increase with 75 percent of registered voters turning out to vote in the 2016 Presidential election cycle,
- ▶ Florida is second in the nation for 4-year public college affordability, and
- ▶ Unemployment rates continue to be lower than the national average, with Florida's unemployment rate at 3.9 percent as of February 2018.

**However, Florida stands on the precipice of a crisis once more.** Short-term politics instead of long-term economic prosperity, special interest agendas of environmental extremists, government unions, plaintiff trial lawyers and out-of-state billionaires with extreme agendas have made Florida's position more precarious than many leaders understand or want to admit.

Environmental extremists continue in their efforts to over-regulate Florida and disrupt smarter growth policies that protect the environment. By using sound science, we can prepare Florida for the water and energy needs associated with a growing population.

Government unions who think their interests come before the needs of Florida's students and workers are still trying to take options away from educators, families and employees.

Plaintiff trial lawyers continue to look for jackpot payouts at the expense of Florida's families and small businesses. From Florida's worsening lawsuit abuse problem to our workers' compensation crisis, Florida's business climate is at risk of becoming less competitive.





**The truth is, things are fragile.** There are those who would have you believe Florida's success is due only to the beauty of our natural resources, no personal income tax, our white sandy beaches and our world-famous sunshine. But, experience has shown that Florida moves forward when our business community unites around the principles of free enterprise. Only then, together, can we build a stronger Florida—a Florida that can be a leader in private-sector jobs not only in the U.S., but globally.

**For those interested in fighting against special interests and who believe in Florida's future – we invite you to join the fight.** The battle for free enterprise continues and we welcome your support. For those of you who have already joined us in the arena to fight for free enterprise, we thank you.

Despite the seemingly unlimited resources of anti-business, anti-jobs groups, their policies of less freedom and less competitiveness have never worked—and they never will. That's why the Florida Chamber, our members and partners will keep fighting to make Florida America's best hope. We won't give up the fight for what's right for Florida—from the Florida Legislature to the Florida Cabinet, from state to federal agencies, from the court of law to the court of public opinion. When the battle is about what is best for Florida's future, the Florida Chamber is on the front lines. **When businesses stay unified, we win.**

At the Florida Chamber, we believe:

- ▶ In a **robust free enterprise system** with limited intrusion by government in the marketplace,
- ▶ In a **high-quality education and workforce development system** that will enable all Floridians to compete in the 21st century global economy,
- ▶ In **fair and predictable laws and regulations** that promote economic development and do not impose unreasonable costs on businesses or their customers,
- ▶ In a **simple, fair and globally competitive tax structure,**
- ▶ In **fiscal responsibility, public accountability and transparency** in government,
- ▶ In a **reliable and sustainable infrastructure** to support the health and prosperity of all Floridians,
- ▶ In a **constructive and positive labor environment** in Florida that generates jobs, and
- ▶ In a **unified and responsible business community** that acts in the long-term interest of Florida.

On behalf of Florida's leading employers, we would like to thank those legislators, Democrats, Republicans and Independents, who put Florida's competitiveness ahead of short term politics.



Florida Governor Rick Scott joins Florida Chamber Board of Directors members to discuss the future of Florida.

**“As Governor, I want to thank you [business leaders] and the Florida Chamber of Commerce for all you are doing to create opportunities for Florida families.”**

**FLORIDA GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT**

**GET INVOLVED:**

If you believe in free enterprise, support our cause by investing, volunteering, writing your legislator or sharing your voice with us. Contact the Florida Chamber's Grassroots Engagement office at [jgabel@flchamber.com](mailto:jgabel@flchamber.com) or by calling 850-521-1215.



# Closing Florida's Talent Gap by Improving Educational Opportunities



Florida Commissioner of Education, Pam Stewart discusses the importance of investing in education initiatives at the Florida Chamber Foundation's annual Workforce Summit.

“Thanks to organizations like the Florida Chamber, who continuously work to close the skills gap, students can enter the workforce knowing they'll have the skills necessary to succeed.”

**PAM STEWART**  
Florida Commissioner of Education

“A qualified workforce starts with quality education. We are proud to stand with the Florida Chamber of Commerce as they continuously work to improve educational opportunities across Florida.”

**ALFRED SANCHEZ**  
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

## WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

- ▶ CareerSource Florida
- ▶ Children's Movement of Florida
- ▶ Florida College System
- ▶ Code.org
- ▶ Florida Council of 100
- ▶ Florida Council on Economic Education
- ▶ Florida Department of Education
- ▶ Florida Research Consortium
- ▶ Florida State University System
- ▶ Florida TaxWatch
- ▶ Foundation for Florida's Future
- ▶ Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida
- ▶ James Madison Institute
- ▶ Project Lead the Way
- ▶ TechNet
- ▶ U.S. Chamber of Commerce

## Why It Matters To Florida

Florida wins when we work to close the talent gap by putting students ahead of special interests. From local businesses to major corporations, a qualified workforce remains a top concern for job creators in Florida. From early learning to lifelong opportunities, the Florida Chamber continues to work with education, business, and workforce leaders to champion the best possible education system for Florida.



For a more in-depth look at these issues and more, visit [www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues).

## The Progress We've Made

### K-12

#### Innovation is Essential

The Florida Chamber understands the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Education, Mathematics) education in schools. We successfully supported legislation focused on introducing STEM concepts like computer science and coding instruction throughout Florida's education system in order to ensure that Florida's students become globally competitive.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

Latest available data shows there are more than **65,000 unfilled STEM jobs** available in Florida.

Learn more about talent and economic development at

[www.FloridaWins.org/TalentEcon](http://www.FloridaWins.org/TalentEcon)

#### School Choice Matters

At the Florida Chamber, we recognize that education is not a one-size fits all option. We continued to advocate for parents to choose the best learning environment for their children—giving students more opportunities for success and overall, improving Florida's education system.

### EARLY LEARNING

#### All Students Should be Prepared for Success

The Florida Chamber continued to focus on preparing children to learn and ensuring they develop self-discipline, persistence, and cooperation skills that are essential to a child's future success in the workforce.





# Talent Supply & Education

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### Greater Access to Higher Education and Attainment

The Florida Chamber continued to support legislation that expands financial assistance for students through Florida's Bright Future's scholarship program, and provides the resources Florida's state universities need to increase their ability to compete as national destination universities.



### JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Register today for the Florida Chamber Foundation's Learners to Earners Workforce Summit to learn more on how businesses can ensure Florida's workforce is ready to meet future needs.

[www.FloridaChamber.com/WorkforceSummit](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/WorkforceSummit)

## Talent is Florida's Best Economic Development Tool

- ✓ Achievement gaps are closing
- ✓ High School graduation rates are at an 11-year high
- ✓ Third grade reading scores are improving

YET between now and 2030, **2 million** more jobs will be needed.

By 2030, **60 percent** of jobs will require a post secondary degree.

### FLORIDA'S SKILLS GAP CONTINUES TO GROW

There are more than **398,000** people looking for jobs and **250,100** Florida jobs looking for people.

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P** Florida's wins when we focus on a cradle to career continuum that provides education opportunities and training pathways for all our state's learners.

### GET INVOLVED:

Businesses can make the difference—see how you can be part of the learners to earners workforce conversation by emailing [TLowe@FLFoundation.org](mailto:TLowe@FLFoundation.org) to get involved.

Source: TheFloridaScorecard.org; Florida Department of Education

## The Fight For Free Enterprise Continues

Florida's ongoing education reforms are helping our students become more globally competitive, but our fight is far from over. We will continue to pave the way toward jobs of the future by supporting innovative solutions to address the skills gap and prepare students for their future workforce.

## WORKFORCE

### Preparing Florida's Workforce and Addressing Florida's Skills Gap

To ensure Florida's students are adequately prepared to enter the workforce, the Florida Chamber will continue to fight to increase educational opportunities in both higher educational institutions and in 21st century vocational trades. This means continuing to champion greater access to, and funding for, quality workforce education programs that link education to job creation.

**“In the next 10 years, Florida will create two million more jobs. Florida's students need to attain the right skills to enter the workforce, which is what we're focused on every day.”**

WILLIAM J. LENNOX JR. | Saint Leo University



# Diversifying Florida's Economy by Creating High-Wage Jobs



Former U.S. Senator Mel Martinez addresses industry leaders during the Florida Chamber's 2018 Capitol Days.

“We are committed to investing the time and resources necessary to support economic development and jobs in our state, and we strongly support the Florida Chamber's goal of making Florida a great place to live, work and do business.”

FORMER U.S. SENATOR MEL MARTINEZ

“By partnering with the Florida Chamber of Commerce we can continue to advance innovations that keep Florida a leader in job creation.”

SUSAN M. DAVENPORT  
Gainesville Chamber of Commerce

## WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

- ▶ Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- ▶ Film Florida
- ▶ Florida Airports Council
- ▶ Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
- ▶ Florida Department of Transportation
- ▶ Florida Economic Development Council
- ▶ FloridaMakes
- ▶ Florida Ports Council
- ▶ Florida Small Business Development Centers
- ▶ Manufacturers Association of Florida
- ▶ Space Florida
- ▶ VISIT FLORIDA

## Why It Matters To Florida

Florida has created nearly 1.5 million private-sector jobs since 2010. Growing and diversifying Florida's economy is essential to creating jobs and opportunities for all Floridians. At the Florida Chamber, we continue to believe that by building on Florida's foundational industries—tourism, agriculture and construction—and investing in innovative next generation sectors such as aviation and aerospace, logistics and distribution, manufacturing, and defense and homeland security, Florida can attract a world class workforce and lead the way in job creation.



For a more in-depth look at these issues and more, visit [www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues).

## The Progress We've Made

### INNOVATION ECONOMY

#### Diversified Our Economy and Created Jobs Through Economic Development

The Florida Chamber understands the impact legislative decisions can have on the future of Florida's economy. We supported full funding initiatives for the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund so Florida can continue improving its position as a leader in job creation, infrastructure and economic development.

#### Fostered Innovation by Growing Targeted Industries

Supporting innovations in emerging industries will lead the way toward a more diverse economy. The Florida Chamber supported projects that diversify Florida's economy and attract businesses through innovations in technology, research and development and public-private partnerships.

### GLOBAL TRADE

#### Grew Florida's Manufacturing Industry

Florida's manufacturing industry has remained strong over the past year in terms of percentage growth, and ended 2017 with the second highest growth rate of jobs in Florida. We continued to support efforts to help Florida's manufacturing industry create high-skills, high-wage jobs that make Florida more globally competitive.

### AVIATION & AEROSPACE

#### Strengthened Florida's Leadership in Space Exploration

With new programs bringing life back to Florida's Kennedy Space Center, the Florida Chamber remains committed to strengthening Florida's role in space exploration by supporting growing public and commercial space projects, and investing in a skilled aerospace workforce.





# Innovation & Economic Development

## VETERANS, DEFENSE & MILITARY INDUSTRY

### Supported Florida's Veterans, Defense & Military Industry

With more than **20 military bases, three combat command centers and 1.5 million veterans in Florida**, the Florida Chamber continued to support bills that would make Florida the most veteran-friendly state in the nation.

**"Florida Polytechnic University is committed to driving economic impact, producing highly sought-after graduates and developing students to be the innovative leaders of tomorrow's high-tech companies."**

DR. RANDY K. AVENT | Florida Polytechnic University

## The Fight For Free Enterprise Continues

By the end of 2018, Florida is expected to have a \$1 trillion economy, already larger than the Netherlands and preparing to overtake Mexico's position in the global economy. While Florida's economic outlook is positive, our fight is far from over. For Florida to remain a leader in job creation, Florida must continue to expand into new industries and strengthen international trade relationships while supporting industries already in Florida like aerospace and our growing defense and military industry.

## INNOVATION ECONOMY

### Championing Rural Business Opportunities

The Florida Chamber will continue to support legislation to increase investments for Rural Areas of Opportunity and measures to increase transparency within rural economic development funding. With five million more people expected to call Florida home by 2030, the Florida Chamber will continue to support policies promoting job creation in rural communities to help increase economic growth throughout Florida.

## ENTREPRENEURISM

### Growing Florida's Small Businesses

Florida's small business community is increasingly concerned about workforce quality and government intervention creating challenges as Florida's economy grows. As the Florida Chamber works to secure Florida's future, it is vital we understand what issues are most important to small businesses and support reforms that allow the small business community to have access to resources they need to grow.

## GLOBAL TRADE

### Becoming a Leader in Global Trade & Investment

Recent available data shows Florida's seaports support more than 900,000 jobs in Florida, strengthening Florida's economy and positioning Florida as a hub for global trade. The Florida Chamber is committed to strengthening Florida's role as a global trade leader in an increasingly interconnected economy.

## Florida is a Small Business State

The Florida Chamber's most recent Small Business Index Survey shows top small business concerns include:

- ✓ Workforce Quality
- ✓ Government Regulations
- ✓ Healthcare Costs
- ✓ Lawsuit Abuse

### YEAR OVER YEAR JOB GROWTH IS DECREASING

IN 2016 FLORIDA HAD  
**245,100 JOBS**

BUT BY THE END OF 2017  
**163,100 JOBS**



**Can Florida continue to diversify its economy and create high-wage jobs?**

### FLORIDA CONTINUES TO GROW

Yet California had **25 TIMES** the number of deals funded by venture capital over the past year than Florida.

In fact, California attracts in **20 days** the amount of venture capital Florida gets in **1 year**.

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In order to continue growing the best business climate in the nation, we must continue to provide opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs to succeed.

### GET INVOLVED:

Two out of three Florida jobs are created by small businesses. Help keep Florida's small business community thriving by joining the Florida Chamber's Small Business Council. Contact Carolyn Johnson at [CJohnson@FLChamber.com](mailto:CJohnson@FLChamber.com) today.

Sources: Florida Chamber Foundation; Tax Foundation; Florida Governor Scott



# Preparing Florida's Infrastructure for Smarter Growth



Mike Dew, Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation addresses industry leaders at the Florida Chamber Foundation's annual Transportation Summit.

“What we are trying to do is make sure that we are doing everything possible to keep up with the growth we are experiencing now, and to prepare for the growth we will continue to have in the future.”

MIKE DEW  
Florida Department of Transportation

“Florida welcomes almost 900 new residents each day, so by working with organizations like the Florida Chamber, we can be sure Florida will have the infrastructure it needs to support present and future residents.”

MICHAEL DALBY  
Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce

## WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

- ▶ Associated Builders & Contractors of Florida
- ▶ Consumer Energy Alliance
- ▶ Nature Conservancy
- ▶ Florida Airports Council
- ▶ Florida Department of Transportation
- ▶ Florida Electric Cooperatives Association
- ▶ Florida Farm Bureau
- ▶ Florida Home Builders Association
- ▶ Florida Land Council
- ▶ Florida Natural Gas Association
- ▶ Florida Ports Council
- ▶ Floridians for Better Transportation
- ▶ NAIOP of Florida
- ▶ Space Florida

## Why It Matters To Florida

According to research from the Florida Chamber Foundation, each day nearly 900 new residents call Florida home, and by 2030, Florida's population will reach 26 million. The Florida Chamber is focused on creating long-term investments in Florida's energy, water, transportation, telecommunications, agriculture, and other infrastructure. Recognizing the need for new and disruptive technologies, the Florida Chamber embraced improvements to autonomous innovations, and backed reducing uncertainty in infrastructure projects—positioning Florida for smarter growth.



For a more in-depth look at these issues and more, visit [www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues).

## The Progress We've Made

### TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

#### Championed Innovations in All Modes of Transportation

As 2030 approaches, Florida's infrastructure must be able to accommodate **more than 3 million new drivers**. The Florida Chamber protected rail networks from costly and duplicative regulations and costly mandates on autonomous vehicles, all while ensuring Floridians in every mode of transportation are safe. We will continue to champion technologies like ride-sharing options, electric cars, high-speed rail and other modes of accessible and reliable transportation for Florida.

“Innovations that make transportation by land or air accessible and reliable help create economic opportunities for all Floridians and accommodate a rapidly growing Florida.”

DAWN WHITE | American Airlines

### ENERGY

#### Advocated for Efficient and Sustainable Energy Solutions

Long-term sustainable energy solutions are vital to supporting Florida's economic growth. To prepare for the future, lawmakers passed Florida Chamber-backed legislation that would bring regulatory certainty to the practice of lawfully sitting transmission lines and other important infrastructure projects. This legislation is another step forward in ensuring cost-efficient and modern energy solutions for a growing Florida.





# Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

## The Fight For Free Enterprise Continues

A growing economy for tomorrow means long-term investments in Florida's infrastructure today. The Florida Chamber will continue to put Florida's families and businesses ahead of environmental extremists and special interest groups who constantly try to make Florida less free and more like California. We will continue to focus on:

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

### Championing Long-Term, Sustainable Water and Environmental Policies

An increased population means an increased need for vital resources such as water. **By 2030, the Florida Chamber Foundation estimates Florida's water demand will grow by 20 percent.** From a single glass of water to fueling Florida's large agriculture industry, water discussions must take into account the needs of the future so sound policies can be enacted today. The Florida Chamber will continue to fight to ensure Florida's water future is sustainable and provides the quality of life Floridians and visitors deserve.

## RISK PREPAREDNESS

### Ensuring Floridians Are Prepared for a Storm, No Matter What

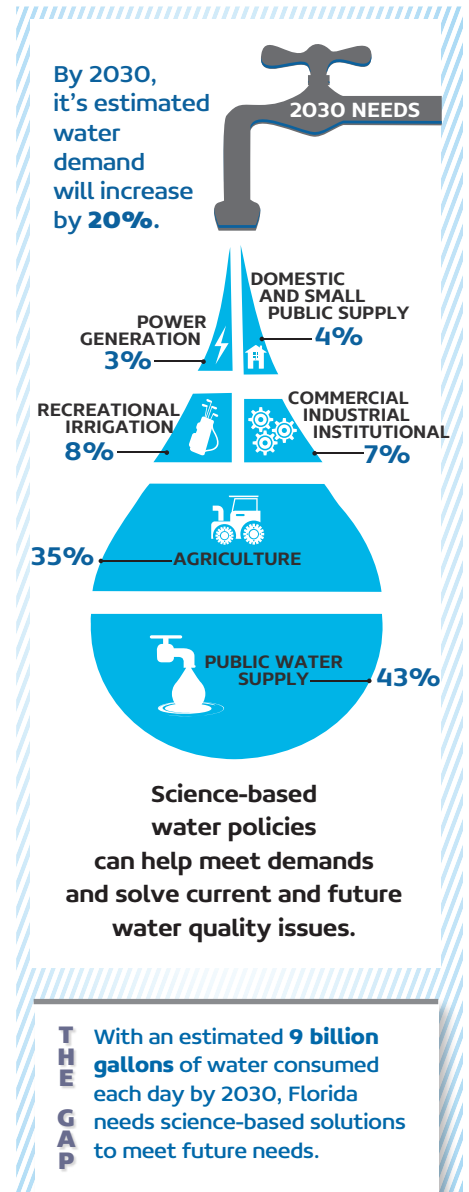
With the effects of hurricane season still looming for Florida's residents and agriculture industry, the Florida Chamber will continue to support families and businesses by eliminating policies that create instability within Florida's Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, and by working to ensure quick recovery for families and small businesses.

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

### Supporting Proactive Economic Planning and Development

The Florida Chamber will continue to work toward improving and streamlining state, regional and local processes for planning and development by embracing proactive growth leadership initiatives and reducing the number of bureaucratic barriers holding businesses back.

## Florida's Future Requires Long-Term Water Solutions



**WHAT DOES THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION IN FLORIDA LOOK LIKE TO YOU?**

Please share more about Florida's transportation future with your employees by visiting [www.FloridaWins.org/Transportation](http://www.FloridaWins.org/Transportation)

**GET INVOLVED:** Help secure Florida's water future by contacting Christopher Emmanuel at [CEmanuel@FLChamber.com](mailto:CEmanuel@FLChamber.com).

Sources: Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Florida Chamber Foundation



# Keeping Florida's Business Climate Competitive



Members of the Florida Consumer Protection Coalition are fed up with the legislature raising home owner and auto owner insurance rates.

“The Florida Chamber has done great work on shining a light and recognizing the problem with AOB abuse in Florida.”

**TIGER JOYCE**  
American Tort Reform Association

“In order for Florida to remain competitive, we must address workers' compensation rates and Assignment of Benefits abuse. We proudly support the Florida Chamber of Commerce and their efforts to protect Florida's businesses and homeowners.”

**DAN LINDBLADE**  
Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce

## WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

- ▶ Associated Industries of Florida
- ▶ Florida Association of Insurance Agents
- ▶ Florida Insurance Council
- ▶ Florida Justice Reform Institute
- ▶ Florida Realtors®
- ▶ Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association
- ▶ Florida Retail Federation
- ▶ Florida's Small Business Development Center Network
- ▶ NAIOP
- ▶ National Federation of Independent Business
- ▶ Personal Insurance Federation of Florida
- ▶ R Street Institute

## Why It Matters To Florida

As one of the nation's top business climates, Florida is on the right track to becoming globally competitive. However, while Florida boasts a growing economy and job creation numbers that outpace the national average, Florida also bears the title as the worst “Judicial Hellhole” in the nation, according to the American Tort Reform Association. As well-funded trial lawyers attempted to push their special-interest agendas this legislative session, the Florida Chamber successfully fought to build a business climate that attracts new investments, and stops unnecessary burdens on Florida's families and businesses.



For a more in-depth look at these issues and more, visit [www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues).

## The Progress We've Made

### TAXES

#### Advanced Smarter and Competitive Tax Policies

A competitive and equitable tax system encourages job growth and strengthens Florida's economy. While Florida has no personal income tax and has successfully cut taxes and fees by \$10 billion since 2010, the Florida Chamber continued to fight for tax policies that allow businesses to expand and remain competitive.

The Florida Chamber supported:

- ▶ Reducing the Florida-only Business Rent Tax,
- ▶ Providing consumers with sales tax holidays for back-to-school and hurricanes,
- ▶ Reducing Florida's corporate income tax, and
- ▶ Creating a sales tax holiday for small businesses on “Small Business Saturday.”





# Business Climate & Competitiveness

## REGULATIONS

### Streamlined Regulations to Protect Florida's Jobs

The Florida Chamber continues to fight to protect businesses and families from costly regulations that hurt Florida's national and international competitiveness. This legislative session we defeated legislation focused on killing starting wage and training jobs, and restricting job creators through their hiring processes.

## COMMERCIAL INSURANCE

### Furthered Competitive Unemployment Compensation Taxes

Thanks to the efforts of Governor Scott, Florida's reemployment tax will remain at its lowest for the third year in a row. The Florida Chamber believes that no business should be burdened by the excessive costs of unemployment compensation taxes and will continue to protect employees by lowering these taxes when necessary.

**“As a leader in U.S. job creation, we must continue to market Florida as the state with the best environment for businesses to grow and stay. By partnering with the Florida Chamber, we are able to spur smart conversation on ways to create economic growth for a more globally competitive Florida.”**

QUINT STUDER | Studer Family of Companies

## PROPERTY RIGHTS

### Protected Private Property Rights

The Florida Chamber believes in Florida's businesses and their rights to decide what happens on their private property. We opposed initiatives that created a threat to business owner's private property rights.

## WORKPLACE & EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

### Prevented Employment Regulations and Mandates

The Florida Chamber continued to oppose mandates on job creators that can impact employment decisions and are detrimental to the employer-employee relationship.

## The Cost of Living in a “Judicial Hellhole”

A bottom-five legal climate is an open invitation for “gotcha” lawsuits.

### THE COSTS:



BOTTOM-5 LEGAL CLIMATE: **\$3,400 a year** per family



AOB INSURANCE FRAUD: **10% increase** in property insurance rates



WATER CLAIMS WITH AOB FORM: **50% more costly** than those without



**5<sup>TH</sup> WORST**

THE GAP

In order to change Florida's 'Judicial Hellhole' reputation, we must continue to push for a better legal climate and say “no” to special interest agendas of trial lawyers.

### GET INVOLVED:

Florida's bottom-five legal climate hurts our ability to remain competitive in the global marketplace. Join the Florida Chamber's efforts to reform Florida's broken legal system by contacting [CJohnson@FLChamber.com](mailto:CJohnson@FLChamber.com).

Sources: Florida Office of Insurance Regulation; The Florida Institute for Legal Reform; [www.FightFraud.Today](http://www.FightFraud.Today)



# Keeping Florida's Business Climate Competitive



Jimmy Patronis, Florida Chief Financial Officer, addresses Florida Chamber members at the Florida Chamber's annual Capitol Days in Tallahassee.

“I appreciate the Florida Chamber's leadership and what they are doing for the state. Thank you for coming up and bringing reality to fantasyland.”

JIMMY PATRONIS  
Florida Chief Financial Officer

## The Fight For Free Enterprise Continues

Florida continues to be an example of successful economic growth for the nation, as the third most populous state in the nation with an unemployment rate that continues to drop lower than the national average. However, to maintain a competitive business climate, we must continue to fight the growing lawsuit abuse problems that Florida faces. From AOB abuse to unfair liability environments for medical professionals, in order to position Florida as the best state for business, the Florida Chamber will continue fighting for:

### COMMERCIAL INSURANCE

#### Fixing Florida's Workers' Compensation System

The Florida Chamber knows an unstable and unpredictable workers' compensation system leaves injured workers and job creators footing the bill. **The Florida Chamber has actively worked to reduce workers' comp rates by more than 60 percent in the past ten years** and we will continue to fight for policies and workers' comp reforms that will reduce rates, protect injured workers and bring stability to the system.

“In my opinion, the number one job killer in the state of Florida is an increasing workers' compensation rate.”

REPRESENTATIVE JAY TRUMBULL | R-Panama City

#### Creating Competitive and Stable Insurance Markets

**Assignment of Benefits (AOB) abuse continues to plague Florida's families and business climate, with more than 28,000 lawsuits in 2016 alone.** Together with our partners at the Consumer Protection Coalition, the Florida Chamber will continue to lead efforts to protect consumers by addressing AOB abuse for both homeowners and auto owners, while opposing initiatives that would put trial lawyers before Florida's consumers.

“Free enterprise, to me, is a healthy competitive environment where businesses can compete and the best ideas and best efforts are the ones that are rewarded.”

JORGE GONZALEZ  
St. Joe Company

#### WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

- ▶ Associated Industries of Florida
- ▶ Florida Association of Insurance Agents
- ▶ Florida Insurance Council
- ▶ Florida Justice Reform Institute
- ▶ Florida Realtors®
- ▶ Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association
- ▶ Florida Retail Federation
- ▶ Florida's Small Business Development Center Network
- ▶ NAIOP
- ▶ National Federation of Independent Business
- ▶ Personal Insurance Federation of Florida
- ▶ R Street Institute

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The Wall Street Journal has written **seven** articles this past year highlighting Florida's AOB lawsuit abuse problem. To learn about this growing problem visit [www.FightFraud.today](http://www.FightFraud.today).



# Business Climate & Competitiveness

## WORKPLACE & EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

### Protecting Job Creators and Employees in Wage Disputes

The Florida Chamber will continue ensuring laws are designed to guarantee employees are not denied their rightful wages and employers are not unjustly targeted.

“In order to create a vibrant business climate we need to do a number of things which would include reducing taxes on our businesses, reducing regulations and also helping our residents.”

SENATOR KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO | R-Naples

## LEGAL REFORM

### Fixing Florida's Broken Lawsuit Climate

According to the American Tort Reform Association's annual report, Florida ranks number one as the worst "Judicial Hellhole" in the nation. Lawsuit abuse in Florida is an increasingly serious and expensive problem, and it keeps getting worse. Florida's families and businesses are burdened with a \$3,400 "tax" due to higher costs of living. The Florida Chamber, along with partners at the Florida Justice Reform Institute and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Legal Reform, will continue to fight against trial lawyers for common-sense reforms to Florida's broken legal system.

### Creating a Fair Liability Environment to Attract and Keep Medical Professionals

In order to attract and keep world-class medical professionals in Florida, the Florida Chamber will continue to discourage unjustified lawsuits and maintain a fair medical liability environment.



**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

Register today for the Florida Chamber's annual Insurance Summit to learn more about Florida's business and insurance climate

[www.FloridaChamber.com/InsuranceSummit](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/InsuranceSummit)

## Rising Workers' Comp Rates Will Stunt Economic Opportunities



Florida's Supreme Court rulings mean workers' comp rates are costing Florida job creators more than **\$1.5 BILLION**

Because of plaintiff trial lawyer tactics, business owners must now make a choice:



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P** The Florida Chamber will work to unite Florida's business community to bring stability and predictability to Florida's workers' compensation system.

### GET INVOLVED:

Get involved with the Florida Chamber's Workers' Comp Task Force and help make Florida more competitive. Contact Carolyn Johnson at [CJohnson@FLChamber.com](mailto:CJohnson@FLChamber.com).

Sources: Office of Insurance Regulation; Florida Chamber of Commerce





# Making Government More Efficient



Florida Governor Rick Scott addresses Chamber members at the Florida Chamber Foundation's annual Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunity Summit.

“The Florida Chamber has always understood that in order to get the policy right you have to get the politics right, and they continue to be a leader in that regard.”

WILL WEATHERFORD  
Weatherford Capitol

“A restrictive government hurts the growth of business. Florida must continue pushing for transparent and effective reforms.”

REPRESENTATIVE CLAY INGRAM  
Pensacola Chamber of Commerce

## WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

- ▶ Central Florida Partnership
- ▶ Florida Association of Counties, Inc.
- ▶ Florida Bankers Association
- ▶ Florida Council of 100
- ▶ Florida League of Cities
- ▶ James Madison Institute
- ▶ National Federation of Independent Businesses
- ▶ Tampa Bay Partnership
- ▶ U.S. Chamber of Commerce

## Why It Matters To Florida

As Florida prepares for 26 million residents by 2030, it is crucial that our government systems remain transparent, efficient and sustainable. The Florida Chamber continues to fight against burdensome regulations and out-of-state special interests from buying their way into Florida's Constitution. The Florida Chamber will continue to advocate for an efficient government that provides the highest return to taxpayers with the lowest burden on job creators.



For a more in-depth look at these issues and more, visit [www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues).

## The Progress We've Made

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ISSUES

#### Reformed Collective Bargaining

With the help of lawmakers and Florida Chamber-backed legislation, reforms were passed to add transparency to unions' collective bargaining process, reducing labor unions' economic burden on taxpayers and bringing more legitimacy to contract negotiations.

#### Supported Federal Tax Reform

Following the passage of the Florida Chamber-backed Tax Cut and Jobs Act, employers throughout Florida announced pay raises, bonuses, lower prices and more due to the resulting benefits. Federal tax reform will only improve Florida's business climate and competitiveness, making Florida the best place to live, work and raise a family. The Florida Chamber thanks the efforts of President Donald Trump and Congress for creating a comprehensive and competitive tax system. A special thank you to past chairman of the Florida Chamber, Congressman Vern Buchanan, for helping lead this historic tax reform.

“Florida wins when we fight for policies that provide jobs and educational opportunities for all Floridians to succeed and Florida's economy to strengthen.”

LORI CONSTANTINO-BROWN | Bridges of America



# Civic & Governance Systems

## The Fight For Free Enterprise Continues

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ISSUES

#### Improving Government Efficiencies and State Competitiveness

With 67 counties and 412 cities, the Florida Chamber will continue to support improving federal, state and local government efficiencies, and eliminating over-reaching regulations, in order for Florida's business to grow without burdensome, duplicative and conflicting headaches to employers.

#### Modernizing Florida's Public-Sector Pension and Benefits System

As Florida's pension deficit increases, the Florida Chamber will continue to champion common sense reforms that modernize Florida's public pension programs and stop taxpayer bailouts for pensions.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

Florida invests **\$85 million each year** in economic development but spends **\$900 million** bailing out unfunded pension funds? To learn more about this issue visit [www.FloridaChamber.com/PensionReform](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/PensionReform).

### FLORIDA'S CONSTITUTION

#### Protecting Florida's Constitution Through the Constitution Revision Commission

Florida is the only state in the nation that has a Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) to make changes to its state constitution. The CRC has the unique power to place constitutional amendments directly on the ballot with no legislative approval, executive veto, or judicial review. The Florida Chamber has successfully fought against burdensome and unnecessary constitutional requirements, bad ideas, and measures that are best left to the existing branches of government.

### FEDERAL ISSUES IMPACTING FLORIDA

#### Supporting Smarter Immigration Policy

The Florida Chamber supports a consistent federal policy for immigration that protects and compliments Florida's workforce and growing economy. Immigration reform allows Florida's international ties in trade to remain strong and provides a valuable population of skilled workers. With the recent announcement to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, the Florida Chamber encourages Congress and the administration to work together to quickly find a legislative solution. **Without a legislative solution at least 800,000 DACA recipients will lose their ability to legally work and study**, leaving many Florida employers, workers and students without certainty.

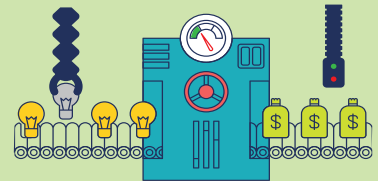
## A Fair Regulatory Climate Means More Jobs and Economic Opportunity

Florida has eliminated **4,500** unnecessary and outdated regulations since 2010.

#### WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Preventing a patchwork of regulations (which can occur when local regulations are duplicative of state regulations) ensures business in our state can:

- ✓ Attract new industries and innovations
- ✓ Help businesses focus on what they do best – creating jobs



A regulatory climate that is clear and easy to follow means businesses can hire talent instead of paying for duplicative regulations and associated compliance costs.

**T  
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P** In order to be the number one state for job creation in the nation, we must continue to stop local government overreach that often creates more red tape and hurdles to job creation

#### GET INVOLVED:

Email [CEmanuel@FLChamber.com](mailto:CEmanuel@FLChamber.com) and learn how you can help the Florida Chamber's regulatory reform efforts.

Source: Florida Governor Scott



# Championing Florida's Quality of Life



Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi addresses business leaders during the Florida Chamber Foundation's annual Future of Florida Forum.

“There’s a bigger picture involved with the Florida Chamber and their Board of Governors, and the issues they convene key stakeholders to discuss, that includes a positive business climate as well as a quality place to live, work and play.”

**DOUG WHEELER**  
Florida Ports Council

“We support the Florida Chamber of Commerce and their commitment to making Florida the best place to live, work, and play.”

**DENNIS GRADY**  
Chamber of Commerce  
of the Palm Beaches

## WE THANK OUR PARTNERS:

- ▶ BioFlorida, Inc.
- ▶ Florida Health Care Association
- ▶ Florida Hospital Association
- ▶ No Casinos
- ▶ SafetyNet Hospital Alliance of Florida
- ▶ Seminole Tribe of Florida
- ▶ VISIT FLORIDA

## Why It Matters To Florida

Protecting Florida’s unique quality of life is essential to maintaining Florida’s family-friendly brand. Florida welcomed more than 116 million visitors in 2017 and approximately 900 new residents each day. With an increasing population, and visitors from all over the world, it is important that we focus on creating a healthy and sustainable place for Florida’s residents and visitors to work, live, and play. Ensuring Florida remains a great place to live has been, and will remain, a top priority for the Florida Chamber. This means focusing on stopping the expansion of Las Vegas-style casino gambling, breaking the cycle of generational poverty, and embracing cost-saving, value-driven adaptations to Florida’s healthcare system.



For a more in-depth look at these issues and more, visit [www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/Issues).

## The Progress We’ve Made

### SENSE OF PLACE AND COMMUNITY

#### Opposed the Expansion of Las Vegas-Style Casino Gambling

Florida needs more engineers, physicians, and teachers—not black jack dealers. For more than two decades we have opposed the expansion of Las Vegas-style casino gambling. The Florida Chamber again led the fight to protect Florida’s family-friendly brand by effectively blocking the expansion of gambling in Florida during the 2018 regular session. We promote economic growth and diversity through job creation—not through casino gambling.

“Arts and culture are vital to the future of Florida. Count these as investments in community development, as investments in a quality workforce and an innovation economy. Arts and culture are the ingredients that not only enrich experiences but attract others, some as visitors but many to stay.”

MARK WILSON | Florida Chamber of Commerce

### HEALTH & WELLNESS

#### Expanded Medical Education Opportunities

The Florida Chamber fought for policies that will provide targeted training and expanded access to key health education programs. Meeting the increasing need for more physicians and healthcare professionals, and serving Florida’s rapidly growing population is vital for Florida’s success.





# Quality of Life & Quality Places

## The Fight For Free Enterprise Continues

Making Florida the best place to live, work, and raise a family means putting Floridians' long-term prosperity ahead of self-serving solutions from special interest groups seeking to tarnish Florida's family-friendly brand. While Florida moves forward in bringing innovations to healthcare and security to Florida's growing population and visitors, the Florida Chamber will continue to fight against policies that seek to harm Florida's future job growth and long-term success.

## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & PROSPERITY

### Breaking the Cycle of Generational Poverty

Florida Chamber Foundation research shows **21.3 percent of Florida's kids are living in poverty**. The Florida Chamber will continue to fight for an environment that fosters economic opportunity and self-sufficiency for all Floridians caught in the cycle of generational poverty.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly **3 million** Floridians live in poverty? Join us at the Florida Business Leaders' Summit on Prosperity and Economic Opportunity to continue the conversation.  
[www.FloridaChamber.com/ProsperitySummit](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/ProsperitySummit).

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

### Continuing to Champion Innovations in Healthcare

A value-based healthcare system focused on outcomes is a vital component to the overall economic health of Florida. The Florida Chamber continues to advocate for innovative policies, such as the expansion of technology guidelines for telehealth providers in Florida, in an effort to expand greater access and quality of care, lower healthcare costs, and encourage free-market innovation.

**“We are proud to stand with the Florida Chamber of Commerce as they push for advances in quality medical care and coverage for all Floridians.”**

ED JIMENEZ | UF Health Shands

## Ending the Cycle of Generational Poverty and Expanding Opportunity for All Floridians

### Our research has shown:

- **45%** of working Floridians don't have access to \$400 in cash or credit
- **44%** of Americans live “on the edge of a crisis,” where one missed paycheck can force a choice between paying bills, gas for the car or food on the table
- More than **1-of-every-5** Florida children under the age 18 – more than 869,000 kids – live below the poverty line
- Only **23%** of Floridians believe their region is well-positioned for prosperity and global competition

### BY 2030:

- **5 million more** people will call Florida home
- Futurists predict **50%** of all jobs will be disrupted by globalization and technology

Can Florida meet the needs of current and future Floridians?



**T H E G A P** To meet the needs of 5 million more residents by 2030, Florida needs a comprehensive and long-term plan to expand economic opportunity and break the cycle of generational poverty. We can start this conversation by encouraging the creation of high-wage jobs and ensuring Floridians have sustainable, vibrant communities to call home.

### GET INVOLVED:

Join the conversation. Contact [BHunt@FLChamber.com](mailto:BHunt@FLChamber.com) to learn more.

Source: Keiser Family Foundation; Florida Chamber Foundation





# THE FLORIDA CHAMBER'S 2018 MOST VALUABLE LEGISLATOR AWARD

## Senator Kathleen Passidomo: Fearlessly Putting Florida First

Past Recipients of  
the Florida Chamber's  
Most Valuable  
Legislator Award

**2016**  
House Speaker  
Steve Crisafulli

**2014**  
House Speaker  
Will Weatherford

**2013**  
Representative  
Larry Metz

**2012**  
House Speaker  
Dean Cannon

**2011**  
Senator  
Ellyn Bogdanoff

**2010**  
Senator  
John Thrasher

**2009**  
Senator  
Garrett Richter

**2008**  
Representative  
Dennis Ross

**2007**  
Representative  
Stan Mayfield

**2006**  
Representative  
Don Brown

**2005**  
House Speaker  
Allan Bense

The business community's premier legislative award, the Florida Chamber of Commerce's Most Valuable Legislator, goes to Senator Kathleen Passidomo, for her commitment to securing Florida's future.

Florida needs more public servants who wake up every day thinking about how to make Florida more competitive—regardless of the opponent or political consequences. A small businesswoman, Senator Passidomo has long been a fearless and effective partner in the Florida Chamber's fight for free enterprise. As the torch bearer of multiple Florida Chamber-backed priorities this session, she attracted bipartisan support for pro-jobs legislation, took well-funded special interests head on for Florida's future job creators, and successfully sought to keep Florida's dismal, bottom-five legal climate from getting worse.



Senator Passidomo understands that a world-class education is the greatest pathway toward economic opportunity. She took the lead on

championing Florida Chamber efforts to expand computer science and computer coding instruction throughout Florida's K-12 classrooms, knowing that nothing can better prepare Florida's students to enter a globally competitive workforce than the introduction of innovative STEM concepts during their formative years. Senator Passidomo was also a key ally in support of the targeted tax reform package that further reduced the Florida-only Business Rent Tax and provided back-to-school and hurricane preparation sales tax holidays.

Never afraid of a tough fight for what is right, Senator Passidomo also led the fight to ensure automobile insurance rates remain low for Floridians and opposed the trial lawyer's top legislative priority—repealing Florida's no-fault personal injury protection (PIP) insurance system without addressing bad faith reform. Even in the final days of session, Senator Passidomo stood ready to tackle bad faith and offer a common-sense solution to this Florida-only lawsuit abuse. Senator Passidomo also took on powerful union interests that sought to put their political agendas ahead of Florida's students and passed legislation that brings transparency and accountability to the collective bargaining process.

The Florida Chamber applauds Senator Kathleen Passidomo for her hard work and leadership on behalf of Florida's families and businesses.

**"I am truly humbled to be recognized by the Florida Chamber of Commerce as their 2018 Most Valuable Legislator. It is an incredible honor to receive this prestigious award. Legislative change doesn't just happen overnight. It takes hard work, perseverance and collaborative effort. Working together with the Florida Chamber team we have been able to advance policies that will have a lasting positive effect on Florida's families and our business community."**

SENATOR KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO | Florida Chamber's 2018 Most Valuable Legislator





## DISTINGUISHED ADVOCATE AWARDS

**T**he Florida Chamber's Distinguished Advocate Award recognizes legislators who have championed key Florida Business Agenda legislation. The award is designed to acknowledge legislators who ensured consideration of the business community's legislative priorities and who fought tirelessly for the passage of specific pro-jobs legislation.



2018  
SENATE  
LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT  
CARD

GRADE EARNED  
2017 2018

NAME | DISTRICT



**DENNIS BAXLEY** (R) | Lady Lake

79 90

**Aaron Bean** (R) | Jacksonville

88 93

**Lizbeth Benacquisto** (R) | Fort Myers

67 78

**Lauren Book** (D) | Plantation

54 74

**Randolph Bracy** (D) | Ocoee

52 56

**Rob Bradley** (R) | Orange Park

65 71

**Jeff Brandes** (R) | Saint Petersburg

77 91

**Oscar Braynon** (D) | Miami Gardens

59 52

**Doug Broxson** (R) | Pensacola

85 90

**Daphne Campbell** (D) | North Miami Beach

63 59

**Gary Farmer** (D) | Fort Lauderdale

55 44

**Anitere Flores** (R) | Miami

60 69

**George Gainer** (R) | Panama City

78 85

**Senator  
Dennis  
Baxley**

championed an amendment in the Senate that would promote transparency in the collective bargaining process.



\*The 2018 Senate grades were calculated based on how each Senator voted on the issues contained in the Florida Chamber's 2018 Jobs Agenda.

**Senator Bill Galvano** sponsored legislation and led the Senate in passing responsible and necessary school safety measures in response to the Parkland tragedy.



NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EARNED	
	2017	2018
<b>BILL GALVANO</b> (R)   Bradenton	81	89
René Garcia (R)   Hialeah	65	67
Audrey Gibson (D)   Jacksonville	62	67
Denise Grimsley (R)   Lake Placid	81	94
Dorothy L. Hukill (R)   Port Orange	N/A	82
Travis Hutson (R)   Palm Coast	60	83
Tom Lee (R)   Brandon	90	80
Debbie Mayfield (R)   Vero Beach	80	85
Bill Montford (D)   Tallahassee	84	63
Joe Negron (R)   Palm City	55	79
Kathleen Passidomo (R)   Naples	83	87
Keith Perry (R)   Gainesville	81	100
Bobby Powell (D)   West Palm Beach	55	63

Learn how legislators voted on Florida Chamber-backed pro-business, pro-jobs legislation by visiting [www.LegislativeReportCard.com](http://www.LegislativeReportCard.com) or contact us at [jgabel@FLChamber.com](mailto:jgabel@FLChamber.com) or 850-521-1215.

2018  
SENATE  
LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT  
CARD

GRADE EARNED  
2017 2018

NAME | DISTRICT

NAME   DISTRICT	2017	2018
Kevin Rader (D)   Boca Raton	58	67
José Javier Rodríguez (D)   Miami	70	52
Darryl Ervin Rouson (D)   Saint Petersburg	70	68
<b>DAVID SIMMONS (R)   Longwood</b>	75	69
<b>WILTON SIMPSON (R)   Trilby</b>	81	93
<b>KELLI STARGEL (R)   Lakeland</b>	87	93
Greg Steube (R)   Sarasota	63	78
Linda Stewart (D)   Orlando	68	55
Annette Taddeo (D)   Miami	—	48
Perry E. Thurston, Jr. (D)   Fort Lauderdale	58	44
Victor M. Torres, Jr. (D)   Kissimmee	75	67
Dana Young (R)   Tampa	82	76

**Senator David Simmons** sponsored legislation that would allow state assumption of federal environmental permitting, a streamlining effort the business community has sought for decades.



**Senator Kelli Stargel** championed this year's tax package, including a reduction in the Florida-only business rent tax, a longstanding Chamber priority.



**Senator Wilton Simpson** worked to secure full funding for key economic development programs, including Enterprise Florida and VISIT FLORIDA.

\*The 2018 Senate grades were calculated based on how each Senator voted on the issues contained in the Florida Chamber's 2018 Jobs Agenda.



2018  
HOUSE  
LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT  
CARD

NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EARNED	
	2017	2018
Joseph Abruzzo (D)   Boca Raton	56	67
Larry Ahern (R)   Seminole	80	96
Ben Albritton (R)   Bartow	83	96
Ramon Alexander (D)   Tallahassee	65	61
Thad Altman (R)   Indiatlantic	71	89
Bruce Antone (D)   Orlando	54	61
Robert Asencio (D)   Miami	58	48
Loranne Ausley (D)   Tallahassee	56	54
Bryan Avila (R)   Hialeah	89	94
Lori Berman (D)   Boynton Beach	52	43
Halsey Beshears (R)   Monticello	86	71
Michael Bileca (R)   Miami	77	100

2018  
HOUSE  
LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT  
CARD

NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EARNED	
	2017	2018
Jim Boyd (R)   Bradenton	83	92
Jason T. Brodeur (R)   Sanford	71	92
Kamia L. Brown (D)   Ocoee	57	48
Daniel Wright "Danny" Burgess, Jr. (R)   Zephyrhills	79	86
Colleen Burton (R)   Lakeland	94	92
Cord Byrd (R)   Jacksonville	73	96
Matt Caldwell (R)   Lehigh Acres	81	96
Charles Wesley "Chuck" Clemons (R)   Jonesville	88	96
Richard Corcoran (R)   Lutz	74	95
Robert "Bob" Cortes (R)   Altamonte Springs	88	96
John Cortes (D)   Kissimmee	60	50
Janet Cruz (D)   Tampa	58	59
W. Travis Cummings (R)   Orange Park	73	92

\*The 2018 Senate grades were calculated based on how each Senator voted on the issues contained in the Florida Chamber's 2018 Jobs Agenda.

**Representative Ben Diamond** championed an amendment that would limit potential lawsuits against job creators.



NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EARNED	
	2017	2018
Kimberly Daniels (D)   Jacksonville	67	77
Tracie Davis (D)   Jacksonville	62	45
<b>BEN DIAMOND (D)   St. Petersburg</b>	59	74
<b>MANNY DIAZ, Jr. (R)   Hialeah Gardens</b>	74	96
Byron Donalds (R)   Naples	88	96
Brad Drake (R)   DeFuniak Springs	94	96
Bobby DuBose (D)   Fort Lauderdale	63	52
Nicholas X. Duran (D)   Miami	62	42
Dane Eagle (R)   Cape Coral	86	93
Katie A. Edwards-Walpole (D)   Sunrise	62	79
Jay Fant (R)   Jacksonville	96	96
Randy Fine (R)   Palm Bay	80	93
Jason Fischer (R)   Jacksonville	88	96



**Representative Manny Diaz, Jr.** led the House's education reform efforts and fought to pass Chamber-backed computer science legislation.

Learn how legislators voted on Florida Chamber-backed pro-business, pro-jobs legislation by visiting [www.LegislativeReportCard.com](http://www.LegislativeReportCard.com) or contact us at [jgabel@FLChamber.com](mailto:jgabel@FLChamber.com) or 850-521-1215.



2018  
HOUSE  
LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT  
CARD

NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EARNED	
	2017	2018
Heather Fitzenhagen (R)   Ft. Myers	71	100
Joe Geller (D)   Dania Beach	43	38
Julio Gonzalez (R)   Venice	81	96
Margaret Good (D)   Sarasota	–	40
Tom Goodson (R)   Merritt Island	79	69
Erin Grall (R)   Vero Beach	78	92
James “JW” Grant (R)   Tampa	88	89
Michael Grant (R)   Port Charlotte	77	85
<b>JOE GRUTERS (R)   Sarasota</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>
Bill Hager (R)   Boca Raton	92	90
Roy Hardemon (D)   Miami	51	57
Gayle Harrell (R)   Stuart	80	92
Shawn Harrison (R)   Tampa	59	96

**Representative  
Joe Gruters,**

a reliable and vocal partner in the fight for free enterprise, came to the defense of the Florida Chamber on the House Floor against unnecessary and inappropriate personal attacks.



**Representative Clay Ingram**

worked to secure full funding for key economic development programs, including Enterprise Florida and VISIT FLORIDA.



NAME | DISTRICT

GRADE EARNED  
2017 2018

Patrick Henry (D)   Daytona Beach	49	59
Blaise Ingoglia (R)   Spring Hill	88	93
<b>CLAY INGRAM (R)   Pensacola</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>96</b>
Kristin Jacobs (D)   Coconut Creek	57	46
Al Jacquet (D)   West Palm Beach	60	52
Evan Jenne (D)   Hollywood	40	38
Shevrin "Shev" Jones (D)   West Park	50	53
Sam Killebrew (R)   Winter Haven	84	94
<b>MIKE LA ROSA (R)   Saint Cloud</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>93</b>
Chris Latvala (R)   Clearwater	87	86
Larry Lee Jr. (D)   Fort Pierce	66	69
Thomas J. "Tom" Leek (R)   Daytona Beach	86	96
MaryLynn Magar (R)   Hobe Sound	78	86



**Representative Mike La Rosa**

fought against the expansion of gambling in Florida and championed private property rights for vacation rentals.

\*The 2018 House grades were calculated based on how each Representative voted on the issues contained in the Florida Chamber's 2018 Jobs Agenda.

2018  
HOUSE  
LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT  
CARD

NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EARNED	
	2017	2018
Amber Mariano (R)   Port Richey	87	95
Ralph Massullo, Jr. (R)   Beverly Hills	82	93
Stan McClain (R)   Ocala	81	94
Lawrence McClure (R)   Hillsborough	—	96
Kionne L. McGhee (D)   Cutler Bay	57	44
Amy Mercado (D)   Orlando	53	41
Larry Metz (R)   Groveland	81	96
Mike Miller (R)   Orlando	94	94
George R. Moraitis (R)   Fort Lauderdale	79	96
Jared Evan Moskowitz (D)   Coral Springs	46	52
Wengay “Newt” Newton (D)   St. Petersburg	70	59
Jeanette M. Nuñez (R)   Miami	74	96
<b>JOSE R. OLIVA (R)   Hialeah</b>	73	95

**Representative  
Jose Oliva**

led the House in passing responsible and necessary school safety measures

in response to the Parkland tragedy.





NAME | DISTRICT GRADE EARNED  
2017 2018

Robert "Bobby O" Olszewski (R) | Winter Garden - 93

Bobby Payne (R) | Palatka 90 89

Daniel Perez (R) | Miami - 96

**Representative Scott Plakon**

sponsored legislation and fought against labor unions to promote transparency in the collective bargaining process; carried this effort for several years in a row dating back to 2011.



Kathleen M. Peters (R) | Saint Petersburg 92 88

Cary Pigman (R) | Sebring 84 91



**SCOTT PLAKON (R) | Longwood** 86 100

Rene Plasencia (R) | Titusville 93 100

Mel Ponder (R) | Fort Walton Beach 85 96

Elizabeth W. Porter (R) | Lake City 80 96

Sharon Pritchett (D) | Miramar 45 45

**Representative Paul Renner**

championed this year's tax package, including a reduction in the Florida-only business rent tax, a longstanding Chamber priority.



Jake Raburn (R) | Valrico 88 95

**HOLLY MERRILL RASCHEIN (R) | Key Largo** 88 94



**PAUL RENNER (R) | Palm Coast** 68 96



**Representative Holly Merrill Raschein**

sponsored legislation that would allow state assumption of federal environmental permitting, a streamlining effort the business community has sought for decades.



\*The 2018 House grades were calculated based on how each Representative voted on the issues contained in the Florida Chamber's 2018 Jobs Agenda.

2018  
HOUSE  
LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT  
CARD

NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EARNED	
	2017	2018
David Richardson (D)   Miami Beach	57	42
Ray Wesley Rodrigues (R)   Fort Myers	74	91
Bob Rommel (R)   Naples	85	96
Rick Roth (R)   Palm Beach Gardens	85	92
Barrington A. "Barry" Russell (D)   Lauderhill	58	55
David Santiago (R)   Deltona	88	83
Sean Shaw (D)   Tampa	57	36
David Silvers (D)   West Palm Beach	66	53
Emily Slosberg (D)   Delray Beach	57	40
Carlos Guillermo Smith (D)   Winter Park	51	50
Ross Spano (R)   Riverview	85	96
Chris Sprowls (R)   Clearwater	84	96
Cynthia A. Stafford (D)   Opa Locka	43	41
Richard Stark (D)   Weston	62	50

\*The 2018 House grades were calculated based on how each Representative voted on the issues contained in the Florida Chamber's 2018 Jobs Agenda.

**Representative  
Jay Trumbull**

sponsored Chamber-backed assignment of benefits legislation, which

would help contain the rising cost of property insurance due to fraud.



NAME   DISTRICT	GRADE EARNED	
	2017	2018
Cyndi Stevenson (R)   Saint Augustine	85	82
Charlie Stone (R)   Ocala	91	96
Jennifer Sullivan (R)   Eustis	86	97
Jackie Toledo (R)   Tampa	82	91
Carlos Trujillo (R)   Doral	79	100
<b>JAY TRUMBULL (R)   Panama City</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>93</b>
Barbara Watson (D)   Miami Gardens	60	44
Clovis Watson, Jr. (D)   Gainesville	61	48
Frank White (R)   Pensacola	80	91
Matt Willhite (D)   Royal Palm Beach	60	76
Patricia H. Williams (D)   Fort Lauderdale	53	52
Jayer Williamson (R)   Pace	87	96
Clay Yarborough (R)   Jacksonville	83	91

Learn how legislators voted on Florida Chamber-backed pro-business, pro-jobs legislation by visiting [www.LegislativeReportCard.com](http://www.LegislativeReportCard.com) or contact us at [jgabel@FLChamber.com](mailto:jgabel@FLChamber.com) or 850-521-1215.



# Florida's 2018 Political Landscape



Marian Johnson, Senior Vice President, Political Operations, Florida Chamber of Commerce, Joe Clements, Co-Founder, Strategic Digital Services, Jim Saunders, News Service of Florida, and Steven J. Vancore, Partner, VancoreJones Communications discuss Florida politics at the Florida Chamber's 2018 Capitol Days.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### 2018 IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

#### 2018 Governor, Cabinet and Legislative Qualifying Dates

Noon, June 18, 2018 –  
Noon, June 22, 2018

#### 2018 Federal Qualifying Dates

Noon, April 30, 2018 –  
Noon, May 4, 2018

#### 2018 Primary Election

August 28, 2018

**Voter Registration closes  
July 30, 2018**

#### 2018 General Election

November 6, 2018

**Voter Registration closes  
October 9, 2018**

## GET INVOLVED:

With your help, we can support the candidates who will make Florida's future a priority. Join the Florida Chamber's Political program, participate in one of our political advocacy organizations or join our many volunteers working to elect pro-jobs candidates.

This past legislative session, nearly half of Florida's 155 lawmakers earned an "A" in the Florida Chamber Annual Legislative Report Card—up from 14 in 2017. While this is a step in the right direction, Florida still has a long way to go.

**One of the biggest risks we face is a divided business community and with an upcoming election, stakes are high.** Florida's governor, cabinet and legislative members are up for election, and the Florida Chamber will continue to look past partisan politics and fight for leaders that put jobs first. Our next governor will have a major impact on Florida's future, which is why it's imperative that we get involved like our future depends on it... because it actually does.

Here's how the 2018 General Election will shape up:

- ▶ All 120 Florida House seats are up for election,
- ▶ 20 Florida Senate seats (all even numbered) are up for election,
- ▶ All 27 U.S. House seats are up for election,
- ▶ One U.S. Senate seat is up for election,
- ▶ Approximately 2,500 local races,
- ▶ 5-10 expected Constitutional Amendments,
- ▶ Florida's Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, Commissioner of Agriculture are up for election and,
- ▶ Florida's Governor is up for election.

Elections matter and the Florida Chamber's engagement efforts have already begun. We are recruiting and electing pro-business, pro-job candidates, chosen by hundreds of rigorous candidate interview sessions—Florida's most thorough and respected pro-business candidate review process. The Florida Chamber Political Institute (FCPI) is traveling statewide, interviewing hundreds of potential candidates for office. Prior to the interview process each candidate must complete a thorough and intensive questionnaire that outlines their position on the issues important to Florida's future.

As our focus has shifted from the 2018 Legislative Session to election season, our mission remains to secure Florida's future. We will continue to advocate for candidates who have Florida's future as a priority, and fight to lead Florida in the right direction.

You can help by hosting political fundraisers, investing in the Florida Chamber's political efforts or by simply signing up for [www.FloridaWins.org](http://www.FloridaWins.org). We urge you to join us in the arena to make Florida more competitive.

**“ don't think or even know of a better organization that is for supporting Florida's workers and the Florida economy than the Florida Chamber. ”**

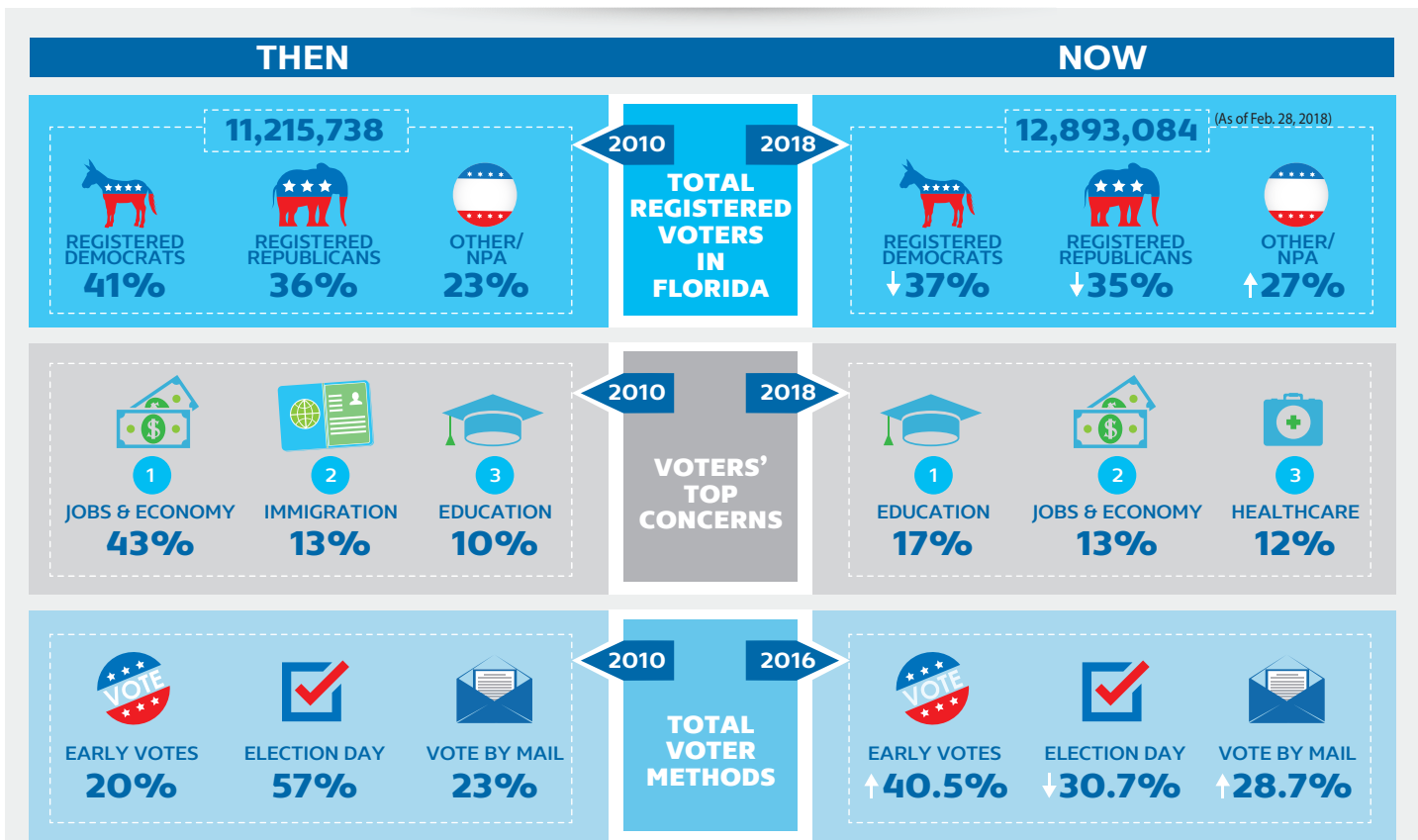
REPRESENTATIVE JOE GRUTERS | R-Sarasota



# Florida's Voters Are Changing

In preparation for the upcoming campaign season, we must continue to watch for personal injury trial lawyers, government unions, irresponsible environmentalists and out-of-state billionaires with special interest agendas attempting to bankroll their candidates into office.

Here's what's impacting Florida's political landscape.



Sources: Florida Division of Election, Florida Chamber of Commerce Political Institute

## How can you get involved?



Political analysis is important to gauging where Florida voters stand on the issues that matter most to them. Learn more by contacting Andrew Wiggins, Senior Director of Campaigns and Elections at the Florida Chamber, at [AWiggins@FLChamber.com](mailto:AWiggins@FLChamber.com).



Florida needs leaders who are willing to help grow and move Florida in the right direction. Join our fight to secure Florida's future. Contact Marian Johnson, Senior Vice President of Political Strategy at the Florida Chamber, at [MJohnson@FLChamber.com](mailto:MJohnson@FLChamber.com).



### GET INVOLVED:

Join the Florida Chamber Political Institute and become an active part of Florida's political process. Contact our Political Engagement office at 850-521-1246. Visit [www.FloridaChamber.com](http://www.FloridaChamber.com) for more information.

# Florida Chamber Foundation

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FLORIDA 2030 PARTNERS

### PILLAR LEADERSHIP PARTNERS



### SUSTAINING PILLAR PARTNERS



### ANNUAL PILLAR PARTNERS



AS OF 3/2018

## 50 Years of Securing Florida's Future

Since 1968, the Florida Chamber Foundation has been focused on creating pro-business, pro-job solutions in Florida. Today, the Florida Chamber Foundation's research identifies the long-term needs for Florida's future, allowing the Florida Chamber's advocacy arm to focus on passing legislation that makes Florida more competitive, while the Florida Chamber's political arm works to recruit and elect the leaders who will get us there.

To remain globally competitive, prosperous, and vibrant and sustainable, Florida requires a plan that will address the challenges and opportunities future growth will bring and that brings long-term conversations and solutions to the table. That's where the Florida 2030 Project comes in — it's the next part of the Chamber Foundation's well-known Cornerstone report series and builds on the recommendations of previous Cornerstone reports which have helped to shape policy and put a long-term lens to Florida's future.

To unite Florida's business community under one mission, the Florida Chamber Foundation has led research-focused initiatives including:

- ▶ **Florida's Six Pillars framework**— a visioning platform that identifies the key factors that drive Florida's future economy and helps organizations speak with one voice. Communities, regional planning councils and state agencies from around Florida are currently using the Six Pillars framework to guide their planning, research and advocacy efforts.
- ▶ **The Florida Scorecard.org**— an interactive online tool publicly available that tracks key metrics within each of the Six Pillars at the state and local level. Paired with the power of the framework, these tools serve the larger mission of at the state and county level ensuring a dynamic, long-term strategic plan for Florida.
- ▶ **The Florida 2030 Research Initiative**— a three-year, once-a-decade, multi-million-dollar research initiative, that serves as Florida's next, long-term, strategic plan. Developed in partnership with Florida's top thinkers, futurists, business leaders and more than 10,000 Floridians who engaged from every county across the state.

Florida 2030 seeks to stimulate strategic thinking about Florida's future and asks, what does Florida need to get right to succeed in 2030 and beyond?



### FLORIDA CHAMBER FOUNDATION SIX PILLARS FRAMEWORK

- Talent Supply & Education
- Innovation & Economic Development
- Infrastructure & Growth Leadership
- Business Climate & Competitiveness
- Civic & Governance Systems
- Quality of Life & Quality Places





# Securing Florida's Future Includes You

## Securing Florida's Future Includes You

The Florida Chamber Foundation leads the state in future-focused research and continues to be a catalyst for positive change. But, we need your help to secure Florida's future. Getting involved is easy:

- ▶ **PARTNER ON FLORIDA 2030** and collaborate on the Chamber Foundation's three-year research initiative to engage business and community leaders in each of Florida's 67 counties by helping us release the Florida 2030 report in your community.
- ▶ **CONTRIBUTE YOUR ORGANIZATION'S EXPERTISE** and significant statewide reach by becoming a **Community Development Partner**. This select group of forward-thinking companies have a deeply vested interest in Florida's success and realize the importance of applying their research to Florida's statewide strategic plan.
- ▶ **BECOME A CHAMBER FOUNDATION TRUSTEE** and work with other businesses and thought leaders around the state on the issues that matter most.
- ▶ **ENGAGE YOUR REGION** by becoming a Six Pillars Community and leading the way toward vibrant, sustainable, prosperous and globally competitive communities.
- ▶ **JOIN A FLORIDA CHAMBER FOUNDATION CAUCUS GROUP**, built around the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars, caucuses work to identify future-focused solutions to the issues that matter to our state. From the Business Alliance for Early Learning to the Innovation Caucus and more, share your voice by becoming a part of one of the Chamber Foundation's research initiatives.
- ▶ **SHARE [www.TheFloridaScorecard.org](http://www.TheFloridaScorecard.org) AT YOUR MANAGEMENT MEETINGS**, there is no better way for your company, organization or community to stay up to date on Florida's changing demographics, economics, and politics than to regularly use Florida's Scorecard.



You can help drive Florida's future. Get involved by contacting us today at [TonyCarvajal@FLFoundation.org](mailto:TonyCarvajal@FLFoundation.org).



Florida Chamber Foundation Chair Doug Davidson, Market Executive at Bank of America, shares the importance of planning for Florida's future at the Florida Chamber Foundation's annual Future of Florida Forum.

“As we move toward 2030, it is now more important than ever for Florida's leaders in industry, business, nonprofits and government to collaborate, and to work together toward a brighter future.”

**DOUG DAVIDSON**  
Florida Chamber Foundation Chair  
Bank of America

### UPCOMING SIX PILLARS SUMMITS:

**MAY 3, 2018**  
Orlando  
Florida Business Leaders' Summit on Prosperity and Economic Opportunity

**JUNE 12-13, 2018**  
Tampa  
Learners to Earners Workforce Summit

**JULY 17-19, 2018**  
Marco Island  
Environmental Permitting Summer School

**SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2018**  
Orlando  
FUTURE OF FLORIDA FORUM

For more information on how to attend or sponsor an event, visit [www.FloridaChamber.com/events](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/events).



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[www.FLFoundation.org](http://www.FLFoundation.org)



HELP MAKE FLORIDA MORE COMPETITIVE

# Join the Florida Chamber



Bob Grammig, Chair, Florida Chamber Board of Directors, addresses business leaders at the unveiling of the Florida Chamber's 2018 Jobs Agenda.

“I'm proud to be part of an organization that tirelessly fights to support job creators, to defeat special interests that advocate job-killing policies which would impair innovation and economic opportunities for our citizens and to secure a better future for Florida's families and businesses.”

**BOB GRAMMIG**  
Florida Chamber Chair

Follow us on Twitter  
@FLChamber



Follow us on Facebook  
facebook.com/flchamber



www.FLChamber.com

## GET INVOLVED:

Tell us your story—  
Contact our Investor Service Coordinator,  
Tanya Bechtold at 850-521-1218 or by  
email at TBechtold@FLChamber.com.

## Why It Matters To Florida

Simply put, free enterprise isn't free. To champion a pro-jobs, pro-Florida agenda, we work alongside our seasoned political advocates, experienced political strategists, small business council, international outreach program and top-tier research foundation.

The Florida Chamber believes securing Florida's future can only happen with those who believe in free enterprise, those who have the courage to stand up for what's right in our state, those who say 'no' to harmful out-of-state and special interest agendas and those who come together to champion the jobs agenda.

If you believe in free enterprise and want to help us make Florida more competitive, then simply call or email us today. When we win, you win. When you win, Florida wins.

## How You Can Make Florida More Competitive

Here are four ways you can engage and make a difference:

- ▶ **JOIN** the Florida Chamber if you believe in our fight for free enterprise and think job creators should lead the way.
- ▶ **EMPOWER** your employees by educating them on issues that affect your business and their jobs by signing your business up for **FloridaWins.org**, a non-partisan program that educates your employees about Florida's successes and actively engages them in Florida's legislative process.
- ▶ **ENCOURAGE** voters to choose pro-jobs candidates by supporting those who support free enterprise. Host fundraisers and make political donations to lead the way.
- ▶ **CONNECT** with your elected officials and urge them to vote in favor of jobs and against special interest agendas.



Interested in getting involved with the Florida Chamber? Contact Tanya Bechtold, Investor Services Coordinator at the Florida Chamber, at TBechtold@FLChamber.com.





**YOU'RE INVITED**

[www.FloridaChamber.com/Events](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/Events)

**To the Florida Chamber and Florida Chamber Foundation's  
Annual Business Leaders' Events**

**SAVE  
THE DATE**

**2018 FLORIDA BUSINESS LEADERS' SUMMIT  
ON PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

May 3, 2018 • Orlando

**2018 LEARNERS TO EARNERS WORKFORCE SUMMIT**

June 12-13, 2018 • Tampa

**2018 ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING  
SUMMER SCHOOL**

July 17-20, 2018 • Marco Island

**FUTURE OF FLORIDA FORUM AND  
FLORIDA CHAMBER ANNUAL MEETING**

September 26-28, 2018 • Orlando

**2018 FLORIDA CHAMBER INSURANCE SUMMIT**

November 27-29, 2018 • Miami

**TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE SUMMIT**

January 2019 – TBD

[www.FloridaChamber.com/Events](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/Events)





# THE FLORIDA CHAMBER MAKES FLORIDA MORE COMPETITIVE FOR JOB CREATORS

## HOW THEY VOTED

Where Legislators Stood on the Florida Chamber's 2018 Jobs and Competitiveness Agenda

**FLORIDA**  
**CHAMBER**  
*of Commerce*

SECURING FLORIDA'S FUTURE

136 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32301

[www.FloridaChamber.com](http://www.FloridaChamber.com)

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