



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

Guiding Principle

The business community must partner with stakeholders and policymakers to advocate for adequate resources to help recruit, develop and retain talent in Tampa Bay. Plans must be in place today to train the workforce of tomorrow. The Chamber looks forward to supporting policy that facilitates access to the development of workforce housing. We will work diligently to inform our elected officials that Hillsborough County's new education investment is an opportunity for matching dollars, not replacing them.

The Chamber Supports

- » A pay-for-success model that incentivizes pathways to high-demand workforce credentials and apprenticeships
- » Legislation that prevents the Legislature from diverting the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund
- » Resources for Hillsborough Community College to include funding operational and deferred maintenance needs
- » Legislation that authorizes public schools to offer coding as a second language and colleges/universities to accept coding as a foreign language credit
- » STEM education programs to strengthen equitable access to high quality workforce-related skill sets
- » Including industry certification and skilled training in school and district grade calculations as an additional student success measure
- » Funding for the successful consolidation of the University of South Florida into one accredited Preeminent State Research University



TRANSPORTATION

Guiding Principle

Transportation is a core service of government that is critical for economic development and facilitating the efficient movement of goods, people and services. Sufficient transportation funding of all options is needed to implement a robust and connected transportation network in Tampa Bay. We will work diligently to inform our elected officials that Hillsborough County's new transportation investment is an opportunity for matching dollars, not replacing them.

The Chamber Supports

- » State regulation of peer-to-peer operators including language requiring operators to enter into an agreement with airports
- » Funding for the Westshore Interchange project as part of the Tampa Bay Next Program
- » The continued study of the Multi-Use Corridors of Regional Significance (M-CORES) Infrastructure Program
- » Preserving sufficient Right of Way along Interstate 4 between Tampa and Orlando for high speed rail
- » Policy and funding for school route safety enhancements



MILITARY AND DEFENSE

Guiding Principle

The Tampa Bay Chamber has enjoyed a close working relationship with MacDill Air Force Base – a vital part of our nation's defense that has a \$3 billion impact on the Tampa Bay community. We understand the importance of supporting our brave men and women and their families who serve our country and call our community home. As a Great American Defense Community, we will continue to support policies and investments that strengthen the defense community in Tampa Bay.

The Chamber Supports

- » Legislation that creates a uniform framework for recognizing servicemember academic credits and waives transfer of transcript fees for servicemembers and their dependents
- » Adequate transportation options for military families in Hillsborough County including a MacDill Ferry connection

HEALTH CARE

Guiding Principle

The Tampa Bay Chamber supports reducing the cost of health insurance to the business community by increasing access to quality health care for all Floridians and legislation that gives our health care providers the infrastructure and regulatory environment needed to best serve our community.

The Chamber Supports

- » Legislation that increases Moffitt Cancer Center's portion of annual funding from Florida's cigarette tax
- » Increased behavioral health funding
- » Increased Medicaid funding
- » FHA's opposition to the creation of Advanced Birth Centers in Florida
- » FHA's opposition to the exclusion of non-profit hospitals from property tax exemptions in Florida

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Guiding Principle

Economic development and business thrive where regional collaboration is strong, regulatory and tax burdens are minimal, right to work laws that protect our citizens remain in place and wages are market rate. Businesses locate and expand in areas where these factors exist.

The Chamber Supports

- » Legislation that strengthens Florida's local governments, economic development and tourism agencies
- » Adequate funding for Visit Florida and Enterprise Florida
- » The flexibility that Florida's Home Rule powers give municipalities
- » Local investment efforts like the All For Transportation referendum and vote
- » Phased initiatives to reduce the tax burden on commercial real estate leases
- » The ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution
- » Restoring Arts & Cultural Matching Grants recommended by the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs.
- » Innovation Grants for company relocation or expansion to be used for:
 - » Office space on a college/university campus
 - » Research with professors applicable to business
 - » Augment the hiring of students to work on those projects