



2011 Legislative Priorities – The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce

TRANSPORTATION

- **Support** full funding for FDOT District One's "fair share" of State trust fund dollars and full-funding for Sarasota County.
- **Support** "NO RAID" on Transportation Trust Fund and efforts to recoup/restore prior raids.
- **Support** funding of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority, including financing options and improved Federal & State funding for our region. Oppose diversion of funding from local government transportation priorities.
- **Encourage** the Florida Congressional delegation to assure a 95% return on federal gas tax dollars collected in Florida and sent to Washington.
- **Support** indexing the local gas tax to the CPI.
- **Support** Full funding of the FDOT 5 year work program including the use of general revenue or other state revenues.
- **Support** priority of funding for local governments & regions who have adopted local option revenue sources for transportation.
- **Support** efforts to fund the US 41 Venice By-Pass as a multi-modal system.
- **Support** efforts to fund I-75 – six lanes from Hwy 681 to the Peace River Bridge.
- **Support** Federal & State funding for US 41 improvements and scenic trail projects in Sarasota /Manatee counties.
- **Support** development of a state-wide transit strategy to ensure equity in allocation of revenues, guide major regional projects and help communities achieve goals to build livable communities and reduce carbon emissions; **Support** flexibility of spending O & M funds for federal transit.

PROPERTY TAXES AND INSURANCE

- **Support** selective legislative efforts to increase accessibility and lower the cost of property insurance for all Floridians.
- **Support** efforts to attract additional insurance providers to Florida.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/HOUSING

- **Support** increasing dollars for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership and eliminate raids on the Sadowski Trust Fund.
- **Support** innovative strategies & incentives to encourage/assist public/private entities to increase the availability of workforce housing; provide support for prevention & mitigation of foreclosures.
- **Support** legislation that will continue and increase funding of workforce training grant programs provided by Workforce Florida and the Suncoast Workforce Board. Target support to Recovery Zone communities with high unemployment and high foreclosure rates.

EDUCATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the USF-Sarasota Manatee request for \$5.96 million as a recurring appropriation; support restoring funding levels over next 3 years.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support USF-Sarasota Manatee's separate accreditation effort.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support New College of Florida's budget request to secure the final supplemental appropriation of \$1.3 million; Support Fixed Capital Outlay (FCO) Requests.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota efforts to resurrect the Philip Benjamin and Facility Change Grants for Matching Funds Program to leverage private donations; Support efforts to work with K-12 and Florida College System to enhance and manage growth in dual programs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued support and funding for early childhood education efforts.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support legislative efforts to provide appropriate funding for the arts in recognition of its local and state-wide impact.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support legislation that continues funding of economic development incentives such as the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the economic development efforts advanced by Enterprise Florida.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support efforts to identify dedicated state funding source(s). Provide incentives for the film industry.
COST/AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH INSURANCE
<p>The Chamber supports legislative efforts by The Florida Chamber to explore the creation of a healthcare plan, utilizing private market options, which would be open and available to members of The Florida Chamber, i.e., local chamber affiliates.</p>
WATER/ENVIRONMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chamber supports the West-Central Florida Water Restoration Action Plan as presented by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.
BEACH RESTORATION/RED TIDE
<p>The Chamber supports continued and expanded funding for the reduction/elimination of the effects of Red Tide. WE OPPOSE ANY BUDGET REDUCTIONS FOR 2011. Support appropriate annual funding for Florida Beach Management Program.</p>
CLEAN ENERGY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Energy Enterprise Zone (EEZ) initiative/measures/incentives to help pilot communities achieve goals. Clean energy policies which promote job expansion, sound capital investment and positive environmental impacts.
OFF-SHORE DRILLING
<p>Under active review. Recommend no State action until all reports on the Gulf oil spill are completed and reviewed.</p>
<p>For more information, contact:</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">Del Borgsdorf, Executive Vice President The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, 1945 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota, FL 34236 Phone: 941-556-4045; email: dborgsdorf@sarasotachamber.com</p>