

2022 Legislative Priorities

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Support accessible transit that creates mobility to major employment centers in a regionally efficient and collaborative effort.
- Support affordable housing opportunities through the alignment of public-private partnership in conjunction with a workforce transportation initiative.
- Support legislation that reduces the digital divide and expands reliable and affordable access to the devices, signals and skills to all areas of Sarasota County.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

- Support funding all Florida's Public Technical College/Centers Workforce Education Programs at a minimum funding level of 100% of the state model as developed and approved by the State FLDOE Workforce Education Funding Committee.
- Support fully funding appropriations to school district workforce education programs for Credentials of Value earned by secondary and post-secondary students.
- Support mental health funding to address the mental health crisis occurring at the VPK through high school levels.
- Support the reduction of barriers for occupational licenses.
- Support increased access to childcare benefits for working families.
- Support policy that promotes pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship and encourages internship opportunities that develop a talent pipeline that reflects the needs of industry.

WATER QUALITY

- Support a sound public policy and rational investment in infrastructure, both locally and regionally, that protects the Gulf of Mexico and local estuarine resources.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support the full utilization of the Sadowski Trust Fund revenue solely for market solutions that return assistance to affordable housing.
- Support ongoing COVID-19 recovery and resiliency to the business community.
- Support fully funding expedited training, such as Fast-Track, Rapid Credentialing, and Quick Response to meet employer high demand, entry-level positions while providing a living wage, benefits, and career opportunities to local talent.
- Support modifications to the social benefits system that will allow for a gradual exit path for working families.

The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business - creating bold opportunities and solutions for our community.