

2015 WEST ORANGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LEGISLATIVE POSITION PAPER

*The West Orange Chamber of Commerce, the business voice for West Orange County, represents **over 1000** businesses and **over 200,000 employees**. The WOCC is committed to be the leading business advocate in central Florida as we exist to serve by “Facilitating Opportunity”; building partnerships, strong businesses and an unshakeable commitment to West Orange County. As advocates for business in West Orange, we urge you to give favorable consideration to our positions.*

Business Issues:

Supports...

- Reducing sales taxes on commercial rental property
- SB 392 - Legislation that reauthorizes and improves the Enterprise Zone program that offers alternatives for the state and local governments to work in partnership for economic development within our communities.
- CS/SB 384 & HB 259 – Small Business Saturday Sales Tax Holiday, establishing a one-day sales tax holiday on Saturday, November 28, 2015. During the holiday, a purchase of \$1,000 or less made at a small business is exempt from the state sales tax and county discretionary sales surtaxes.
- Amending Florida Statute #163.506(1)(f) and (3) establishing Neighborhood Improvement Districts and who can serve on its board of directors to include, “or a property owner’s designated representative”.

Economic Development/Industry:

Supports...

- HB 451-A bill created to increase the investment in film, entertainment and digital media production. The industry creates immediate jobs and triggers the spending of significant amounts of new money in our local economies throughout the State and West Orange County.
- Maintaining the current funding levels for Visit Florida, the official tourism marketing corporation for the state of FL, allowing FL to properly market itself around the world and compete for destination business.
- Funding of the National Entrepreneur Center to continue its mission of “economic development through small business development.”
- Funding for the City of Orlando Major League Soccer stadium.

Infrastructure:

Supports...

- Funding of a sewer system in the Town of Oakland, to help bolster economic development and relieve the environment of septic tank pollution.
- Funding of sewer systems in West Orange County, to help bolster economic development, relieve the environment of septic tank pollution and to enhance water quality to include funding from Amendment 1.
- Funding for a connector road between West Orange County and Hwy. 27. This project should be on the Department of Transportation 3 or 5 year plan.
- Additional funding for the bike trails via Amendment 1 to help close the gaps for the “Coast to Coast Connector” ,” a multi-use trail system that would stretch across the state from St. Petersburg to Titusville. This connector will open the door to the development of Ecotourism in our local economies throughout the State and West Orange County.
- Protecting all Trust Funds. The funds in these accounts should not be used for any non- related expenses.

Education:

Supports...

- Increased funding to provide quality training in technical education program areas to meet the employment needs of business and industry throughout Central Florida and the State.
- Increase in recurring state funding for Valencia College, in an amount commensurate with Valencia's exemplary performance and its historical funding position within the Florida College System.
- University of Central Florida's effort to sustain the Department of Defense modeling, simulation, and training cluster in Central Florida.
- Eliminating unfunded state regulations and mandates.

Opposes...

- Any effort to redirect current traditional public school funding or existing local school boards' facilities to charter school operators.

Health Care:

Supports...

- Lowering the trajectory of health care costs for businesses at a time when they need relief which could include stable or increased Medicaid funding and the thorough consideration of extending healthcare coverage for the working poor.

Destination Casinos:

Opposes...

- Expanding gambling/gaming in the state of Florida.



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