

2016 WEST ORANGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LEGISLATIVE POSITION PAPER



Business Issues:

Supports...

- SB 116 Reducing the Business Rent Tax, also known as the sales tax on commercial leases.
- 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.
- Small Business Saturday Sales Tax Holiday, establishing a one-day sales tax holiday on the Saturday following Thanksgiving.
- 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...

- The 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.

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.
- Protecting all Trust Funds. The funds in these accounts should not be used for any non- related expenses.

Education:

Supports...

- Ensuring workforce training programs fill the gaps between employer need and talent availability.
- Increased funding to meet the deadline of 2018 Digital Implementation
- Funding of \$20 million to support the construction of a new UCF academic building in downtown Orlando that, pending appropriate approvals and community support, would serve nearly 7700 UCF and Valencia College students beginning Fall of 2018.
- Investment of \$15 million to complete the UCF Partnership IV complex, allowing Central Florida to maintain its status as the nation’s leading cluster in modeling, simulation and training, and continue to strengthen the partnership that exists between academia, industry and the military.
- 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.