



West Orange Chamber of Commerce 2022 Legislative Position Paper

Economic Development/Industry:

Opposes...

- Any legislative efforts that impact how companies use, store, and share consumer data. Implementing consumer data privacy that is being suggested by the House will allow individual to sue businesses, and could create an unattended consequence of frivolous class action lawsuits.

Supports...

- Legislation that extends Visit Florida, Florida's tourism-marketing agency, to October 1, 2031.
- The COVID-19 Liability Protections passed in SB 72 expire on March 29, a year after DeSantis signed the bill into law. The COVID-19 pandemic has lingered so long, though, that businesses are pushing lawmakers to extend them.
- Legislation to create a competitive and stable private insurance market to stem the current amount of expensive and unnecessary litigation that is increasing property insurance rates for everyone. Without reform, homeowners' insurance rates in Florida are expected to increase 10-fold over the next 10 years.

Health Care:

Supports...

- Continued limited liability protections for healthcare providers as it relates to providing healthcare services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Absent legislative action, these necessary protections for Florida's healthcare heroes will sunset in March 2022.
- Ensuring access to healthcare solutions and services which improve the health of those in the West Orange community while reducing the financial impact on the West Orange community. The focus on cutting costs in the healthcare system must be balanced with improving quality and limiting the financial impact to the healthcare industry.
- Restore Orlando Health – Health Central's additional healthcare funding, which helped offset the charity care provided and positively impacted the quality of care provided to those in the West Orange Community.

Municipal:

Supports...

- Legislative assistance for the Town of Oakland's South Lake Apopka Initiative (Alternative Water Project) is needed to assist in moving from reliance on high quality drinking water to a lower quality water for irrigation demands.
This project is two-fold and will assist the State with important environmental priorities. First, it will help reduce the nutrient-loading of Lake Apopka, with proven nitrogen and phosphorous removal technology. Second, it will help to conserve the high-quality potable water drawn from the aquifer.
- Funding for the Windermere Water Master Plan. This project will improve the safety of drinking water and fire protection capabilities as well as reducing the number of wells around the area's waterbodies.
- Support the full funding of \$5 million/year for the Land Acquisition Trust Fund 375.041 section (3)(b) 3 for the restoration of Lake Apopka. The funding will enable St. Johns River Water Management District to continue the restoration of the lake and will help increase the public access to the lake and enhance ecotourism for the region.

Education:

Supports...

- Increase Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) non-categorical funding.
- Support non-categorical funding that allows districts to recruit and retain employees in a competitive market.
- Sustainable post-secondary CTE funding that would allow for growth and create a startup two-year funding model to respond to industry demands.
- As Valencia College is the fastest growing College in Florida – in the heart of the fastest growing region of the Country – we would ask the Legislature to ensure appropriate funding of the needed growth.

MONITORING:

- SB 280 Local Ordinances; Authorizing courts to assess and award attorney fees and costs and damages in certain civil actions filed against local governments; requiring a board of county commissioners to prepare a business impact statement before the adoption of a proposed ordinance; requiring a governing body of a municipality to prepare a business impact statement before the adoption of a proposed ordinance, etc. Effective Date: 10/01/2022
- Florida workers' compensation insurance rates (Decreased of 6.6% in 2021 and decreased 7.5% in 2020)
- Legislation enabling Associated Health Care Plan implementation
- Reduction of the Business Rent Tax