

2025 Legislative Priorities

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Support affordable housing solutions through the alignment of public-private partnerships and zoning changes.
- Support the full utilization of the Sadowski Trust Fund revenue solely for market solutions that return assistance to affordable housing.

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.

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 full funding for 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.
- Ensure State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (SCF) students are funded relative to and in alignment with the Florida College System institutions, including \$17 million in additional recurring funding and support their request for \$9 million to complete Phase I of its new Parrish campus.
- Support mental health funding to address the mental health crisis occurring at VPK through high school levels.
- Support policy that promotes pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and internship opportunities that develop a talent pipeline that reflects the needs of industry.
- Support operational funding for the University of South Florida and fixed capital outlay of \$20 million for the Nursing/STEM Building on the USF Sarasota-Manatee campus.
- 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.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support increased access to childcare benefits for working families.
- Support solutions to property insurance reductions for businesses and residents.
- Support fixing lawsuit abuse issues in Florida and improving Florida's legal climate.
- Support modifications to the social benefits system that will allow for a gradual exit path for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) families.
- Support additional funding for local multimodal transportation and mobility projects for our workforce that create mobility access to major employment centers in a regionally efficient and collaborative effort.
- Support policies that allow public private partnerships in economic development initiatives, infrastructure investment, job creation, business development, and relocation.

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