



# Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2026

### Top 3 Priorities:

The Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce has identified a slate of issues important to our local community and specifically we have identified three (3) priorities for the 2026 Legislative Session:

- 1) **Home Rule:** Support citizen driven municipal home rule. Maintaining county and municipal home- rule power, both administrative and fiscal, keeps government close to the citizens so they can play an active role in developing community-based solutions to local problems. The Chamber also opposes limiting powers of local governments.
- 2) **Community Redevelopment Areas:** Support existing statutes which create a mechanism for counties and cities to establish, operate and fund Community Redevelopment Agencies. The Chamber would oppose legislation aimed at reducing funding for, limiting the creation of new and/or dismantling existing CRAs.
- 3) **Workforce Quality:** Bridging the gap between employers and job seekers. The Chamber believes offering a tax incentive to business owners during the hiring/training process will relieve any added reluctance or stress to allow newly graduated students a career opportunity. We continue to support the local career development programs in general and within the Martin County School District which has a wide range of opportunities for our local youth.



### **Hobe Sound Chamber Background:**

The Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce is a 501 (c) (6) not for profit organization serving the business community and residents of Hobe Sound and the surrounding area with an emphasis on economic, civic, commercial, cultural, industrial and education interests of the area. With nearly 500 members who privately invest in Chamber membership each year, we know that more than 90% are small businesses, many with five or fewer employees. The Chamber understands the different challenges small business owners face. The Chamber offers programs and partners with multiple organizations to help address the growing needs of the entire membership.

### **Government Affairs Committee Mission:**

The Hobe Sound Chamber's Government Affairs Committee (GAC) was organized in 2017 to educate members on local and state legislative issues while creating a mechanism for the Chamber to advocate for the interests of business in government. The goal is to connect elected officials to the committee and encourage the business community to take an active role in understanding Government and how they may participate in the legislative process. Local and state governmental influences are largely affected by the input of the community they serve. This committee serves as a conduit to exchanging ideas and priorities between the community we serve and those who represent us in the policy and decision-making process.