

The South Palm Beach County Chamber Partnership



**SOUTH PALM BEACH
COUNTY CHAMBER
PARTNERSHIP**



Business Agenda 2010

☆ South Palm Beach County Chamber Partnership's Business Agenda 2010☆

One of the objectives of the South Palm Beach County Chamber Partnership - the Greater Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Boynton Beach Chambers of Commerce - is to advocate for our members as it relates to Federal, State and local government agendas. Many of the laws that are presented have a major impact on the business community. Your Chambers have taken a stand on your behalf by urging elected officials to support and defend your interests and the interests of the entire business community.

Federal Issues

The South Palm Beach County Chamber Partnership **SUPPORTS**
the following U.S. Chamber of Commerce national priorities:

HEALTH CARE REFORM

- Strongly support health care reform without stipulations that would make health care more expensive, create onerous burdens for businesses, hamper economic recovery, and implement a vast array of unwarranted new taxes

FINANCIAL SERVICES OVERHAUL

- Oppose changes that would magnify and exacerbate flaws within the existing regulatory structure and hamper economic growth

TAX BREAK EXTENDERS

- Strongly support extending tax relief
- Oppose increasing taxes on carried interest, which would have negative impacts on capital formation and investment flows

IMMIGRATION REFORM

- Oppose unreasonable employment verification practices
- Oppose harmful changes to existing temporary worker visas
- Oppose the creation of a commission to determine employment-based migration levels and policies in lieu of a new temporary worker program, based on market needs

TRADE PROMOTION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

- Continue to support legislation that helps businesses engage in international trade

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Every year, local and state Chambers of Commerce guide businesses through legislative issues that will directly impact Florida's economy. The South Palm Beach County Chamber Partnership is in a constant state of collaboration, working to enhance our economy through job creation, recovery and transition to the future. The focus remains on six key pillars that were developed as a result of extensive research conducted by the Florida Chamber Foundation.

State Issues

The South Palm Beach County Chamber Partnership SUPPORTS
the following Florida Chamber of Commerce state priorities:

TALENT

☆ Education and Workforce

- Lead efforts to bring high-tech, high-wage jobs to Florida through strategic investments in education and workforce excellence
- Support education as the primary job creator and driving force behind the transition into a new economy

INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

☆ Transitioning and Diversifying Florida's Economy

- Invest in research and development to help stimulate the economy
- Work to increase the amount of federal research dollars for small businesses

INFRASTRUCTURE

☆ Energy Solutions

- Support a comprehensive energy policy that balances affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible energy sources while promoting economic and national security

☆ Transportation

- Identify additional resources to fund critical infrastructure needs
- Oppose the redirection of money from the State Transportation Trust Fund for non-transportation related purposes

☆ Growth Leadership

- Foster incentives for greater urban infill and redevelopment, including the creation of a fair, equitable and predictable mobility fee that replaces transportation concurrency exactions.

☆ Investing in Florida's Rail System

- Defend a cost-effective rail transportation network to create jobs, reduce traffic and congestion on Florida's roads and efficiently move products to the market

☆ Environmental Protection

- Promote efficient and effective state environmental policies
- Fight to eliminate unnecessary and duplicative regulations
- Streamline our permitting process to limit excessive costs on employers

GOVERNANCE

☆ Streamlined Government

- Eliminate duplicative functions, bureaucracy and red tape burdens on employers

☆ Cost-Benefit Analysis of Legislation

- Provide legislators a cost-benefit analysis of legislation to assist them in prioritizing limited taxpayer resources as effectively and efficiently as possible

QUALITY OF LIFE

☆ Streamlined Government

- Supports efforts to find a meaningful solution to the current health care debate without increased costs or mandates on Florida's employers, while supporting wellness and free enterprise

State Issues (cont.)

The South Palm Beach County Chamber Partnership SUPPORTS
the following Florida Chamber of Commerce state priorities:

BUSINESS CLIMATE

☆ **Property Insurance Relief**

- Provide more affordable and available hurricane insurance to Florida's business owners
- Reduce current/potential assessments on Floridians from insolvent state-run insurers

☆ **Property Tax Relief**

- Pass a joint resolution and additional legislation to stop the property tax burden on business property

☆ **Fighting Corporate Income Tax Increases**

- Supports stability and predictability in the taxes employers pay
- Oppose corporate income tax increases, unitary tax legislation or tax proposals that discourage investment in capital or jobs

☆ **Defeat Amendment 4**

- Defeat Amendment 4 - which, if passed, will lead to higher taxes, job losses and costly lawsuits

Florida's Progress is in Danger - Save it by Defeating Amendment 4!

Amendment 4 - which would impose a referendum requirement on all local comprehensive plan changes - subverts a well-established, open, accessible, and democratic planning process. With the Vote on Everything amendment, many Sunshine State voters - not the representatives they elected - will be expected to decide 200 to 300 intricate land-use planning amendments every year. The disruption, disorder and extreme cost of this Amendment would be destructive as Floridians struggle to recover from the challenges of the economic climate.

☆ **Stop Card Check Legislation**

- Oppose card check legislation which seeks to over-regulate the workplace by removing secret ballot elections and coerce workers into joining the unions

☆ **Legal Reform**

- End frivolous lawsuits
- Reduce costs to employers by restoring fairness to Florida's judicial system
- Fight to protect court system funding and reinforce parental rights
- Continue to support the Florida Justice Reform Institute's agenda for legal reform

County and Education Issues

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

☆ **Expedited Permitting**

- Encourage all cities in Palm Beach County to adopt the BDB's Expedited Permitting Ordinance to facilitate economic development projects

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

☆ **FAU Medical Program**

- Support the approval for a four-year stand-alone medical education program, which will create between 200 and 300 residency slots in our area and will include a joint MD/PhD cooperation with The Scripps Research Institute.

South Palm Beach County Chamber Partnership's Local Issues

The City of Boca Raton

The Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce SUPPORTS the following city priorities:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support the downtown pedestrian project which will become the link between Mizner Park and Royal Palm Place and act as a true pedestrian oriented environment centrally located within the core of the Central Business District of Boca Raton
- Support incentives that will attract and retain new business opportunities to create jobs

TRANSPORTATION

- Funding for comprehensive transportation initiatives including shuttle service
- Funding of new I-95 Interchange and auxiliary lanes between Glades Road and Yamato Road to support FAU and regional growth

The City of Delray Beach

The Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce SUPPORTS the following city priorities:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Improve the business climate of Delray Beach through initiatives to promote the entire city as a regional draw for larger employers with a concentration on the Congress Avenue Corridor
- Promote Delray Beach internationally and domestically as a city to work, live and play

QUALITY OF LIFE

- Support legislation that will enhance prescription drug monitoring and increase the ability of law enforcement to address prescription drug abuse
- Support funding to support beach restoration projects for the 2.65 miles of the beach in Delray Beach

The City of Boynton Beach

The Greater Boynton Beach Chamber of Commerce SUPPORTS the following city priorities:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support the establishment of the Independent CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency) Board with Community and Business Leader representation. Focus on the Downtown Redevelopment based upon Master Plans in existence
- Support the efforts of a joint team of City Staff and Chamber Staff to survey existing businesses in the City for establishment of retention programs to strengthen the relationships with the current business community

GOVERNMENTAL AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

- Strengthen the involvement of the business community in City Advisory Boards by proposing a change allowing for Business Owners with property in the City of Boynton Beach to serve on Advisory Boards
- Support the participation of the Business Community in the High School Advisory Committees of the Greater Boynton Beach area



GREATER BOCA RATON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OFFICERS

Forrest Heathcott, JM Family Enterprises, Inc., *Chair*

John T. Mulhall, Rutherford Mulhall, P.A., *Chair Elect*

Cheryl Budd, NCCI Holdings, Inc., *Vice Chair*

Keith O'Donnell, Flagler Real Estate Services, *Vice Chair*

Randy Nobles, Comerica Wealth & Institutional Management, *Treasurer*

Sam Hosn, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, *Immediate Past Chair*

Troy M. McLellan, CCE, Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce, *President & CEO/Secretary*

DIRECTORS

Stephen J. Ast, Boca Raton Resort & Club

James Barr, JSB Consulting, LLC

Vic Beninate, AT&T

Joseph Cilia, Town Center at Boca Raton

Melanie Dickinson, South Florida Business Journal

Jerry Fedele, Boca Raton Community Hospital

Mitch Feldman, West Boca Medical Center

Charles J. Frankel III, Cypress Capital Group

Peter Gallo, Ph.D., St. Andrew's School

Richard Gold, Promise Healthcare Inc.

Michael Gora, Shapiro, Blasi, Wasserman, & Gora, PA

Geraldine Hussey, Bank of America

Bonnie Kaye, Kaye Communications, Inc.

Rick Konsavage, Ocean Properties, Ltd.

Thomas Lynch, Plastridge Insurance Agency, Inc.

Richard Murdoch, Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLP

Anthony Newbold, Florida Power & Light Company

J.C. Perrin, JPMorgan Chase

Al Petrangeli, Balfour Beatty Construction

Joseph Pores, Call 4 Health

Burt Rapoport, Rapoport's Restaurant Group

Victoria Rixon, Lydian

Rocki Rockingham, Jarden Consumer Solutions

Dr. Kevin Ross, Lynn University

Tim Snow, George Snow Scholarship Fund

Chuck Stout, Meridian Insurance Group

Craig Swill, Welcome Wagon International

Wanda Thayer, Penn-Florida Companies

Al Travasos, Ibis Financial Group

Joseph Veccia, Jr., Babione Funeral Homes



GREATER DELRAY BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Brian Cheslack, Chapin, Ballerano & Cheslack, *Chair*

David Reeves, Reeves-Laverdure Public Relations, Inc., *Vice Chair Communications*

Gregg Weiss, Raymond James & Associates, *Vice Chair Economic Development*

Scott Porten, Porten Companies, *Vice Chair Government Affairs & Education*

Kimberly Camejo, City National Bank of Florida, *Vice Chair Membership*

Sue Tauriello, Tauriello & Company Real Estate Inc., *Vice Chair Special Events*

Charles F. Cannone, CPA, *Vice Chair Technology*

Dr. Jay Alperin D.D.S., P.A., *Immediate Past Chair*

Michael Malone, CCE, Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce, *President & CEO*

DIRECTORS

Cathy Balestriere, Crane's BeachHouse Hotel & Tiki Bar
Mack Bernard, Bernard Title Guaranty, Inc.
Louis Carbone, Coastal Design & Development Group
Daniel Castrillon, The Scirocco Group
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GREATER BOYNTON BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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Mike Bottcher, The Plastridge Insurance Agency,
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William Marcacci, Cypress Creek Country Club
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Contacting your representatives about your Chamber's positions and your own concerns will enhance the Chamber's lobbying efforts at all levels of government.

For more information, contact the:

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