



## Southwest Florida Alliance of Chambers 2020 Legislative Priorities

The Southwest Florida Alliance of Chambers is a coalition of Southwest Florida chambers of commerce committed to advocating at the local, state and federal levels to improve Southwest Florida's quality of life and to serve as a catalyst for positive change impacting business, environment and tourism.

### Visit Florida

- We **support** the long-term reauthorization of, and agency requested appropriations for, Visit Florida.
  - Visit Florida will sunset in June 2020 if no action is taken.
  - The Legislature decreased funding by 34 percent from \$75 million to \$50 million in fiscal 2019-20.

### Water Quality

- We **support** updating and strengthening stormwater standards for urban landscapes (statewide stormwater rule) and agricultural runoff, particularly for nutrient pollution from nitrogen and phosphorus that feeds harmful algal blooms.
- We **support** advanced wastewater treatment to reduce nutrients in reuse/reclaimed irrigation water with monitoring of nutrient concentrations.
- We **support** the establishment of statewide septic tank inspection and maintenance requirements.
- We **support** consistent sustained funding levels to accomplish the Everglades Agricultural Area projects and objective of sending clean water South as quickly as possible and implementation of critical infrastructures projects north and south of Lake Okeechobee.

### Transportation

- We **support** the creation of increased funding and heightened priority for Southwest Florida transportation projects and studies as part of Florida Department of Transportation planning while remaining consistent with existing property rights.
- We **support** Priority transportation projects include interstate and bridge improvements, rail, and major highway and aviation projects that support the regional economy.

### Workforce Housing

- We **support** developing policies that increase attainable housing opportunities for our community members, including zoning changes to incentivize multi-unit development.
  - Ex: Lehigh Acres was created with pre-platted lots, making it difficult to develop multi-unit or mixed use projects. A local bill is needed to change this.
  - By removing the pre-platted requirements, developers and builders could be incentivized to develop housing that is more affordable for workers.
- We **support** fully funding the Sadowski housing trust funds in the 2019-20 fiscal year.