



## 2012 State Legislative Agenda

The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce recognizes its responsibility to represent our 1,600 members in the legislative process. An integral component of the Chamber's mission is to communicate the views of the business community to our elected policy makers. The Chamber is continuing its focus on job creation as a means to overall economic stimulation. With this core mission in mind, the Chamber has identified the following legislative priorities that will advance this focus while supporting a more business-oriented environment.

### Innovation

*The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce requests continued funding for critical economic development tools to include International Trade, Targeted Industries, among others designed to attract new jobs and support the expansion of existing local jobs.*

- Continue to support our region's research facilities to ensure further job creation and expansion in the community including:
  - Restore Moffitt Cancer Center's share of the cigarette tax and restore biomedical trust funds
- Restore Medicaid reimbursements to prior levels

### Infrastructure

*The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce continues to support efforts towards improving the Tampa Bay area infrastructure to ensure better mobility and affordability for businesses keeping in mind the need for transit, energy, and water resource solutions.*

- Secure sustainable funding model for TBARTA to continue its mission
- Continue to support THEA's independence
- Continue state investment for seaport infrastructure
- Support the passage of TIA's Enabling Act codification and amendments, HB 575
- Repeal/Modify FS 1011.90 (Academic Travel Ban)

### Talent: Education and Workforce

*The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce seeks to ensure that our members have better local access to an educated and highly skilled workforce necessary to compete in the 21st Century through support of education funding and access to career education programs.*

- Replace Education Jobs Funds in the K-12 Education budget and restore the Base Student Allocation (BSA) to at least the 2005 - 2006 level
- Continue to support the District's efforts to protect the Gates Foundation from any adverse policy positions
- Secure additional operational money for the campuses of the USF System to restore previous reductions in state support and provide for the enhancement of more STEM-related degrees
- Support increased funding for the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) Program
- Support Hillsborough Community College's interest in increased state funding per FTE.

### Business Climate and Governance

*The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce continues to support the streamlining of government to avoid duplicative and red tape burdens that exist on Florida businesses while working to ensure governments effectively utilize tax payer dollars to work as efficiently as possible.*

- Secure financial support for the RNC Host Committee related to operations
- Monitor redistricting and its potential impacts to the business community
- Promote Government Efficiency Caucus outputs