

South Tampa Chamber of Commerce 2025 Legislative Agenda

FINAL – Approved by Advocacy Council 1/9/25

#1. Economic Development & Innovation

- Support for Small Businesses: Advocate for policies that reduce regulatory burdens, provide access to capital, and support entrepreneurship.
- Workforce Development: Promote education and training programs that align with the needs of South Tampa businesses, ensuring a skilled and ready workforce.
- Infrastructure Investment: Prioritize funding for transportation, digital infrastructure, and public utilities to support business growth and attract new investments.

#2. Transportation & Mobility

- Traffic Congestion Solutions: Support initiatives to reduce traffic congestion, including smart traffic management systems and alternative transportation options.
- Public Transit: Advocate for expanded and improved public transit options that connect South Tampa with other key areas of the region.
- Walkability & Bikeability: Promote the development of pedestrian-friendly and bike-friendly infrastructure to enhance mobility within South Tampa.

#3. Quality of Life & Environment

- Sustainable Growth: Encourage responsible development practices that preserve the environment and enhance the quality of life in South Tampa.
- Resilience & Climate Adaptation: Support efforts to strengthen South Tampa's resilience against climate change impacts, particularly flooding and hurricanes.
- Public Safety: Advocate for increased resources for law enforcement, emergency services, and disaster preparedness.

#4. Healthcare & Wellness

- Access to Healthcare: Promote policies that expand access to affordable healthcare for businesses and residents.
- Mental Health Resources: Support initiatives that increase the availability of mental health services in the community.
- Public Health Initiatives: Encourage local health campaigns that address wellness, nutrition, and preventive care.

#5. Housing & Affordable Living

- Affordable Housing: Advocate for policies that support the development of affordable housing options for the South Tampa workforce.
- Property Tax Relief: Support measures that provide property tax relief for small businesses and residents.
- Workforce Housing: Promote the development of housing options that are affordable for essential workers in the community.

#6. Education & Talent Pipeline

- Early Learning Education: Support increased funding and access to quality early childhood education programs, recognizing their critical role in preparing children for academic success and lifelong learning.
- K-12 Education: Support policies that ensure high-quality education in Hillsborough County schools, with an emphasis on STEAM and workforce training.
- Higher Education & Partnerships: Foster partnerships between businesses and local colleges to align educational programs with industry needs.
- Apprenticeship & Internship Programs: Promote the expansion of apprenticeship and internship opportunities to build a strong talent pipeline.

#7. Military Support & Advocacy

- Military Families: Advocate for policies that support the needs of military families, including access to quality education, healthcare, and housing.
- Military Spouse Employment: Advocate for policies that improve job opportunities for spouses of active-duty military personnel in Florida, addressing challenges like licensing reciprocity and expanding remote work options.
- Veteran Services: Support initiatives that enhance services for veterans, including employment opportunities, mental health resources, and transition assistance.
- Base Infrastructure & Community Integration: Promote investments in MacDill Air Force Base, local installations and military components, and encourage strong community ties between military personnel and South Tampa residents.
- Defense Industry Growth: Advocate for policies that support the growth of the defense industry in the Tampa region, creating jobs and strengthening the local economy.

#8. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

- Promote Inclusive Economic Opportunities: Advocate for policies that ensure minority-owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses in South Tampa have equal access to resources, capital, and opportunities for growth, fostering an equitable economic landscape.
- Enhance Workforce Diversity and Development: Support workforce training programs that prioritize underrepresented groups, ensuring access to skills development and career opportunities that contribute to a diverse and inclusive workforce in Tampa Bay's key industries.
- Provide Resources to Support Minority Businesses: Advocate for programs that offer training, certification opportunities, and mentorship for minority-owned businesses in South Tampa, empowering them with the tools and knowledge needed to succeed and grow in competitive markets