

*2025 Legislative Priorities*

| Issue                  | North Port Area Chamber of Commerce Supports the Following Policy Statements  |
|------------------------|---|
| Health/Medical         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative efforts to allow members of associations to obtain group health insurance.</li> <li>• Increase State funding for local infrastructure to increase the capacity of medical facilities and services.</li> <li>• Increase allocations to local governments and organizations to address mental health concerns.</li> <li>• Clarify qualifications and processes of insurance providers.</li> </ul>  |
| Education              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding for Workforce Development and Teacher Education.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide funding for teacher recruitment, retention, education, and training.</li> <li>○ Increase funding toward educational programs to address workforce needs.</li> <li>○ Provide funding for Suncoast Technical College in North Port to expand facilities, programs and services.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| Transportation         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support increased legislative funding for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expansion of River Road from Englewood to Interstate 75.</li> <li>○ Improvement of local roads and main corridors that serve as evacuation routes.</li> <li>○ Connectors for East to West corridors within North Port.</li> <li>○ Prioritize placement of a new Yorkshire/Raintree interchange on Interstate 75.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Expedite Sumter &amp; Toledo Blade interchange improvements on Interstate 75.</li> </ul> |
| Economic Development   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislation to support Attainable/Affordable Housing.</li> <li>• Allocating the full amount of dedicated documentary tax revenues for state and local affordable housing programs.</li> <li>• Statewide and local economic development efforts help retain and attract diverse industry.</li> <li>• Create emergency funding for existing business recovery from natural disasters.</li> <li>• Fully support the Division of Economic Development at FloridaCommerce and SelectFlorida.</li> </ul>                                 |
| Infrastructure         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support legislative efforts to increase funding for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Local storm water management and improvement.</li> <li>○ Local infrastructure improvements including broadband communication and utilities infrastructure.</li> <li>○ Roadway improvements/replacements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| Government Regulations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not support additional non-essential legislation or new taxes which cause undue cost burdens and mandates on businesses.</li> <li>• Respect Local Home Rule.</li> <li>• Continue to ensure workers' compensation premiums are fair and not inflated.</li> <li>• Support 2025 Legislative Priorities of Sarasota County and its municipalities unless specific issues conflict with positions of the North Port Area Chamber of Commerce.</li> <li>• Continue to reduce or eliminate the State Business Rent Tax.</li> </ul>   |
| Natural Resources      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding for issues related to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Red tide and algae bloom.</li> <li>○ Advanced waste-water treatment and research.</li> <li>○ Septic-to-sewer replacement in the City of North Port and Sarasota County.</li> <li>○ Connecting City of North Port Residents to City water services.</li> <li>○ Alternative sources of potable water supply and research.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |