

# 2025 Legislative Priorities

## TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Support accessible workforce transit that creates mobility to major employment centers in a regionally efficient and collaborative effort.
- **Support affordable housing solutions through the alignment of public-private partnerships and zoning changes.**
- Support legislation that reduces the digital divide and expands reliable and affordable access to the devices, signals and skills to all areas of Sarasota County.
- Support long-term infrastructure investments that meet the needs of growing Florida.

## EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

- Support funding all Florida's Public Technical College/Centers Workforce Education Programs at a minimum funding level of 100% of the state model as developed and approved by the State FLDOE Workforce Education Funding Committee.
- Ensure State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (SCF) students' are funded equitably relative to and in alignment with the Florida College System institutions, including \$9.8 million in additional recurring funding.
- Support mental health funding to address the mental health crisis occurring at the VPK through high school levels.
- Support the reduction of barriers for occupational licenses.
- **Support increased access to childcare benefits for working families.**
- Support policy that promotes pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and internship opportunities that develop a talent pipeline that reflects the needs of industry.
- We support operational funding for the University of South Florida and fixed capital outlay funds for the Nursing/STEM Building on the USF Sarasota-Manatee campus.

## WATER QUALITY

- Support a sound public policy and rational investment in infrastructure, both locally and regionally, that protects the Gulf of Mexico and local estuarine resources.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support the full utilization of the Sadowski Trust Fund revenue solely for market solutions that return assistance to affordable housing.
- **Support solutions to property insurance increases for businesses and residents.**
- **Support fixing lawsuit abuse issues in Florida and improving Florida's legal climate.**
- Support fully funding expedited training, such as Fast-Track, Rapid Credentialing, and Quick Response to meet employer high demand, entry-level positions while providing a living wage, benefits, and career opportunities to local talent.
- Support modifications to the social benefits system that will allow for a gradual exit path for working families.

**The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business - creating bold opportunities and solutions for our community.**