

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & RESULTS



During the 2024 Florida Legislative Session over 1900 bills were filed, of which more than 320 passed through both chambers. Passing the largest budget in Florida's history, the FY24-FY25 State budget is sitting at \$117.5 billion before any line-item vetoes by Governor DeSantis. Here are some additional takeaways from the 2024 session.

1. Support continued insurance initiatives that create a competitive and stable insurance market which will lower costs for Florida's policy holders.

The Florida Legislature took steps this year to bring further stability to Florida's insurance market by working to return Citizens Property Insurance Corporation to its intended position of being the insurer of last resort, while reducing the possibility for assessments and hurricane taxes.

2. Monitor "Live Local" Act affordable housing solutions for our workforce and residents' housing needs and Florida's housing trust funds (Sadowski Act) to be used solely for housing programs.

Legislation was passed to expedite the approval process for residential building permits. Another bill passed requires local governments to begin issuing temporary building permits once a temporary plat has been approved.

3. Support FDOT work program funding which adds to regional vibrancy including S.R. 681 and I-75 interchange expansion project.

\$13.98B allocated in FY24-25 state budget for FDOT 5-year Work Program.

4. Support the flexibility to extend disaster loan payoff terms and reduce interest rates for business recovery after disasters.

5. Support the continued reduction of Florida's corporate income tax.

This June, Florida's Business Rent Tax will be reduced to 2% from 4.5%.

6. Support Department of Commerce to proactively market the state as a business destination and incentivize corporations to relocate to Florida.

- Support Visit Florida, a Direct Support Organization under newly formed Department of Commerce, in its work to establish Florida as a premier destination for visitors nationally and internationally.

\$80M allocated in FY24-25 state budget.

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To join forces with others including City, County, EDC, Florida Chamber, and Florida Board of Realtors on following policy issues where they don't conflict with Venice Area Chamber policy:

1. Support expansion of and investments in workforce education and training programs through grant programs, employer incentives, and partnerships with local workforce boards.

“Live Healthy” legislation aims to address Florida’s health care workforce shortages by creating new opportunities for education, training, and retention.

2. Support Human Services measures to expand access to long-term and acute behavioral health treatment focused on addiction, mental health, and suicide prevention, including funding to address the mental health crisis occurring at the VPK through high school levels.

“Live Healthy” legislation also includes provisions for creating a “framework for behavioral health teaching hospitals to develop a workforce necessary to meet the increasing need for our mental health services.”

3. Support work based learning initiatives linked to local employment opportunities for Grades K-20 by incentivizing and promoting career and technical education.

- 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.

4. Support eco-system initiatives including water quality improvement measures, beach renourishment, and Resilient SRQ program.

5. Utilities: business and school access to broadband and internet access.

\$100M allocated in FY24-25 state budget for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.