
The latest from the government and leadership office of the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce

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Resilient Business Initiative Week 6

Legislative Update

Status of Chamber Legislative
Priorities.

Did you Know?

Organizational Slack Theory



Week 6 - Workforce Resilience & Staff Accountability

Purpose

Ensure staff safety, accountability, and role clarity during disruptions. Resiliency may involve support for a staff member/employee in need, with unexpected new priorities brought about by the event. For example, consider the staff member that needs to address a life safety or home security issue away from the workplace before they can give attention to their job assignment.

Why This Matters to Venice-Area Businesses

Staff availability is often the first failure point during emergencies.

Key Concept

Knowing who is available and who is not allows realistic operational decisions. This is based a great deal on the type of event. Talk around various event types and who would have off-site responsibilities that might

pre-empt a staff member's ability to be at the workplace. Also, depending on the staff you have, consider a support team that can respond to and assist a member in need off-site.

Business-Friendly Incident Command Insight

Accountability is a core ICS principle that directly applies to business staff.

10-Minute Weekly Task

- List essential roles
- Identify backups for each role
- Confirm contact methods (this is repetitive from previous week's tasks but certainly worth repeating)
- Establish, to whatever capability that you can, an employee support plan based on event type.

Deliverable

A basic staff accountability and role list. This is particularly important, which is why it has been repeated in different weekly tasks.

Readiness Outcome

- We know which roles are essential
- We can account for staff during an incident
- We can or cannot offer off-site responses or support to members to get them back to the workplace sooner than later

Connection to Local Emergency Partners

Accurate and current staff information on hand supports responder coordination.

Show up to and support public safety events in the community. Invite public safety entities to events that you may have. Put faces to names and build those relationships.

Next Week

Week 7 - Facility, Utilities & Access Resilience

Legislative Update | 2026 Priorities - Status Overview

This update provides Chamber members with a concise overview of progress and outstanding issues related to the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce's 2026 Legislative Priorities following the close of the Florida Legislative Session.

Insurance Market Stabilization & Cost Reduction

Status: Partial progress

The Legislature maintained prior property and tort reforms, contributing to market stabilization. Early indicators suggest moderation in rate growth and insurer participation. However, direct affordability relief for policyholders and small businesses remains uneven, with no new consumer-focused reforms advancing this session.

Property Tax Policy Reform

Status: Limited progress

High-profile proposals failed to advance due to concerns over municipal revenue stability and unintended service impacts. No comprehensive reforms were adopted, signaling this as a longer-term issue requiring continued coalition engagement.

Live Local Act & Workforce Housing

Status: Strong progress but issues with concern over Home Rule interference are emerging from local governments

Legislative clarifications enacted in 2025 are now operational statewide. Administrative approval processes have been reinforced, and early implementation shows a growing pipeline of workforce and attainable housing units. Focus has shifted from statutory authority to local execution and infrastructure alignment. Several local governments have raised formal objections, and litigation is expected to increase. This is being closely monitored by your Chamber.

Economic Development & State Commerce Marketing

Status: Progress achieved

The Department of Commerce continues proactive business recruitment and marketing efforts through budgetary support and administrative authority. Florida's competitive position remains strong, though continued regional representation remains important.

Business Rent Tax Elimination

Status: Fully achieved

The permanent elimination of the Business Rent Tax is now in effect, removing both state and local surtaxes. This represents a significant win for business competitiveness and ongoing Chamber advocacy efforts.

Transportation Infrastructure (SR 681 & I-75 Interchange)

Status: On track

The SR 681 / I-75 interchange project remains funded within FDOT's Five-Year Work Program and continues through the PD&E phase. No funding regressions are evident; emphasis should remain on schedule integrity and scope protection.

Disaster Loan Flexibility & Business Recovery

Status: Incremental progress

Recent statutory adjustments extended repayment terms for certain disaster loan programs, primarily benefiting governments and agriculture. Broad-based small business recovery lending remains fragmented, leaving room for continued advocacy.

Outlook

Several long-standing Chamber priorities are now operational, while others—particularly insurance affordability, property tax reform, and post-disaster business recovery—remain unresolved.

Did you Know?

Back to our resilience concepts – Did you know that businesses that deliberately leave 10-15% of their capacity unused (time, cash, staff bandwidth, or inventory) consistently outperform fully “efficient” organizations over the long run – because slack, not optimization, is what allows fast decisions when conditions suddenly change.

We all like optimization, certainly, this is just something to consider. I have a story about this... If you see me, ask me about it.

Look up Organizational Slack Theory and the curvilinear performance findings for business development for more information on this, and the “goldilocks zone” as it applies to different industries. Fun Stuff!

Have a wonderful week Chamber people!