

1. TALENT & EDUCATION: Cultivate a dynamic workforce.

The Chamber advocates a well-rounded, quality education that provides individuals the chance to reach their own life goals. We strongly support efforts to adequately fund a seamless, effective, efficient system of K-12 education, including vocational and technical curriculum.

2. INNOVATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Establish Gainesville as an innovation hub.

The Chamber believes that the Gainesville Area should continue to seek out opportunities to diversify our economy and attract more competitive wage jobs to increase the average wage in our area. Furthermore, the Chamber supports efforts to establish Gainesville as a high-tech, innovative economy with high wage innovative jobs.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH LEADERSHIP: Develop the infrastructure for a 21st century economy.

The Chamber believes that we should maintain a high quality infrastructure network that meets the current and future needs of individual, business and corporate citizens. Emphasis must be placed on adequately designing, constructing and maintaining an infrastructure network (roads, air, rail, information technology, utilities, public transit and public facilities) that is cost effective, yet provides the highest possible level of service to our community, anticipates future growth and the needs that will accompany that growth.

STATE AGENDA

- [Support Santa Fe College Student Fees HB7/SB 654](#) to authorize the Board of Trustees of Santa Fe College to establish a transportation access fee for students enrolled at Santa Fe College, including students enrolled in workforce education programs, to be used only to provide or improve access to transportation services. University of Florida students currently pay a similar fee to ride the Regional Transportation System. (Approved by Chamber Board 2.24.11)

COUNTY AGENDA

- [Support Multi Modal Mitigation Program](#) - The Chamber will support the Multi Modal Mitigation program with the revisions recommended at the March 15, 2011 County Commission meeting and the recommendations made by the Builders Association of North Central Florida. The Chamber recognizes that an alternative to proportionate share is needed. (Approved by Chamber Board 3.24.11)

4. BUSINESS CLIMATE & COMPETITIVENESS: Create a favorable environment to attract businesses to the area and to help local businesses succeed.

The Chamber recognizes that there are rules and regulations that are necessary and proper for a viable, free market, but we believe government regulation of business operations should be minimal, fair and reasonable.

STATE AGENDA

- [Support Streamlined Sales Tax](#) – It is estimated that if Florida were to become fully compliant with the streamlined sales tax, it would add more than \$2 billion to the state budget. In addition, advocating Congress to mandate the collection of sales and use taxes by vendors will encourage equal competition amongst internet and local businesses. (Approved by Chamber Board 1.28.10)

CITY OF GAINESVILLE AGENDA

- **Support Streamlined Development and Permitting Process** – Efficient and effective development and permitting process will eliminate unnecessary and duplicative steps, limit excessive cost to businesses and encourage businesses to bring jobs to our area. The Chamber will monitor the actions of the City of Gainesville's Community Development Review Committee and be an active participant in improving the process. (Approved by Chamber Board 2.24.11)
- **Oppose Environmental Protection Ordinance** – The Chamber opposes the proposed City of Gainesville Environmental Protection Ordinance to amend the Land Development Code (LDC). The Chamber is supportive of protecting the natural and archaeological resources in our area. The City currently has a very aggressive environmental protection ordinance. As the urban core, the City's environmental regulations and guidelines should encourage infill and economic development. The proposed changes to the LDC are a direct conflict with these goals. (Approved by Chamber Board 3.24.11)
- **Oppose Removal of the Special "I-75 Corridor Signs" Section** – The Chamber opposes the removal of the special "I-75 Corridor Signs" section from the City of Gainesville's sign code. In addition to making it convenient for our residents to travel, it also brings thousands of potential customers for our businesses throughout the community on a daily basis. Recognizing this opportunity, the Chamber believes that the City's current sign code, which allows for an additional sign for businesses along this corridor, is good for business in our community. (Approved by Chamber Board 3.24.11)

5. CIVIC & GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS: Support and promote a government that is responsive, efficient and accessible.

The Chamber believes that we should be open to cooperative efforts between local governments to promote efficiency in the delivery of services and to avoid duplication of efforts. The Chamber also believes that the citizens governed by an elected body should have the opportunity to vote for the individuals that represent them at all levels.

6. QUALITY OF LIFE: Foster a high quality of life.

The Chamber supports efforts to provide a high quality of life for all of our area's citizens. Prosperous and livable communities have access to affordable health care and quality affordable housing in a safe, diverse and family-friendly environment that includes recreational, creative and cultural opportunities..