

## AGRICULTURE/WATER

Support infrastructure investments and science based solutions that allow our state to grow while protecting our most precious natural resources.

\*Oppose efforts to reduce the City of Lakeland's permitted capacity for water use.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Support maintaining counties and municipalities' use of Community Development Agencies (CRAs) that will allow for revitalization of blighted communities.

Support continued funding for programs that promote and expand exposure to arts & culture in Lakeland, Polk County and across the state.

Support an appropriate level of funding for Enterprise Florida's toolkit to attract and retain high-skill, high-wage jobs and investment to our state.

Support an appropriate level of funding for Visit Florida to further its work in establishing Florida as the No. 1 travel destination in the world by strengthening Florida's share of the global travel market.

\*Support continued responsible funding for programs promoting and expanding exposure to arts and culture in Lakeland, Polk County and across the state.

## EDUCATION

Provide at least a 3% increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) and discontinue rolling back the Required Local Effort (RLE).

Redirect funding from all bonus programs to salary increases for all staff.

Ensure the state share of funding for school safety officers exceeds the amount the district must contribute from local funds.

Establish and fund a study of the impact of changes to the hazardous walking conditions statute (1006.23) on student safety and district transportation costs.

Continue to place a focus on STEM initiatives.

Champion training and vocational programs to ensure Florida has a workforce prepared to satisfy the needs of diversifying economy.

### *\*Polk County Public Schools Priorities*

Codify and continue funding the Funding Compression Allocation for school districts funded below the statewide average per student to make it a permanent part of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) formula.

Require state calculated VAM-only scores to be provided by FDOE to school districts by July 31 annually.

Fully fund the cost for a mental health counselor at each school in the district.

### *\*Florida Polytechnic University*

Increase in base budget as well as \$12.8 million for the Applied Research Center PECO project.

## EDUCATION CONTINUED

*\*Polk State College*

\$16,272,759 in PECO funds to complete the renovations and remodeling needed for Building 4, a 67,000-square-foot classroom facility on the Winter Haven Campus.

\$2,234,800 in PECO funds to enhance safety and security measures including cyber security, surveillance systems, mass communication, and target hardening at the College's six campuses and centers throughout Polk County.

\$2 million in recurring operational support to expand proven activities that improve student retention and completion rates, as well as to fund the cost of hiring additional Polk County Sheriff's Office deputies to boost campus safety.

## INSURANCE

Support and encourage the implementation of Association Health Plans to benefit small businesses.

## QUALITY OF LIFE

Protect the Sadowski Trust Fund and support increased funding of the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) and State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) programs which are critical components of Lakeland's affordable housing and neighborhood stabilization efforts.

Lakeland Regional Health Medical Center requests an amendment to Florida Statutes Section 383.19 that would authorize the Department of Health to enter into a contract with Lakeland Regional Health Medical Center as one (1) additional RPICC in Region 6 if Lakeland Regional Health Medical Center meets the requirements of sections 383.15-383.19, Florida Statutes.

## TRANSPORTATION

Fund expansion of the I-4 corridor including vehicular and multimodal improvements through and adjacent to Polk County.

Accelerate funding and implementation of improvements at the I-4/SR 33 interchange to address critical safety and congestion issues adversely impacting access to Florida Polytechnic and ongoing rapid economic development.

Fund expansion of the Florida Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) and /or Turnpike System to address economic development needs previously addressed by the planned Central Polk Parkway.

Support the regional and statewide economic, mobility, and safety benefits of the state's Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES) program, especially the Southwest-Central Florida Connector.

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### 2020 Lakeland Chamber Advocacy Committee

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Advocacy Works: <https://www.lakelandchamber.com/get-involved/>