The Florida Chamber Five

Week of October 5, 2026 – October 9, 2026



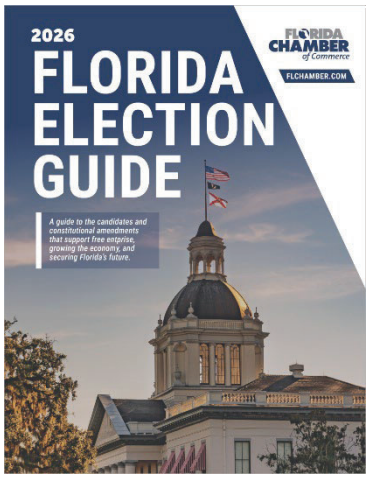
As our Northwest Florida members and communities prepare for Hurricane Isaias, our thoughts and prayers are with everyone in its path. Please stay safe, remain vigilant and follow guidance from local officials, and visit our **Florida Chamber Safety Council's Hurricane Resources Page** for information to help protect your employees and business before and after the storm.

To help residents reach safety, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that **Florida Chamber member Uber is covering up to $40 each way for rides to and from select emergency shelters**. We appreciate Uber's support for our communities as Floridians prepare for the storm. Watch the Governor's announcement **here**.

Through the Florida Chamber's role in **Emergency Support Function 18 (ESF 18): Business, Industry and Economic Stabilization**, the Florida Chamber is connected to the state's emergency response efforts and will keep you informed of relevant updates and resources. We are here to support you—please contact **Allison Allen, Senior Vice President, Investor Relations and Engagement, at aallen@flchamber.com** if you need resources or assistance.

Here are five updates highlighting the work underway to help secure Florida's future.

1) Florida Chamber Releases Nonpartisan 2026 General Election Guide | Download it HERE



The Florida Chamber's **2026 Florida Election Guide** is a nonpartisan, pro-jobs resource designed to help Florida voters make informed decisions ahead of the November 3 General Election. This free guide offers insight into the key races, highlighting candidates vying for Governor, Attorney General, CFO, Agriculture Commissioner, U.S. Senate, Florida's congressional delegation, and the Florida Legislature, along with proposed constitutional amendments, while keeping voters informed on the candidates in both parties who are focused on creating jobs and diversifying Florida's economy.

Access the guide below for a clear, pro-business look at the choices you face on the November 3 ballot. In addition, please share this **nonpartisan, pro-jobs voter guide** with your employees, friends, family, and network to help educate Floridians before they vote.

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If you have questions about any of the information in the report or would like to join our efforts to ensure Florida remains a pro-jobs, pro-business state, please contact our **Executive Vice President of Government & Political Relations, Frank Walker**, at **850-521-1211** or fwalker@flchamber.com. We also invite you to take advantage of our other research tools below:

- **Amendment 3: Property Tax Reform**"– An employer-to-employee web resource that showcases the intended and unintended consequences of the proposal for homeowners, renters, local businesses, and Florida.
- **2026 How They Voted** – See how your state Senator or House member votes with or against your business' interests. Also, see what passed and what didn't during the 2026 Legislative Session, and the unfinished business that remains for the 2027 Legislative Session.

2) Coolest Thing Made in Florida: Final Two Manufacturing Tours Showcase Florida's Manufacturing Excellence



This week, we kicked off our **2026 Coolest Thing Made in Florida Final Two Manufacturing Tours at Northrop Grumman's St. Augustine facility in St. Johns County**. A special thank you to the entire Northrop Grumman team for their tremendous hospitality and for opening their doors to showcase the people, precision and innovation behind their **E-2D Advanced Hawkeye**. As St. Johns County's largest private-sector employer, Northrop Grumman is a powerful example of why manufacturing matters to Florida's economy.

In addition to sharing remarks on the importance of Florida manufacturing and our Florida 2030 Blueprint goals, I was joined on the program by an outstanding group of leaders who shared their perspectives on the impact of manufacturing in St. Johns County and across Florida:

- **Jane Bishop**, Vice President and General Manager, Aeronautics Systems Global Surveillance Division, Northrop Grumman
- **Jason Mahon**, Chief Manufacturing Officer and Deputy Secretary of Economic Development, FloridaCommerce
- **Scott Maynard**, Senior Vice President of Economic Development and Public Policy, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce
- **Representative Sam Greco**, Florida House of Representatives, District 19

Through our partnership with **FloridaCommerce**, we're shining a spotlight on the manufacturers, skilled Floridians and communities helping us achieve our **Florida 2030 Blueprint goal of becoming a Top 5 state for manufacturing jobs by 2030**. Special thanks to **Senator Debbie Mayfield**, **Representative Kim Kendall**, and Florida Chamber Chair of the Board, **David Sweeney** for joining us for the program and facility tour.

We look forward to our next stop in Southwest Florida on **October 14**, where we'll tour **Arthrex's Naples facility in Collier County** and recognize their **TightRope® PRO Implant**. We'll highlight our visit in next Friday's update.

The Final Two are going head-to-head! **Vote once every day through October 23** and join us on **October 28** at the **Future of Florida Forum (F3) & Florida Chamber Annual Meeting in Orlando**, where we'll reveal the 2026 Coolest Thing Made in Florida winner live on stage!

3) Prevailing Wages Come to an End in Florida | What Employers Need to Know

As of September 30, 2026, local governments are no longer able to require prevailing wages through their contracts. Enacted under House Bill 433 in 2024, this law prohibits local governments from mandating higher wages or benefits through contracts, purchasing agreements, or procurement practices, establishing a consistent wage floor across all 67 counties and 411 municipalities. Prevailing wage laws not only increase the cost of doing business on private businesses and the taxpayers but also create a patchwork of regulations that make it difficult for businesses to compete for contracts in multiple government jurisdictions.

HB 433 was one of the Florida Chamber's top legislative priorities in 2024, which also included preemptions of workplace heat safety regulations and predictive scheduling mandates. The Chamber was instrumental in the passage of these three provisions to create greater predictability for Florida job creators.

For additional insights into what these changes mean for employers, **Florida Chamber Board of Directors member Charles Caulkins and his colleagues at Fisher Phillips** recently published **Florida's New Limits on Local Wage Rules Take Effect: Key Points for Employers**, outlining the implications for businesses contracting with local governments, including what employers should know about existing and future contracts.

For questions about HB 433 or the Florida Chamber's ongoing efforts to advance a more predictable and competitive business climate, contact **Carolyn Johnson, Vice President of Government Affairs**.

4) Free Enterprise in Action: Florida Chamber Members Making Florida Better By Leading By Example | Share Your Positive News with Us HERE

Florida Chamber members continue demonstrating the power of free enterprise by investing in their communities, supporting essential services, and strengthening Florida's future.

Below are just a few examples of how our members are leading by example and making Florida better.

Congratulations to Florida Chamber Leaders Recognized in the 2026 News Service of Florida Above & Beyond Awards



Congratulations to our Florida Chamber Board of Directors, Board of Governors and Florida Chamber Foundation Board of Trustees members recognized among the **2026 News Service of Florida Above & Beyond honorees**, celebrating women making a difference across Florida through their leadership, professional accomplishments and commitment to their communities.

We congratulate the following leaders:

- **Adrienne Johnston** – CareerSource Florida
- **Angie Santibañez** – Amazon
- **Cathryn Lacy** – Lakeland Electric
- **Cheryl Martin** – Chesapeake Utilities Corporation
- **Dania Alexandrino** – University of Florida
- **Georgia Lorenz** – Seminole State College of Florida
- **Holly Bernardo** – Allegiant Strategies Group
- **Shannon Gravitte** – AdventHealth

- **Terrie Ard** – The Moore Agency

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to strengthening Florida's communities and helping secure Florida's future.

View the 2026 News Service of Florida Above & Beyond Honorees

If your organization has a story of how you are advancing the benefits of free enterprise, you would like us to consider for a future edition, please email GoodNews@FLChamber.com.

5) All Around Florida – Staff Travel & Speaking Engagements

Florida Chamber Brings Business Leaders Together for Pensacola/Destin Regional Economic Briefing





Earlier this week, the Florida Chamber of Commerce brought together business leaders from across Northwest Florida for our **Pensacola/Destin Regional Economic Briefing**, hosted by **Freddy Donovan Jr., Chairman of the Board, Donovan-Hill Group and Regional Chair, Pensacola/Destin, Florida Chamber of Commerce** to discuss the

opportunities, challenges and priorities shaping the economic future of the three counties within the Pensacola/Destin region.

During the briefing, regional business leaders identified several issues impacting Northwest Florida's business climate and long-term competitiveness, including:

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Thank you to Freddy Donovan for his leadership and to the business leaders who joined us for this important discussion. These regional conversations help ensure that business leaders' perspectives inform our statewide efforts to **Secure Florida's Future**, strengthen Florida's competitiveness and move the state toward becoming a **Top 10 global economy by 2030.**

As a valued member of the Florida Chamber, your team has access to participate in these regional meetings as a member benefit. Several additional **Regional Board of Governors meetings** are scheduled for 2026, including the **Southwest Florida Regional Meeting on November 10** and the **Tampa Bay Regional Meeting on November 19**. To learn more about these upcoming meetings and how to join us, please contact **Allison Allen, Senior Vice President, Investor Relations & Engagement,** at aallen@flchamber.com.

Heather Cogar Keynotes Polk County Event Celebrating Women in Leadership







The **ATHENA Awards Luncheon** celebrated women who lead, serve, and create opportunities for others—a powerful reflection of the incredible leadership throughout

Polk County. **Heather Cogar, Statewide Director of Community Engagement for the Florida Prosperity Initiative**, was honored to speak at the event and stand among so many strong, accomplished women. Even more meaningful was seeing the men who showed up to support them, celebrate their achievements, and recognize their impact.

This year's ATHENA Leadership Award recipient, **Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley**, exemplifies the spirit of the award through her dedication to public service and community leadership. Her recognition was a celebration of both her contributions and the influence women have in shaping a stronger future.

Through her personal story, Heather connected the importance of investing in children with the responsibility and opportunity leaders have to help break cycles of poverty. Polk County has exceptional people and incredible work already underway. With leaders ready to connect the dots across business, education, nonprofits, and community partners, there is real momentum to turn shared commitment into greater opportunity for children and families.

Polk County has 36,679 kids in poverty and the Prosperity Initiative looks to cut that number in half, one zip code at a time. Interested in helping create pathways to prosperity in your community? Contact **Heather Cogar** to learn more about the Florida Prosperity Initiative and how you can get involved.

Exploring Innovative Workforce Solutions to Strengthen Florida's Talent Pipeline



Corrie Melton, Vice President of Talent Development, Future of Work, Florida Chamber Foundation, participated in a commercial truck driving simulator demonstration through **Be Pro Be Proud Florida and WareWorks**, experiencing firsthand how interactive technology is helping introduce students and future workers to high-demand skilled careers.

Through its Mobile Workshop, Be Pro Be Proud Florida brings hands-on career exploration experiences directly to communities, allowing participants to explore opportunities in transportation, manufacturing, construction and other skilled trades. These innovative approaches are helping connect the next generation with career pathways while supporting Florida businesses' need for a strong, skilled workforce.

Interested in helping strengthen Florida's future workforce? Contact **Corrie Melton** to learn more about Future of Work Florida and how your company can get involved.

Florida Chamber Shares Economic and Political Insights with Florida Beverage Industry Leaders

Sheridan Morby, Senior Director of Economic Research, Florida Chamber Foundation, and Alex Coelho, Director of Data & Analytics, Florida Chamber of Commerce, joined business leaders at the **Florida Beverage Association's Annual Board Meeting in Miramar Beach** to provide insights into Florida's economic outlook and political landscape.

Sheridan shared an overview of Florida's economy and competitiveness, while Alex provided political analysis ahead of the November General Election. These discussions demonstrate how the Florida Chamber is bringing timely economic intelligence and political insights directly to business leaders to help inform decisions and strengthen Florida's competitiveness.

Interested in bringing Florida Chamber economic or political insights to your organization? Contact Sheridan Morby or Alex Coelho to learn more about available briefing opportunities.

Bonus) Registration Still Open: Join Florida's Business Leaders October 27-28 for the 2026 Future of Florida Forum (F3) & Florida Chamber Annual Meeting



We're just weeks away from the **2026 Future of Florida Forum (F3) & Florida Chamber Annual Meeting**, taking place October 27–28 at the JW Marriott Orlando Bonnet Creek. Join Florida's business, government and community leaders for two days of discussions focused on Florida's economic competitiveness, the 39 goals of the Florida 2030 Blueprint and the priorities that will help secure Florida's future.

Featured speakers include:

- **U.S. Senator Rick Scott** – Former Governor of Florida
- **James Uthmeier** – Florida Attorney General
- **Michael Yaworsky** – Florida Insurance Commissioner
- **Dr. Henry Mack** – Florida Commissioner of Education
- **Richard McCullough** – President, Florida State University
- **Dr. Alex Cartwright** – President, University of Central Florida
- **Dr. Kathleen Plinske** – President, Valencia College
- **Steve Ubl** – President & CEO, PhRMA
- **Archie Collins** – President & CEO, Tampa Electric
- **Brian Hughes** – Senior Director of Launch Operations, NASA's Kennedy Space Center
- **Ron Hetrick** – Principal Economist, Lightcast
- **Adrienne Johnston** – President & CEO, CareerSource Florida
- **Dr. Azra Bihorac** – Senior Associate Dean for Research, UF College of Medicine
- **Sheriff Michael Adkinson** – alton County
- **Sheriff Billy Woods** – Marion

Attendees will also hear the latest political insights ahead of the November elections and be among the first to learn the **2026 Coolest Thing Made in Florida winner**.

Registration remains open, with in-person and virtual attendance options available. [View the Full Agenda and Register Today.]

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Limited sponsorship opportunities are still available. Contact **Allison Allen, Senior Vice President of Investor Relations and Engagement** to learn more about opportunities to showcase your organization before Florida's business leaders.

Engage with us at these Upcoming Events



[2026 Future of Florida Forum (F3) & Florida Chamber Annual Meeting]

October 27-28, 2026
Orlando, FL

[DETAILS & REGISTRATION »]



[2026 Florida Chamber Annual Insurance Summit]

December 10-11, 2026
Orlando, FL

[DETAILS & REGISTRATION »]



[2027 Florida Economic Outlook & Jobs Solution Summit]



[2027 Florida Chamber Legislative]

January 28, 2027
Virtual

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Fly-In

February 9-10, 2027
Tallahassee, FL

DETAILS & REGISTRATION »

As always, I welcome your feedback, questions, comments, and suggestions. If there is anything the Florida Chamber or I can do for you, or do better, please email me at **mwilson@flchamber.com** or give me a call at **850.521.1209.**

My best,
Mark



FLORIDA CHAMBER of Commerce

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