



**Clay County Chamber of Commerce  
2010 Business Advocacy Agenda – Legislative Policy Statements  
For Presentation to the Clay Delegation – December 15, 2009**

<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	<p>The Clay County Chamber of Commerce will advance efforts to implement reasonable constitutional amendment reform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opposes the severe limitations and increased bureaucracy imposed on local communities to manage their own growth by the Amendment 4 initiative.</li> </ul>
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports the ongoing public/private partnership process currently underway to construct the First Coast outer beltway.</li> <li>• Supports the concept and the research of a mass transit system to include rail, water bourn and bus systems to include Clay County's, and the region's transportation infrastructure.</li> <li>• Oppose the redirection of money from the State Transportation Trust Fund for non-transportation related purposes.</li> <li>• Supports a comprehensive energy policy that balances affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible energy while promoting energy, economic and national security.</li> <li>• Oppose any proposal to drain the St. John's River and supports long term solutions to our critical water resources needs as well as opposing recent efforts by the US EPA.</li> </ul>
<b>INNOVATION</b>	<p>The Clay County Chamber supports legislation that improves and facilitates state and local government partnerships to attract employers or to retain employers in Florida, including the following economic development initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports funding the Economic Development Toolbox including the new economic gardening stimulus program, Transportation Fund (Road Fund) without offsets for individual projects, the Team Florida Marketing Campaign, Florida's Quick Action Closing Fund and Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program (QTI) to provide high wage job incentives to companies locating or expanding in Florida.</li> <li>• Supports the state's continued efforts to assist communities with economic development diversification when Florida military installations are present in the community and region. To that end, the Chamber supports Florida Defense Alliance grants funding.</li> </ul>
<b>BUSINESS CLIMATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fight to maintain the landmark workers compensation reforms and plaintiff attorneys.</li> <li>• Reform Citizens Insurance to be actuarially sound; establish risks and costs of insurance appropriately.</li> <li>• Opposes government-mandated healthcare requirements for employers.</li> <li>• Supports the monitoring and evaluation of Medicaid Reform to ensure stability and healthcare for residents in Northeast Florida.</li> <li>• Supports accountability within state government to be good stewards of tax revenues without further erosion of local control.</li> <li>• Opposes the continued shifting of the property tax burden onto employers.</li> <li>• Opposes efforts to require defendants with financial resources to pay more than their fair share.</li> </ul>
<b>TALENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports evolving the funding formula to allow school districts and local schools flexibility in funds designation.</li> <li>• Supports the legislature's efforts to further improve and strengthen the Career and Professional Academies Programs.</li> <li>• Seek continued financial support for the "Florida's Ready to Work Credential Program".</li> <li>• Supports fully funding required Florida Department of Education's District K-12 Reading plan. As well as pre-K programs to increase basic learning performance in reading, writing, and language.</li> <li>• Supports higher education with using statewide academic standards to match national standards and enhance Florida's competitiveness nationally and internationally.</li> <li>• Supports retraining and expanding opportunities for Florida's workforce and tailoring career education programs to the needs of employers.</li> </ul>
<b>QUALITY OF LIFE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports attainable housing solutions for our workforce and residents needs.</li> </ul>

