



WALTON COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Guiding the power of business.
Strengthening community.

Walton County Chamber of Commerce 2008 Legislative Priorities

The Walton County Chamber of Commerce has established the following for action as its priorities to further our area's economic development during the 2008 session of the Florida Legislature.

1. Transportation

Continue to drive appropriate funds to accelerate the four-laning of US Highway 331 from US Highway 98 to Interstate 10 including the facilitation of dialogue on potential solutions for the bridge. In particular we will focus on the 2008-2009 appropriation request and continue efforts to develop a high priority for this project within the DOT and the DOT Commission. The Chamber may explore the possibility of a regional political action effort to four lane Hwy 331 from Highway 98 to Montgomery, Alabama in order to involve the Alabama delegation in our overall effort.

2. Insurance

The Chamber will continue to be a strong advocate and voice for area business owners who are unable to obtain commercial property & residential home owner insurance. Presently the legislature collectively admits that earlier regulatory changes have only exacerbated the pre-existing problem. The Chamber will seek opportunities to identify and address the underlying problem as opposed to adding additional regulator rules that offer only temporary solutions.

Workers' Compensation Insurance; the Chamber supports efforts to lower the high cost of workers' compensation insurance.

Health Care Mandates; The Chamber opposes attempts to add expensive new mandates to small group plans at a time when

premiums are already out of reach for many. Support any measure that would decrease health care costs/premiums for Florida businesses.

3. Workforce Housing

Address the Workforce housing issues facing our community by facilitating dialogue and/or a private/public coalition partnership to address the needs of the region. As there is a surplus of available housing efforts will focus on why housing prices remain high in a surplus market.

4. Legal Reform

Premises Liability Reform the Chamber supports premises liability reform that requires property owners be held accountable only for the damages they actually cause.

Class Action Reform the Chamber supports limiting class action suits to Florida residents and requiring closer scrutiny of the minimum requirements for filing a class action lawsuit.