

# TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2021

## AMPLIFY CLEARWATER

ESTABLISHED 2019

Wages  
Tourism  
Covid-19  
Municipal  
Affordable Housing  
Tort and Regulatory Reform  
Early Learning  
Choice in Education  
Workforce Development  
Regional Transit Solutions  
Sustainability & Environmental Protection  
Address Provider Shortage  
Innovation and Technology  
Medicaid Funding  
Reporting





## PRIORITY | BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our goal is to make Clearwater the premier location to own and operate a business. AMPLIFY Clearwater works with City of Clearwater and Pinellas County to improve the experience of business owners and operators. We feel strongly that we should simplify the business startup process and encourage efficiencies between agencies. Our members believe that by advocating for investment in available workforce housing, improved public transportation, and having a strong economic growth plan that, collectively, we can build a more vibrant and attractive community to live, work, learn, invest and play.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Remaining competitive both nationally and internationally is imperative to Florida's future and continued success.

#### 1. COVID-19

- Support limiting employers' liabilities for damages as it relates to COVID-19 claims
- Support flexibility in the definition of 'in person' board meetings for government entities due to COVID-19 challenges

#### 2. MUNICIPAL

- Oppose reduction of Home Rule authority to municipalities
- Preserve the statewide program that assists local governments with Spring Training Facilities

#### 3. WAGES

- Oppose future workers' comp rate hikes that hurt job creators
- Ensure state and federal wage and benefit regulations balance the needs of employers and employees
- Support the free enterprise system of letting the capital markets determine appropriate wage levels

#### 4. TORT AND REGULATORY REFORM

- Create a competitive tax system that keeps investments in the pockets of small business and families and eliminates uncompetitive tax policies like the Florida-only Business Rent Tax and the punitive Communication Services Tax (9th highest in the nation).
- Support efforts that protect businesses from costly and unnecessary regulations and government mandates
- Reforming Florida's bottom-five ranked legal climate, a system currently creating a \$3,400 "tax" for families each year
- Support of tort reform and civil liability involving business related vehicle insurance

#### 5. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Oppose redistribution of Sadowski Trust Funds for Workforce Housing for other uses

#### 6. OTHER

- Support the collection of remote sales tax
- Support DCA Grant program for the Arts and Culture

#### 7. TOURISM

- Tourism is our state's top economic driver. We will support and advocate towards importance of continued funding for VISIT FLORIDA. Florida's economy depends on the visitors that VISIT FLORIDA attracts. Florida's tourism industry was responsible for welcoming 127.0 million visitors in 2018 alone. Florida visitors contributed \$85.9 billion to Florida's economy and supported over 1.5 million Florida jobs. According to Office of Economic and Demographic Research, for every \$1 the state invests in VISIT FLORIDA \$2.15 in tax revenue is generated. VISIT FLORIDA serves over 13,000 tourism industry businesses.

## PRIORITY | ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

### GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Beaches are one of Florida's most valuable resources, not only for habitat and protection of wildlife, but also a line of defense against major storms, as well as the main attraction for millions of tourists each year. AMPLIFY Clearwater is acutely aware of the dependency on Tourism for our economic health and will continue to fight to ensure Florida's environmental future is sustainable and provides the quality of life Floridians and visitors deserve.

#### 1. SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Support investment in water ways and quality as it affects our everyday lives and is vital part of a thriving tourism-based economy; specific to red tide mitigation technologies and blue-green algae testing
- Support investing in sustainability programs
- Support beach re-nourishment programs for our coastal areas
- Support Investing both a Statewide and local Climate Resiliency Program supplementing the local funding component of prevention and cleanup efforts
- Support efforts to address coastal flooding

## **PRIORITY | EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE**

The business community must partner with stakeholders and policymakers to advocate for adequate resources to help recruit, develop and retain talent in Tampa Bay. Plans must be in place today to market and train the workforce of tomorrow. Every child deserves a world class education and business need an available trained workforce. Ensuring the Florida's children have access to the best schools and that parents have choice in their educational career is imperative to success.

#### **1. EARLY LEARNING FOCUS**

- Prioritizing early learning opportunities and programs by increased investment and attention to has always become the way to prioritize early learning opportunities and programs with focus in K2,K3 and VPK programs

#### **2. SUPPORTING STUDENT AND PARENT CHOICE IN EDUCATION**

- Support quality school choice and education for parents and students with Magnet, Charter and Fundamental options
- Support inclusion of innovative educational concepts, such as Arts, Technology, Engineering, throughout Florida's education system

#### **3. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

- Advocate for increased attainment and quality training programs ensuring a talent pipeline for employers. Support state funding of programs administered by Pinellas County Schools (K-12) and local higher education institutions focused on skills training and trade development, specifically USF, St. Petersburg College and Pinellas Technical College
- Continue to work closely with legislative, education, business, and workforce leaders to champion the best possible education and talent system for Pinellas County in order to close the skills gap and train for a globally competitive marketplace

## **PRIORITY | HEALTHCARE**

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE**

With an increasing population, and visitors from all over the world, it is important that we focus on creating a healthy and sustainable place for Florida's residents and visitors to work, live, play and learn. Healthcare is a significant portion of our economy and attracts patients from all over the world. Providing a supportive environment for access affordable care for our all is a priority.

#### **1. ADDRESS PROVIDER SHORTAGE**

- Support a competitive medical liability environment related to medical malpractice suits to help Florida become more attractive to top ranked healthcare professionals
- Promote liability protection at state and federal levels from undue liability exposure for businesses and health care providers
- Expand medical education opportunities and providing targeted training in key health education programs in order to address Florida's healthcare workforce shortage and growing population

#### **2. INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

- Support policies to enable long-term use of telehealth and other innovative practices, including coverage and payment parity policy changes that have been enacted during the pandemic.

#### **3. COVID-19**

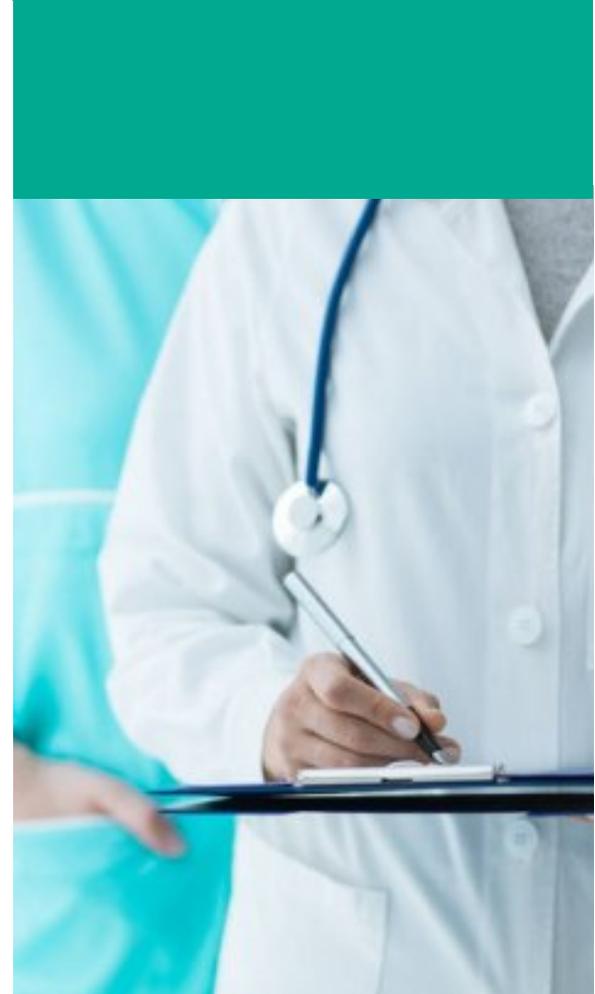
- Support additional state and federal funds to assist in efforts to combat COVID-19, including adequate flexibilities to enable efficient use by states, localities and partner organizations.

#### **4. MEDICAID FUNDING**

- Support increased Medicaid funding
- Maintain robust Medicare and Medicaid programs, including preservation of behavioral health funding and state Medicaid rates.

#### **5. REPORTING**

- Support SB 58 - Hospitals' Community Benefit Reporting which would repeal duplicative regulatory language passed in the final days of Session last year. The legislative language would have required non-profit hospitals to report their community benefit to the state to justify exemption from property taxes when there are already robust federal reporting requirements for non-profit health systems.



For detailed priorities, please visit: [amplifyclearwater.com](http://amplifyclearwater.com)

600 Cleveland Street Suite 100 Clearwater, Florida 33755



## **PRIORITY | REGIONAL TRANSIT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS**

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE**

With the 15 million visitors (2018) that come to our region each year, it's imperative that we make the necessary investments to keep our economy flowing and Floridians and visitors safe. In addition to highways, our region also moves people and goods with a labyrinth of railways, seaports, and airports, all interconnected to provide services and goods that grow our economy. We will keep fighting to protect the State Transportation Trust Fund. The future health and prosperity of all Floridians is advanced with creating and maintaining sustainable and reliable infrastructure systems.

#### **1. TRANSIT**

- Support development of multi-modal transportations options, road infrastructure improvements and development of emerging technologies to build a regional system to solve present congestion and address future transit and transportation challenges
- Support development of transit solutions for Clearwater's critical thoroughfare- State Road 60 between Tampa International Airport and Clearwater Beach

#### **2. INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUTER SERVICES**

- Support the Transportation Trust Fund preservation to provide adequate funding each year for the increasing requirements of infrastructure
- Support Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) projects in congested corridors in downtown areas and along beaches- St. Pete focus
- Support regional transit funding for infrastructure and commuter service options, leveraging of funds potentially available through FTA for (BRT) (TBARTA)
- Plan development for dedicated funding for sustainability of regional transit solutions in Tampa , Downtown Clearwater and Beaches Corridor
- Support the development of the Clearwater Intermodal Center

### **ABOUT AMPLIFY CLEARWATER**

Our mission at AMPLIFY Clearwater is to promote and meet the needs of businesses, tourism, and industry and to provide leadership for the advancement of economic vitality and equality for the community of the North Pinellas Region.

