



2016 Community Advocacy Agenda

Local Agenda Items

City: **Tierra Verde, South Pasadena, St. Pete. Beach, Treasure Island, Madeira Beach, Redington Beach, North Redington Beach, Redington Shores, Indian Shores, Indian Rocks Beach, Belleair Beach, Belleair Shores & Belleair Bluffs.**

Agenda Item: Beach Renourishment

*This is a local issue decided by State and Federal Government

Agenda Item Description: Over time our beaches suffer losses of beachfront as a natural result of storms and hurricanes. Renourishment projects in Pinellas County have been approved and secured proper permits, however, we need to work with the state and federal officials to secure adequate funding. The county pays 20%, the state pays 20% and the Federal government pays 60%. The Army Corps continuously assess the cost of renourishing the beaches after the damage is incurred. However, there is always a possibility that our beaches might not receive the necessary funding for beach renourishment.

Current Status: The TBBCoC advocates for state and federal funding towards beach renourishment. Beach renourishment is essential for protecting our award-winning beaches and maintaining a strong and prosperous local economy. The beaches are essential in our efforts to continue breaking tourism records year over year. Without our award winning beaches, Pinellas County would not be the tourist destination it is today.

Useful Resources:

- More Information: www.VisitStPeteClearwater.com
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>

Action:

- Urge your state and federal elected officials to secure adequate funding for our beach renourishment projects.

City: **Tierra Verde**

Agenda Item: Bridge Replacement

*This is a local issue decided by State Government

Agenda Item Description: The bridge connecting Tierra Verde to the mainland is structurally deficient and is putting residents, visitors and business owners at risk. Bridge replacement is long overdue and needs to be included in the Florida Department of Transportation 5 year work plan (2016-2020).

Current Status: The TBBCoC advocates for the Tierra Verde Bridge replacement to be included in Florida Department of Transportation's 5 year work plan (2016-2020). In its aging state, the bridge is susceptible to breaking down and being stuck in the open position creating hazards for residents and 2.7 million visitors that travel over the bridge to Ft. Desoto every year. If the bridge gets stuck open, visitors will be unable to come and go from Tierra Verde which will take money away from local businesses. Also, emergency personnel could be blocked off from entering the island.

Useful Resources:

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>

Action:

- Urge your state officials to include the Tierra Verde Bridge Replacement in the Florida Department of Transportation's 5 year work plan (2016-2020).

City: **Tierra Verde, South Pasadena, St. Pete. Beach, Treasure Island, Madeira Beach, Redington Beach, North Redington Beach, Redington Shores, Indian Shores, Indian Rocks Beach, Belleair Beach, Belleair Shores & Belleair Bluffs**

Agenda Item: Gulf Boulevard Beautification

*This is a local issue that is decided by County Government

Agenda Item Description: Gulf Boulevard has long been an area attraction for tourists accessing the County's beaches. Gulf Boulevard Improvements Project developed and adopted by Board of County Commissioners in 2001. Program included undergrounding of utilities, streetscape enhancements, and pedestrian safety improvements. Funding runs until 2020 and a vote to extend the penny will take place in 2017. If cities do not use the funds allocated to them by December of 2019, funds remain in city budgets.

Current Status: The TBBCoC is advocating for undergrounding of utilities, streetscape enhancements, and pedestrian safety improvements along Gulf Boulevard which will allow for the following.

- Improve businesses, visitors, and residents quality of life.
- Unification of the eleven beach communities through common amenities and streetscape improvements.
- Elimination of visual blight caused by overhead utilities.
- Development of an attractive roadway experience to spur tourism and economic development.

Useful Resources:

- More Information: http://www.pinellascounty.org/bcc-agenda/2012_07_10/supplement-16.pdf
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/advocacy.aspx>

Action:

- The TBBCoC will work closely with county and local officials to assure the completion of these projects.

City: **Tierra Verde, South Pasadena, St. Pete. Beach, Treasure Island, Madeira Beach, Redington Beach, North Redington Beach, Redington Shores, Indian Shores, Indian Rocks Beach, Belleair Beach, Belleair Shores & Belleair Bluffs**

Agenda Item: Pedestrian Safety

Agenda Item Description: Pedestrian safety is a hot topic across the county. Florida is consistently recognized for the highest number of pedestrian fatalities per capita. Promotion and education of the crosswalk system along SR699 (Gulf Boulevard) is a major concern to businesses and leaders.

Current Status: The TBBCoC supports the promotion and education of crosswalks throughout Gulf Boulevard. The TBBCoC continues to work with WalkWise Tampa Bay on a campaign to educate the local community. The TBBCoC continues to offer educational material directed toward the people actually using the crosswalks along Gulf Boulevard, the visitors. The TBBCoC provides educational pieces in to hotels along the beaches that direct transient visitors on how to use the new crosswalk systems as a pedestrian. The TBBCoC also continues to provide educational pieces in rental cars to direct transient visitors on how to use the crosswalks as a driver.

Useful Resources:

- More Information: <http://walkwisetampabay.com/>
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/advocacy.aspx>

Action:

- Word of mouth is the best way to educate.
 - Distribute educational material available at the TBBCoC.
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Agenda Item: Redevelopment

Agenda Item Description: Pinellas County is one of the most densely populated counties in Florida. There is minimal vacant land available for development; especially along the beaches. Therefore, we need to redevelop blighted properties in order to be competitive in the tourism market. Newer hotels offer larger rooms and other amenities that are only made possible by new construction.

Current Status: The TBBCOC advocates for redevelopment and is working with local municipalities to allow for redevelopment along the beaches. Current regulations may prevent hotel redevelopment due to height and density restrictions which prevent hotels from being profitable and competitive in the marketplace. If regulations are not updated to allow for adequate height and density, hotels will be replaced with condominiums and the area will lose the tourists that keep our taxes low.

Useful Resources:

- Commission Meeting Schedule: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/advocacy.aspx>

Action:

- Attend your city/town commission meeting and speak during the public comment period in favor of reducing restrictions on redevelopment to allow your city/town to be competitive in the marketplace.
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Agenda Item: Transient Boat Docks

Agenda Item Description: There is a lack of transient boat docking along the beaches. Additional transient docks will enhance the business climate and create a unique, prosperous tourist destination. Additional transient boat docks will allow visitors and residents to patronize local businesses and attractions. Such dock space is nearly nonexistent along the beaches and would meet a longstanding need.

Current Status: The TBBCOC advocates for additional transient boat docks along our beaches. The addition of transient boat docks will not only enhance our economy and business climate, but also enhance our quality of life. Additional transient boat docks will help to build and revitalize the gulf economy by providing a high-amenity destination for recreational boaters and benefit local businesses by generating new revenue brought in by the additional customer base. Parking spaces are limited along our

beaches and the additional transient boat docks are a good alternative to allow more residents and visitors to patronize our local businesses.

Useful Resources:

- Commission Meeting Schedule: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/advocacy.aspx>

Action:

- Attend your city/town commission meeting and speak during the public comment period in favor of reducing restrictions on redevelopment to allow your city/town to be competitive in the marketplace.
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County Agenda

Agenda Item: Tourist Development Tax: Enforcement

Agenda Item Description: Enforcing residents that rent their properties to tourists pay the Tourist Development Tax. This is essential to promote our destination, attract visitors, and support the tourism Industry. Enforcing residential rental properties to pay the Tourist Development Tax will create fair and equitable funding opportunities for all rental properties and legitimate businesses.

Current Status: The TBBCoC supports the enforcement of the Tourist Development Tax collection. Residential rental properties are required to pay their fair share of the Tourist Development Tax. However, some properties are being rented illegally through websites like Airbnb and are not paying the Tourism Development Tax. In some cases, municipalities don't allow residential properties to be rented. The tax of 5 cents per dollar is supposed to be levied not just on motel or hotel stays, but on all "transient accommodations" of six months or less. That includes vacation or seasonal stays at townhouses, condominiums, timeshares, single-family homes, mobile homes, beach cottages and rooming houses.

Useful Resources:

- More Information: <http://www.pinellascvb.com/cms/index.php?id=6>
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>

Action:

- TBBCoC is working with County and State officials to find a solution.
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Agenda Item: Tourist Development Tax: Preservation

Agenda Item Description: Preserving the Bed Tax for its intended purpose is essential to promote our destination, attract visitors, and support the tourism Industry. Preserving the Bed Tax for its intended purpose will create fair and equitable funding opportunities for all events.

Current Status: The TBBCoC supports preserving the Tourist Development Tax for its intended purpose and supports the Pinellas County Tourist Development Councils recommendation of a 60/40 cap on capital projects. However, the TBBCOC opposes language in Representative Gaetz tax package that would expand the use. Expanding the use of the Tourist Development Tax sets precedence for future changes and further expanded uses. This could result in funds being appropriated for things that don't meet the sufficient requirements which will take away from the intended purpose, attracting visitors to our area. The Bed Tax is a five percent tourist tax collected on accommodations rented for less than six months. The tax is used to strengthen the local economy and increase employment through the ongoing promotion and development of tourism, Pinellas County's major industry.

Useful Resource:

- More Information: <http://www.pinellascvb.com/cms/index.php?id=6>
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>

Action:

- TBBCoC is attending all TDC Meeting to stay informed
 - TBBCoC is speaking with PCC to guarantee they fully understand the preservation of these funds
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Agenda Item: Transportation

*This is a county issue decided by the state

Agenda Item Description: Navigating throughout Pinellas County is no easy task. Traveling to the beaches from our airports or attractions can be burdensome and may discourage tourists from returning to Pinellas County. A direct public transportation connection between Pinellas County beaches and Tampa International Airport will support the thousands of tourists and residents who travel on our roads every day.

Current Status: The TBBCoC advocates for funding from the state for the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority's (PSTA) proposed express service to and from Tampa International airport and the beaches. The proposed express service is designed to enhance public transportation for residents, businesses and visitors. Pinellas County is competing with all counties in Florida to be the best and brightest. We want to attract the most jobs and tourists. If we do nothing our infrastructure will suffer and degrade over time. Residents, tourists and employers will move away to a better county. We need to invest in our infrastructure to improve our overall quality of life. If we don't move forward, we will fall behind. Let's move forward.

Useful Resources:

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>

Action:

- Contact the Appropriations Chairman, Senator Tom Lee and urge him to support funding for PSTA's proposed express service to and from Tampa International Airport and the beaches.
 - Contact Florida Senator Jeff Brandes, Chair of Transportation Committee, and urge him to take action.
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State Agenda

Agenda Item: Business Rent Tax

Agenda Item Description: Regardless of the size or complexity of a commercial lease transaction, the state of Florida requires sales tax to be paid on certain lease-related charges. Florida is the only state that imposes a specific sales tax on commercial real estate leases. This excessive tax is hampering economic recovery for employers and especially small businesses; subjecting Florida businesses to disproportionate regulatory burdens; creating instances of double taxation; and sacrificing our competitiveness in securing more corporate headquarters and other employers into the state—ultimately costing Florida jobs.

Current Status: TBBCoC supports lowering the business rent tax in order to create a fair and level playing field for all businesses. The tax makes up a large portion of our state budget and cannot be removed all at once, but rather phased out overtime by reducing it year by year. Over taxation on our industry discourages job creation in a time when job creation is essential. Florida needs to pass legislation that will get rid of unfair double taxation, specifically tenants paying sales taxes on property taxes paid as part of their leases.

Useful Resources:

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>
- Track House Legislation: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>
- Track Senate Legislation: <http://www.flsenate.gov/>

Action:

- Urge Florida State elected officials to lower the Business Rent Tax.
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Agenda Item: Constitutional Amendment (Solar)

Agenda Item Description: Floridians for Solar Choice submitted a constitutional amendment that would drastically change our state constitution for an issue that can and should be handled via the legislative process. Looking back on history and previous experiences, last year voters amended our state constitution to support environmental efforts. Voters wanted more funding for environmental projects and voted to amend the state constitution to reflect so. However, it was up to the legislators to decipher what projects received funding, resulting in unintended consequences.

Current Status: The TBBCOC is opposed to the Floridians for Solar Choice amendment to our state constitution. No one is against solar. The TBBCOC supports alternative energy solutions. However, businesses and residents are already allowed to install solar panels on their property. Furthermore, this is an issue that can be addressed through the legislative process without changing the state constitution.

Useful Resources:

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>

Action:

- Vote no on Floridians for Solar Choice amendment to our state constitution
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Agenda Item: Film Florida

Agenda Item Description: Pinellas County has benefited from major feature films (Dolphin Tale, Dolphin Tale 2, Spring Breakers, Magic Mike) and several independent films, spending more than \$5 million in the last three years. During the 2014 legislative session, Florida's Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive program was not allocated additional tax credits and there are presently no tax credits available in the program through 2015/2016.

Current Status: The TBBCoC supports Film Florida's mission ensuring the success of Florida's Film Industry. In order to ensure the continued success of Florida's Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive program the film, TV, commercial & media production industry asks for your support of the following priorities:

- Additional funding for the remaining fiscal years of the program
- Additional long-term commitment to the program in the form of additional years or no sunset
- Adequate funding for the Office of Film & Entertainment
- Contract with Film Florida to create a public-private partnership that will provide consistent leadership for Florida's entertainment production industries by 1.) marketing the state's industry resources. 2.) aligning and building the state's regional industry clusters and; 3.) ensuring that steps are being taken to protect Florida's investment in the entertainment production industries.

Useful Resources:

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>
- Track House Legislation: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>
- Track Senate Legislation: <http://www.flsenate.gov/>

Action:

- Urge Florida State elected officials to support Film Florida
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Agenda Item: Insurance Reform

Agenda Item Description: Creating a competitive and stable insurance market will lower costs in Florida's current insurance market. We must continue initiatives like reducing the size and exposure of Citizens Insurance, reforming Florida's flood insurance program, reforming Florida's Catastrophe Fund, spreading risks, reducing fraudulent claims and allowing for creative solutions for the issues homeowners and businesses face.

Current Status: The TBBCoC advocates for insurance reform allowing alternatives for residents and business owners on the verge of foreclosure. Fixing Florida's broken insurance system to reduce taxpayer risk in the event of a catastrophic storm is a step in the right direction. This effort creates a roadmap to help return insurance corporations back to the insurer of last resort by reducing the number of policies in government insurance market and placing them in the private insurance market instead. For a more competitive business climate, the fight for free enterprise continues. Instead of short-term quick fixes, we are focused on long-term solutions to grow the private-sector and help small businesses and families.

Useful Resources:

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>
- Track House Legislation: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>
- Track Senate Legislation: <http://www.flsenate.gov/>

Action:

- Urge Florida State elected officials to support insurance reform.
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Agenda Item: Reliable and Effective Energy Solutions

Agenda Item Description: Considering Florida's current economic conditions, as well as future economic growth, Florida needs to achieve a stable, reliable and diverse supply of energy. Energy policy requires a stable, predictable regulatory and business climate while promoting energy resources that further fuel source diversification through the deployment of existing and alternative energy sources. Florida must renew its commitment to energy resources and technologies which result in the creation of new jobs within the state. Florida also needs to remain committed to consumer education on energy while continuing to modernize and expand existing energy infrastructure to ensure it is ready for the challenges of the 21st century.

Current Status: The TBBCoC supports an energy policy that puts the long-term over the short-term and rests on reliable, cost effective energy sources to grow the economy. This type of policy will increase energy independence and promote the use of domestic energy sources. It would also include advanced technologies and pave the way for sustainable economic growth. Recognizing Florida's current economic conditions, as well as future economic growth, we are working to make sure that Florida's needs are met with an energy policy that responds to new technology and changes in the market while bringing in new capital for investment and increasing energy security.

Useful Resources:

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>
- Track House Legislation: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>
- Track Senate Legislation: <http://www.flsenate.gov/>

Action:

- Urge Florida House of Representatives support Reliable and Effective Energy Solutions.
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Agenda Item: Sales Tax: Online Retailers

Agenda Item Description: Online retailers are not required to pay sales tax which creates an unfair price advantage over brick-and-mortar businesses. As their customers naturally gravitate to perceived lower prices online, small local businesses are forced to cut their workforces, prices, or wages to keep their businesses open. This cycle is dragging down our small business economy. By closing this massive loophole, Florida will be more competitive and save small business jobs.

Current Status: TBBCoC supports the E-fairness bill and its efforts to create a fair and level playing field for small businesses whether they sell online or on Main Street. The E-fairness Bill empowers Florida to collect taxes that are already on the books. No new tax is included in this bill.

Useful Resources:

- More Information: <http://bit.ly/11uUTbe>
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>
- Track House Legislation: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>
- Track Senate Legislation: <http://www.flsenate.gov/>

Action:

- Urge Florida State elected officials to support E-Fairness.
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Agenda Item: School Start Date

Agenda Item Description: Some educators want an earlier start to the school year so the first semester can be wrapped up before Christmas. However, tourism leaders, parents and teachers say an early start hurts tourism and infringes on family vacation time. Hotel operators want families to be able to take end-of-summer vacations without missing any school days.

Current Status: TBBCOC advocates for moving the start of the school year to a later date. In 2006, legislation was passed stating that the school year start date could not begin any sooner than 14 days prior to Labor Day. However, Last year legislation passed that give local school boards the ability to change the beginning of the school year from "14 days before Labor Day" to no earlier than the 10th of August. One of our top priorities for our industry is to move start of the school year to a later date.

Useful Resources:

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>
- Track House Legislation: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>
- Track Senate Legislation: <http://www.flsenate.gov/>

Action:

- Urge legislators to move the start of the school year to a later date.
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Agenda Item: Tourism

Agenda Item Description: As the Sunshine State's No. 1 industry, tourism was responsible for welcoming 98.8 million visitors who spent \$82 billion in 2014 and employing more than 1.1 million Floridians. According to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research, for every \$1 the state invests in VISIT FLORIDA – the official tourism marketing corporation for the state of Florida – \$3.20 in tax revenue is generated. VISIT FLORIDA promotes tourism to Florida through sales, advertising, promotions, public relations and visitor services programs. As a public/private partnership, VISIT FLORIDA serves more than 11,000 tourism industry businesses

Current Status: The TBBCoC is an advocate for the tourism industry and for adequate funding and resources to support the industry. Florida is the top travel destination in the world with every 85 visitors creating 1 job and the TBBCOC is advocating to support and grow the industry. Florida is aiming to bring in \$100 billion in total tourism related spending by 2020, however, attracting more tourists isn't the key strategy in driving up dollars. The influx will come from the experience rather than filling more hotel beds. The new strategy is less about bringing in more bodies and more about tapping into consumer markets that want to spend dollars in the state.

Useful Resources:

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>
- Track House Legislation: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>
- Track Senate Legislation: <http://www.flsenate.gov/>

Action:

- Urge state elected officials to support the tourism industry as it is Florida's number one industry.
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Agenda Item: Workforce Development

Agenda Item Description: There is an influx in open positions along the beaches. Many businesses are having difficulties finding individuals to fill open positions. Most individuals applying for jobs are unqualified. However, the bigger issue affecting businesses is that there are not enough people applying for the jobs to fill the open positions.

Current Status: The TBBCOC advocates for an enhanced pool of qualified workers. To remain competitive in a changing economy, Florida needs to advance the economic well-being by developing and maintaining a quality workforce and by serving as the focal point for our workforce development initiatives. This is to be achieved through the co-location and integration of employment, training, education and economic development services for job seekers, workers and employers.

Useful Resources:

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>
- Track House Legislation: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>
- Track Senate Legislation: <http://www.flsenate.gov/>

Action:

- Urge your elected officials to support workforce development
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Federal Agenda

Agenda Item: **Fisheries**

Agenda Item Description: Recreational and commercial fishing have been critical to our quality of life and our economy here in Pinellas for generations. We must do more to responsibly reduce the number of fishery closures and to invest in responsible stock enhancement. We need to improve how we manage fishery closures that hurt our economy and our way of life.

Current Status: The TBBCoC advocates for sound management and conservation of marine resources and maximize the opportunity to fish and are pursuing the four following principals:

- Move decision making process on fishery closures from the National Marine Fisheries Service in Washington to the regional council level closest to the local stakeholders in our state and community – in our case, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council;
- Remove the Department of Commerce’s ability to veto gubernatorial appointments to the regional councils
- Redirect current funding to further invest in enhanced fish habitats
- Redirect current funding to improve research related to survivability of juvenile fish stocks

Useful Resources:

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>
- Track Legislation: <https://www.govtrack.us/>
- Download iCitizen App: <http://www.icitizen.com>

Action:

- Urge your Congressional delegates to support the four principals toward responsibly managing our fisheries.
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Agenda Item: **Insurance Reform**

Agenda Item Description: We all depend on reasonably priced insurance to live safe and healthy lives. Yet because of oversight on insurance industry activities, insurers can impose rate hikes that are so astronomical that they threaten the ability of businesses and professionals, homeowners or motorists to function. We need to support effective reforms of flood insurance, property insurance, and others insurance reforms. The insurance industry has created liability insurance crises, making insurance unaffordable or, in some cases, unavailable at any price.

Current Status: The TBBCoC advocates for insurance reform to control skyrocketing insurance rates, reduced insurance coverage, arbitrary policy cancellations, mismanagement and other insurance industry abuses. This will allow for more affordable and reliable flood insurance, property insurance and other insurance options to help businesses cope with increased risks.

Useful Resources:

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>
- Track Legislation: <https://www.govtrack.us/>
- Download iCitizen App: <http://www.icitizen.com>

Action:

- Urge your Congressional delegates to support insurance reform
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Agenda Item: Online Sales Tax

Agenda Item Description: Online retailers are not required to pay sales tax which creates an unfair price advantage over brick-and-mortar businesses. As their customers naturally gravitate to perceived lower prices online, small local businesses are forced to cut their workforces, prices, or wages to keep their businesses open. This cycle is dragging down our small business economy. By closing this massive loophole, Florida will be more competitive and save small business jobs.

Current Status: TBBCoC supports the Remote Transaction Parity Act (H.R.2775) and its efforts to create a fair and level playing field for small businesses whether they sell online or on Main Street. This legislation empowers Florida to collect taxes that are already on the books. No new tax is included in this bill.

Useful Resources:

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>
- Track Legislation: <https://www.govtrack.us/>
- Download iCitizen App: <http://www.icitizen.com>

Action:

- Urge federal elected officials to support the Remote Transaction Parity Act (H.R.2775)
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Agenda Item: Overtime Regulations

Agenda Item Description: The Labor Department proposed expanding the number of workers covered by overtime rules in the Fair Labor Standards Act. Currently, the salary threshold under which workers are eligible to receive overtime pay is \$23,660 a year. However, the new proposal would more than double the threshold to \$50,440. That threshold will continue to increase every year. The reality is changing overtime regulations will not guarantee more income, but instead will negatively impact small businesses and drastically limit employment opportunities.

Current Status: The TBBCOC opposes the Labor Department's proposed overtime regulations. The proposed rule, as drafted, could force some smaller businesses to close, increase litigation, and is not in line with the historical practices of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Additionally, businesses will be forced to make decisions that will negatively impact the very people the proposed rule is drafted to assist. The unintended consequences of this rule change are numerous, and it is in the best interest of Florida, our nation, our job creators, and those that work hard day in and day out that this rule be reconsidered and not adopted. The comment period for the proposed rule ended September 4, 2015. The next step is to wait for the Department of Labor to make a decision. If the rule goes into effect, urge Congress to block and/or make changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Useful Resources:

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: <http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/advocacy.html>
- Track Legislation: <https://www.govtrack.us/>
- Download iCitizen App: <http://www.icitizen.com>

Action:

- Urge Congress to block and/or make changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act
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