

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX (TDT)

- In 1977, the Florida Legislature passed the "Tourist Development Tax" (F.S.125.0104) at the request of Florida lodging executives. The purpose of the tax was to create dedicated revenue for tourism promotion and investment.
- CFHLA strongly advocates preserving the integrity of this "bed tax," so that it is utilized for **tourism-promotion** purposes only.
- Our citizens' way of life continues to be enhanced through the investment of TDT dollars in tourism promotion and other efforts that attract record-breaking numbers of visitors to our state, generating hundreds of millions in **sales tax** revenue.
- CFHLA strongly **opposes any efforts to expand the allowed uses of the Tourist Development Tax** beyond tourism promotion purposes. CFHLA believes that public facility projects such as transportation, sewage, etc. should be supported with general funds, which are largely comprised of **sales tax** and **property tax** revenues generated by lodging establishments throughout the state.

VISIT FLORIDA FUNDING

- CFHLA supports the **public-private business model** for Visit Florida and recommends the **continuation** of Visit Florida's enabling statute which expires October 1, 2019.
- CFHLA opposes any efforts to replace VISIT FLORIDA funding from the state budget with County-level TDT revenues. Local TDT revenues are committed to vital projects and organizations that generate visitation - providing local economic development and job creation.
- *In 2017, Florida welcomed 118.5 million visitors, including 10.6 million international travelers, punctuating the growth of the state's Tourism Industry, which employs more than 1.4 million Floridians, making hospitality Florida's #1 industry.*

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- CFHLA has partnered with local law enforcement agencies over the years to educate lodging employees on the important issue of Human Trafficking and the **"warning signs"** to be vigilant for.
- CFHLA continues to support **industry mandated employee training** relating to Human Trafficking, ensuring that **increased awareness and preventative measures** are implemented to maintain Florida's image as a "Family-Friendly" destination.

SADOWSKI AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

- CFHLA believes that, in consideration of the current **affordable housing crisis**, the Florida Legislature should utilize the Sadowski Fund only for its intended purpose to develop quality affordable housing for the constituents of Florida struggling to find adequate living arrangements, rather than **diverging funds to the general budget, which has been done for the past 10 years.**

WATER QUALITY

- CFHLA will monitor any legislation relating to water quality programs and infrastructure in the State to ensure the preservation of clean water in State waterways and beaches and to ensure the prevention of red-tide and algae blooms throughout the State.

SHARED LODGING PLATFORMS

- CFHLA supports the rights of individuals to rent out their properties, so long as they adhere to **Chapter 509** and meet compliance standards applicable to **professional vacations rentals**, eliminating unregulated or illegal competition for law-abiding lodging operations.
- CFHLA believes that, in fairness to Florida taxpayers, all properties listed on **"Shared Lodging"** sites should be properly registered as a business with the State Department of Revenue, Department of Business and Professional Regulation and with their county Tax Collector.
- CFHLA opposes any legislative efforts that would prevent local governments from regulating **unregistered** and **"illegal"** vacation rental properties listed on "shared lodging" platforms. With visitor safety a priority, unregistered properties are often woefully inadequate in meeting the standards of regulations established based on years of public safety research (fire alarms, health inspections, etc.)

GAMBLING

- CFHLA remains strongly **opposed to the development of destination resort casinos or the expansion of gambling** in Florida as the vitality of Central Florida's economy depends on its reputation as a **"Family Friendly"** destination.
- CFHLA will monitor any activity regarding the establishment of Sports Betting in the State of Florida.

MINIMUM WAGE

- CFHLA continues to support **Florida's Minimum Wage Act that adjusts the state minimum wage annually** based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and also supports a **market driven minimum wage** that allows for companies to compete for a dedicated workforce.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

- CFHLA supports the integrity of Florida's State Constitution and will continue to monitor future ballot measure initiatives.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

- CFHLA will continue to monitor the expansion of **Medical Marijuana** and remains dedicated to **protecting Florida's "Family Friendly" brand.**

DEDICATED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

- CFHLA strongly supports any efforts to establish a new tax revenue, **separate from the Tourist Development Tax**, to fund public transportation initiatives and infrastructure in the State of Florida.

BEACHLINE (SR-528) ENHANCEMENT

- CFHLA supports the Central Florida Expressway Authority's efforts to purchase portions of **State Road 528** from the Florida Department of Transportation to ensure that local entities can provide visitors and Hospitality employees with **appropriate access to SR-528 Exits 1 & 2.**