

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 a **long-term continuation** of Visit Florida's enabling statute which expires July 1, 2020.
- 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 2018, Florida welcomed 126.1 million visitors, including 10.8 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.*

SADOWSKI AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

- CFHLA believes that 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.** CFHLA supports measures to minimize or remove the ability to diverge funds to the general budget. CFHLA will also **support local initiatives** to incentivize the development of affordable housing through the use, but not limited to, minimized impact fees and tax incentives.

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 supports continued efforts to train vacation rental operators on **human trafficking awareness and prevention** to respond to this crime.
- 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 a **market driven minimum wage** that allows for companies to compete for a dedicated workforce and also supports **Florida's Minimum Wage Act that adjusts the state's minimum wage annually** based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

PREDICTIVE SCHEDULING

- CFHLA **opposes any efforts to mandate predictive scheduling** laws which would place **unrealistic parameters** for both business owners and employees, especially in customer service-oriented businesses that must be ready to meet the changing demands of guests and patrons.
- CFHLA believes that predictive scheduling would **prohibit a business from being adaptable** to unforeseen circumstances and would **restrict an employee's ability to take-on overtime shifts or request unanticipated time-off.**

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.

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA/CBD

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

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.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS & NON-SERVICE ANIMALS

- CFHLA believes that, in respect to business owners and patrons, **restrictions should be implemented to prevent non-service animals and emotional support animals** from entering business establishments that choose to prohibit them. **This does not include service-animals who play a critical role in providing trained care to their handlers.**
- CFHLA supports current ADA regulations that define service animals as "**any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not considered service animals.**"

DEDICATED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING (REGIONAL)

- CFHLA strongly supports any efforts to establish a new tax revenue, **separate from the Tourism Development Tax**, to fund regional public transportation initiatives and infrastructure.