



2023 Legislative Priorities

We believe **Tourism Development Taxes** (Bed Taxes) must be preserved for their original statutory purpose – to promote tourism and develop tourist-attracting facilities in the county where they are collected. These visitors also pay nearly a quarter of all sales tax collected in the state. Expansion of uses will dilute a destination’s ability to attract visitors to their county.

We support Governor DeSantis’ proposed budget for **VISIT FLORIDA** of \$100 million for 2023-24. VISIT FLORIDA continues to provide a strong ROI for Florida taxpayers as its 12,000 tourism industry partners create jobs and remains the foundation for Florida’s robust economy.

Our industry’s #1 priority will always be the safety of our guests and our team members. We support **Safety Standards for Amusement Rides** that align Florida Statutes with the global ride safety standards of ASTM International. Current ride safety statutes have passed the test of time and provide an effective relationship between compliant ride operators and the Bureau of Fair Rides. We support additional resources for the Bureau of Fair Rides to conduct unannounced inspections of amusement rides.

We believe consumers have a right to control their personal information, however, **data privacy** regulations should be reasonable and not create burdensome compliance expenses nor the threat of costly litigation for Florida’s small businesses.

We support tort reform to **eliminate lawsuit abuse** in Florida and help reduce insurance costs for Florida businesses.

We support incentives to encourage developers to implement innovative approaches in developing **affordable housing**.

FAA members include a variety of zoos, aquariums and marine mammal facilities that are dedicated to the welfare of the animals in their attractions and to the research, conservation, and protection of wildlife. These facilities inspire millions of visitors each year through their education programs to help protect the natural wonders of our planet. We support our members in this commitment and oppose any legislation that would restrict the responsible stewardship of **animals in human care**.

Florida is recognized around the world as a destination with **abundant water resources**. The state must act to protect and restore this precious resource to ensure the availability of potable water in our aquifers for drinking and in lakes, rivers, springs, swamps and beaches for recreational use. Blue-green algae bloom and red tide both create disruption of our tourism economy.

We support fully funding grant programs for historic, natural and cultural resources including attraction and museum related appropriations. We also support the continued preservation of Florida’s **historic, natural and cultural artifacts and sites** to protect our state’s heritage.