



President Trump's Jobs Plan for Florida: All Job Creation is Local



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Introduction

The Obama administration raised taxes, increased regulations, suppressed development of America's natural resources, slashed the defense budget, left our borders wide open, and failed to crack down on unfair trade practices by countries like Communist China. The Trump administration has pursued just the opposite policies while following an "all job creation is local" approach to stimulating economic growth. Let's see how this strategy is working in the Great State of Florida.

Increased Defense Spending Supports Florida's Arsenal of Democracy

President Trump's dramatic increase in defense spending has been a boon to Florida. Spending is up in the state a full 33 percent in Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018 compared to the last two fiscal years of the Obama administration.¹ Florida's robust defense industry hosts nearly 18,000 defense companies with approximately 194,000 employees. And this is all to the good because Florida is one of the most important states in America's defense industrial base.

The Sunshine State is home to over 128,000 defense personnel and more than \$7 billion in payroll. Florida ranks fifth in defense spending, with over \$24 billion injected into the local economy.² To see how the Trump defense budget increases are helping to create jobs at the local level in Florida, consider the case of the booming aerospace and space industry.

Under President Trump, the United States has revived its status as a space power. On May 30th, 2020, American astronauts were launched on an American rocket into outer space for the first time in over a decade. Each year, NASA's Kennedy Space Center brings nearly \$4 billion to the Space Coast, providing nearly \$2.3 billion in payroll and supporting over 24,000 Central Florida jobs.³ These are good, high-paying jobs, with the average salary of a spaceport worker at \$88,200, more than 40 percent higher the average Florida wage.⁴

SpaceX alone has been awarded three Department of Defense Contracts in recent months. On August 7th, 2020, it was awarded a multi-billion dollar contract to launch 14 Space Force missions.⁵ On October 5th, SpaceX was awarded a \$149 million contract to build four new satellites with tracking and early warning capacities for hypersonic missile launches.⁶ Days later, it was awarded another contract to build a rocket capable of delivering 80 metric tons of cargo to any location in 60 minutes or less.⁷

President Trump, the Vice President and Second Lady Celebrate the SpaceX Launch



Lockheed Martin also employs more than 14,000 across Florida, including missile design and development in Orlando,⁸ missile and avionics systems manufacturing in Ocala,⁹ and work on the F-35 in Pinellas Park.

Northrop Grumman's plant in Melbourne, FL continues to thrive with the President's commitment of \$16.8 billion for the Air Force for the delivery of 100 B-21 aircraft, leading to over 1,500 jobs in Melbourne, Orlando, and Apopka paying an average annual salary of \$100,000.¹⁰

In April 2018, Lockheed Martin was awarded a \$1.4 billion contract to sustain the global enterprise of over 1,700 F-35 fighter jets.¹¹ A month later, Lockheed Martin opened a new canopy and bulkhead production facility in Pinellas Park to support the newly increased F-35 production rate, creating more than 80 new jobs.¹² Across the state, 97 businesses support nearly 22,500 jobs through work on the F-35 – a cornerstone in America's arsenal of democracy.¹³

After Hurricane Michael ravaged the western Florida coast in October 2018, President Trump was quick to help the state rebuild. Panama City was hit particularly hard, destroying Eastern Shipbuilding and Tyndall Air Force Base along with thousands of other homes and properties.

Tyndall Air Force Base was leveled after the Category 5 hurricane and recommended for closure, but again, President Trump would not allow the weakening of Florida's defense industrial base. After raising the federal disaster reimbursement rate from 75 to 90 percent, President Trump moved 3 squadrons of F-35's to Tyndall, anchoring Florida jobs and security all the more. The base brings nearly \$600 billion to the area and supports more than 5,650 jobs to Bay County.¹⁴

Eastern Shipbuilding constructs new first-in-class Offshore Patrol Cutters for the Coast Guard. Impacts of Hurricane Michael threatened to delay the \$10.5 billion contract by years, jeopardizing thousands of local jobs.¹⁵ President Trump stepped in and directed the Department of Homeland Security to grant extraordinary contract relief for the first four hulls created before the remainder of the contract is re-competed, saving Panama City jobs and keeping the shipyard afloat.¹⁶

Crew and Family Members of USCG Cutter Terrell Horne Aboard the Newly Commissioned Ship



The maritime industry employs over 52,000 in Florida, second only to Louisiana, and accounts for a gross economic output of nearly \$9.7 billion.¹⁷ Shipbuilding accounts for nearly 22,000 of these jobs from Pensacola and Panama City to Jacksonville and Tampa. The Jones Act in Tampa alone supports nearly 10,000 jobs and brings over \$2 billion to the region.¹⁸

Thanks to President Trump's strengthening of one of the oldest pieces of Buy American legislation, the Jones Act, Crowley Maritime Corp. took delivery of two liquefied natural gas powered cargo ships¹⁹ built specifically for cabotage from Jacksonville to San Juan, Puerto Rico—a route trafficked with 2.2 million tons of cargo annually.²⁰

The much bigger picture here is that of an administration committed to rebuilding and strengthening America's manufacturing and defense industrial base. From SpaceX's rockets in Cape Canaveral to state-of-the-art Offshore Patrol Cutters coming out of Panama City, President Trump is making life better for the Sunshine State.

President Trump Invests in Florida's Future

As the radical left wants to shepherd in a Green New Deal and punish hard-working Americans, President Trump has shown the American people that we can preserve the environment while still building the greatest economy our country has ever seen.

President Trump Takes Actions to Protect Florida Shores from Drilling



On September 8th, 2020, President Trump expanded a 2006 ban on oil drilling off the shores of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina²¹ which was set to expire in 2022.²² Thanks to President Trump, Florida's coastal waters will be protected until 2032.²³ Clean waters are essential for Florida's \$237 million seafood industry, which supports nearly 4,000 jobs.²⁴

In December of 2019, President Trump allocated \$200 million to combating toxic discharge and blue green algae from Lake Okeechobee in the Everglades.²⁵ And, this past February, the Army Corps of Engineers increased funding for the Everglades \$35 million above Congressional appropriations at the President's direction.²⁶ Under President Trump, funding to protect the Everglades has increased by 55 percent from 2016 to 2020.²⁷ In his 2021 budget proposal, President Trump has called on Congress to increase conservation efforts in the Everglades by an additional \$50 million.^{28,29}

President Trump Visiting the 143-Mile Herbert Hoover Dike in Lake Okeechobee



In October of 2019, the Trump Administration finalized a rule that repealed the disastrous Obama 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule that overregulated areas of Florida, as well as ditches, potholes, and farm ponds nationwide. President Trump concluded the process of replacing the 2015 WOTUS rule with the much more workable Navigable Waters Protection rule in June of 2020.³⁰

As the nation's leader in the growth of oranges, watermelon, and sugarcane, this particular regulatory reform should be a boon to Florida's farmers from Palm Beach and Polk counties to Hillsborough and Manatee counties.³¹

As part of a \$906 million Investment to Revitalize America's Infrastructure,³² President Trump's Department of Transportation awarded nearly \$20 million to Hooker's Point in Port Tampa Bay.³³ This investment allows the facility to accommodate an additional 150,000 twenty-foot equivalent units each year – a critical expansion to the state's robust maritime industry.

USMCA Lifts Florida Manufacturing

In 2009, the Obama Administration broke an important promise to the American people when it announced that it would not seek to renegotiate NAFTA, one of the worst trade deals in American history.³⁴ In contrast, President Trump kept his promise to renegotiate NAFTA and the result is the new United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement – the USMCA.

Florida exports \$7.1 billion to Canada and Mexico annually.³⁵ Among the largest of these exports is transportation and aerospace equipment, computer and electronic products, electric and appliance components, and agricultural products. These four categories of goods represent nearly 42 percent of all the state's exports to Mexico and Canada.³⁶

On the manufacturing front, USMCA tightens intellectual property protections in the commercial encryptions products industry. This will safeguard a rapidly growing and increasingly important industry—semiconductors and microchip production. This \$1.8 billion export is the ninth largest of the state's foreign exports, ranking Florida fifth in the nation for production. Their near 80 semiconductor establishments employ nearly 8,000 Floridians with a \$2.6 billion wage impact in the state.³⁷

Aerospace producers have also benefitted from heightened intellectual property protections under USMCA. From GE Aviation and Honeywell in Clearwater to Collins Aerospace in Melbourne to Lockheed Martin in Pinellas Park, the aviation and aerospace industry employs over 110,000 Floridians across more than 2,300 institutions.³⁸

A reordering of Federal government priorities has helped see nearly 7,000 new jobs in the industry from 2017 to 2018. These are good paying jobs—manufacturing wages in Florida average at \$63,883—23 percent higher than the average wage for the state.³⁹ These manufacturers and innovators spread across Florida can continue to supply the American aviation and defense industries with cutting-edge machinery with less risk of intellectual property theft thanks to the USMCA.⁴⁰

Trump Trade Policy Helps Florida Farmers

USMCA creates new market access opportunities for U.S. dairy exports and will be a boon to Florida's \$400 million dairy industry.⁴¹

The Trump administration's Phase One China Deal also benefits Florida's cattle industry, which supports more than 118,000 jobs and brought in \$16.8 billion in 2017.⁴² Signed in January of 2020, China has committed to purchase \$80 billion of American agricultural products over two years.⁴³ As the tenth largest producer of beef nationwide, Florida should enjoy a large share of the increased Chinese purchases of American beef, which have already tripled compared to 2017 levels.⁴⁴

Florida is the world's leading producer of grapefruit and provides more than 70 percent of the United States' citrus supply. Concentrated in Polk County, Florida has more than 74 million citrus trees growing nearly \$9 billion each year and support 76,000 jobs.⁴⁵ After Hurricane Irma devastated Florida's citrus farmers in 2017,⁴⁶ President Trump quickly allocated \$343 million in federal grants to get them back on their feet.⁴⁷

The disastrous NAFTA resulted in a dramatic increase in U.S. imports of fresh fruits and vegetables from Mexico, harming Florida's agricultural sector. Before the USMCA went into effect, imports of fresh fruits and vegetables had increased 1,025 percent to \$13.5 billion.⁴⁸ Luckily, this past September, the Trump Administration announced a comprehensive plan inclusive of a Section 201 investigation on surge imports of blueberries, as well as an International Trade Commission investigation on imports of strawberries and bell peppers, which will support Florida's producers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables.⁴⁹

Trump Tax Cuts and Opportunity Zones Boost Income

Critics of President Trump's historic Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 have tried to fool the American people into thinking these were tax cuts for the rich. But nothing could be further from the truth.

Consider that real median household income in Florida increased by over \$3,000 or 5.4 percent in just two years following the passage of the Trump tax cuts. At \$58,368, Floridians are now enjoying the highest real median household income level since the boom in 2006.⁵⁰

Note, too, that the Trump tax cuts are family friendly. It is estimated nearly 1.3 million Floridian households have benefitted from the doubling of the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per child and 7.5 million Floridian households are benefitting from doubling the standard tax deduction.⁵¹

The tax cuts are not just family friendly—they are business friendly as well. Take, for example, AutoNation Inc. in Fort Lauderdale. It is doubling its match benefit for employees' 401k accounts, as well as providing additional financial support to employees and their dependents diagnosed with cancer.⁵² Or Sergio's Cuban Café in Miami. Mr. Rodriguez, the owner of the Café and the son of a Cuban immigrant, said, "We, as a company, have currently two restaurants... we're currently building three more. But thanks to the tax cuts, that expansion is going to accelerate, and hopefully, soon, we'll be able to create an extra 500 jobs..."⁵³

Even a Florida pre-kindergarten school benefitted from the corporate tax cuts. Primrose School of South Tampa gave each of their full time staff members a \$1,040 raise and part time staff received a \$500 raise. More than \$75,000 was invested into new playground equipment and 50 new iPads were purchased for classroom use.⁵⁴

Vice President Pence Enjoys Orlando's Local Food Scene



On the opportunity zone front, Florida is home to 427 such zones, all of which are in low-income communities. 93 percent of these opportunity zones are concentrated in urban regions ranging from Miami and Orlando, all the way up to Jacksonville and Tallahassee.⁵⁵ The remaining 30 opportunity zones are in rural communities scattered across the state from the northern border to communities outside Lake Okeechobee.⁵⁶

These communities are ethnically diverse, with over 40 percent Black and an additional 21 percent Hispanic, and their residents are burdened with an average poverty rate of 31.5 percent, a 16.8 percent unemployment rate, and a 32 percent severe rent burden average.⁵⁷

Because of the Trump tax plan, we have already seen nearly \$4.4 *billion* in planned investment in Florida's opportunity zones⁵⁸ for over 40 projects to date including mixed-use real estate development, affordable housing complexes, and doctors' offices.⁵⁹ Investments in these Trump opportunity zones are expected to create good, high-paying jobs in the communities of Florida much in need.

For example, Fore Property in Kissimmee is building a 384-unit apartment building – a \$50 million investment into this community. Or take Santa Fe College. They are expanding their Center for Innovation and Economic Development, which is located in an opportunity zone. The center has served as an “entrepreneur incubator” that has helped launched over 150 new companies. This investment will not only help current students, but help the college continue to create opportunity and jobs in the region.

Even known musical artist Flo Rida is participating in the opportunity zone development—he is opening a vodka distillery in an opportunity zone in Fort Lauderdale in the Sistrunk neighborhood.⁶⁰

President Trump Creates Jobs and Saves Lives in Puerto Rico

President Trump is committed to rebuilding the Puerto Rican economy, and making Puerto Rico a once-again pharmaceutical and medical supply manufacturing king. Thanks to President Trump's Buy American, Hire American policies and the signing of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Puerto Rico has experienced over \$1 billion in both federal and private sector industrial expansion investments, and has added over 6,500 manufacturing jobs to its workforce.⁶¹

For example, companies like Loopland in Roosevelt Roads have invested \$200 million in a new Puerto Rican hotel, creating 1,500 direct jobs, and 7,500 indirect jobs.⁶² Companies like the PRISA Group in Dorado Beach have invested \$107 million in a brand new hospital facility, which has created 1,034 construction jobs, an additional 870 jobs once the hospital is operational.⁶³

In April, President Trump's Commerce Department awarded \$4.5 million to the Local Redevelopment Authority to revamp the Roosevelt Road's Port Control Building, and make other infrastructure improvements on the former Naval Station Roosevelt Roads.⁶⁴ This award is expected to generate 134 jobs and spur \$1.5 million in private investment.⁶⁵

Regarding the China Virus pandemic, companies based in Puerto Rico like Copan and Pall were integral to on-shoring the supply chains of life-saving medical supplies like flocked-tip swabs and ventilator components. With over nearly 90 countries having invoked export controls⁶⁶ on critically-needed medical supplies, the pandemic proved President Trump correct in that our public health industrial base must be reliant on U.S. supply chains.

In July, Pall in Fajardo was awarded a \$5 million contract under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to expand production of ventilator filters, a critical component in medical ventilators that protects patients from harmful pathogens which may be found in the gas supply systems or the ambient air.⁶⁷ This award sustained approximately 650 jobs.⁶⁸

In September, Copan in Aguadilla was awarded a \$10 million contract under the Health Care Enhancement Act (HCEA) to rapidly expand production of flocked-tip swabs to bolster domestic China Virus testing capabilities. This award helped meet an urgent need for millions of testing supplies for the American people to help mitigate the spread of the China Plague, and created approximately 150 jobs in the process.

To provide economic relief to Puerto Ricans suffering from the aftermath of Hurricane Maria this past September, President Trump allocated \$13 billion in federal aid to help rebuild Puerto Rico's electrical system, school infrastructure, and power plants.⁶⁹

Conclusion

You can see, then, from this tour of the Florida economy just how productive President Trump's "all job creation is local" strategy has been. While the deadly virus from Communist China has hit America and the American economy hard, the Trump economic team, led by the greatest jobs president and trade negotiator in history, is bringing prosperity back to the Great State of Florida and to the American people.

So as we fight this Communist China Virus together, please always remember this: By January of 2020 – before the plague from Communist China attacked our shores – the success of President Trump's worker-focused strategy was undeniable. We had strong economic growth, historically low unemployment, and rising wages, particularly for Blue Collar America and our Black and Brown Communities. Together, we WILL get back to that pinnacle of Trump success as we pursue the twin missions of building a strong economy and defeating the deadly Chinese Communist Party virus.

President Trump Invests in Our Students' Futures (Orlando, Florida)



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