



**FIRST PLACE PARTNERS**

— ESCAMBIA/SANTA ROSA —

Where you can  
make a difference

## BENEFITS

Escambia and Santa Rosa counties are one MSA – one economy. They have one interstate, one university, one state college, one commercial airport. They have common medical facilities, workforce development organizations and one population that crosses county lines tens of thousands of times a day.

Having one economic development support organization not only makes sense, its means a much more efficient use of financial resources, talent, site inventory, etc... Bottom line – it means we will be more competitive in growing jobs for the regions.

When you get right down to it, Economic Development is up to us – the people who live, work and play in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.

Working with government and education, the private business sector has a vital role to play in job attraction, retention and expansion. But to be effective, the business community must be organized, engaged and committed to growing our two-county economy. That's the genesis for First Place Partners – a grass-roots, private sector organization where you can have a hand in creating our future well-being.

## HOW CAN YOU JOIN?

Request a membership application by sending an email to: [DaveMurzin@yahoo.com](mailto:DaveMurzin@yahoo.com) or call 850-380-8249.

You can fill it out in minutes and email it back to us. We will then send you an invoice for payment and then get you involved on one of our working committees. It's easy. We need you. Please join today.



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## WHO WE ARE

We have a unique mission – the only organization representing both Escambia and Santa Rosa counties dedicated to supporting economic development.

We will work closely with Florida West and the Santa Rosa Economic Development Department to provide resources – financial and intellectual – to support existing business creation and expansion, to attract new business to the area and to be a voice for economic growth.

We will work to coordinate efforts and collaborate engagement of government, education and the business community to promote economic growth.

## WHAT WE LOOK LIKE

We have a board of directors elected annually by the membership. We have three levels of membership – Voting members (\$3,000 per year), Associate members (\$1,500, non-voting) and publicly-funded organizations who pay no dues. We will be a 100 percent privately funded, 501C6 organization. Plans are to add a 501C3

status in the coming year. To keep overhead low, we do not contemplate having a physical location – rather we will utilize member facilities for meetings and events. Likewise, we do not contemplate having a full-time staff. Instead we will use contract employment to coordinate efforts and for administrative duties.

## WHAT WE WILL DO

Members will be given the opportunity to serve on a number of working committees. Some of those will include:

**Sites and Buildings** – You can help our counties build an inventory of available places suited for business expansion and help prepare our counties for future growth.

**Workforce Development** – Our schools and training organizations need engagement from the business community to build tomorrow's workforce.

**Transportation** – Roads, port improvements, rail access and airport expansions are all critical for growth.

**Quick Strike Prospect Team** – work with the recruitment professionals to reach out nationally and internationally to bring new businesses to our area.

## WHY NOW?

The private sector needs to be engaged in economic development now more than ever:

- More than a billion dollars is flowing to the area from the BP Triumph settlement for economic development. We need your ideas.

- We need new commerce parks and available sites and buildings to be competitive with other communities.
- The state has pulled back much of its support for economic development at a time when the economy is improving and businesses are looking to expand.
- We need support for workforce development efforts – our citizens need better paying jobs and the training to ensure they can improve household income.
- We need dedicated sources of funding for economic development. Much of the current public funding for economic development is a year-to-year guessing game.
- We have the opportunity to rapidly grow our IT sector, particularly Cybersecurity.

