

JAX Chamber
Small Business Leader of the Year
2027 Criteria and Nomination Form



Help us find Jacksonville's Top Small Business Leaders!

Each year the JAX Chamber salutes the entrepreneurial spirit of Jacksonville's small businesses with the Small Business Leader of the Year Award. This is your opportunity to nominate a member of your Council or Chamber Division who has demonstrated business excellence.

Criteria A nominee must:

- be a member of the JAX Chamber for at least 6 months and in good standing
- be an owner, partner, or shareholder of at least 25% of the business
- be active in the day-to-day management of the company
- be established locally in the same business for at least three years
- demonstrate professional business acumen and leadership
- have gross revenues of 5 million dollars or less per year for the previous three years

Former finalists may re-enter each year. Overall winners may not re-enter for five years.

Selection Process

Each council, along with Venture Services, the Beaches Division, and Nextup JAX will review submitted nominations and select their Small Business Leader of the Year. The selection process is up to the leadership of each Council. Criteria must be met and deadlines.

All SBLYs will compete for the JAX Chamber Overall Small Business Leader of the Year. The competition will culminate with the announcement of the JAX Chamber Overall Small Business Leader of the Year in January - February 2027.

The competition consists of completing and submitting a digital presentation package that answers questions about the company's business history and philosophy, as well as completing a thirty-minute interview with a panel of judges comprised of the prior year's SBLYs. Neither financial statements nor an accountant's statement of financial viability is required.

Timeline:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Complete 2027 SBLY Selection | Mid October, 2026 |
| 2027 SBLY Kickoff Meeting | Early November, 2026 |
| 2027 SBLY Packages Due to Chamber | Mid December, 2026 |
| 2026 Wrap Up Meeting | Early December, 2026 |
| SBLY Interviews | Mid January, 2027 |

Council or Division represented? _____

Your name: _____

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Position: _____

Legal company name: _____

Business address: _____

Office location (if different from above): _____

Home address: _____

Office phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Date business established: _____ Email: _____

Is this person an owner a partner a shareholder of 25% or more? **(Choose one)**

Are they active in the day-to-day management of this business? Yes No

Do the annual gross revenues for each of the past three years equal five million dollars or less?
 Yes No

Brief description of product and/or services: _____

Nominated by: Self Council Member Other Name: _____

SBLY Nominee: Please submit this form to your current 2026 Council or Chamber Division SBLY, with a copy to:

Kathy Sutton
Senior Director, Chamber Councils
JAX Chamber
kathy.sutton@jaxchamber.com