



2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

MAJOR PRIORITIES

Home Rule

- Support broad exercise of home rule powers granted to municipalities under the Florida Constitution and support consistency in the Legislature with the provisions of Section 166.021, Florida Statutes

Affordable/Attainable/Workforce Housing

- Support allocating the full amount of dedicated documentary tax revenues for state and local affordable housing programs
- Support investing in affordable housing to create jobs in home repair, hardening homes, retrofitting and constructing affordable rental units, and lowering energy costs to make housing more affordable
- Oppose reducing and/or reallocating the Sadowski Housing Trust Funds
- Support increasing funding for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and HOME partnership programs
- Support increasing Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Disaster Relief (DR) funds for hurricane-damaged structures
- Support legislation repealing SB 176 passed in the 2011 session relative to Affordable Housing

Funding for Homelessness Programs/Mental Health Initiatives/Sober Homes

- Support State funding for local homelessness programs, housing for the homeless and the aid groups and statewide agencies that oversee them
- Support the expansion of Miami Dade's Homeless and Domestic Violence Tax for all counties and municipalities as it pertains to authorization and uses in Section 212.0306, Florida Statutes
- Support legislation that adequately funds mental health facilities and programs in Florida including additional psychiatric beds
- Support legislation that allows for more stringent local regulations of sober home facilities and establishes minimum regulatory standards for these facilities
- Support a public records exemption for "individual identifying information" contained in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Support legislation to ban "conversion therapy" on minors by state-licensed mental health practitioners

Transportation Funding

- Support transportation funding for alternative means of transportation including bus rapid transit, trolleys, light rail, water taxis and other forms of multi-modal transportation in addition to roads
- Support legislation that preserves local control of transportation planning, provides equitable transportation funding among municipalities and counties, and provides opportunities for additional revenue options for municipal transportation infrastructure projects
- Support funding for the extension of The Legacy Trail through public/private partnerships and/or Florida Department of Transportation and the Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network
- Support transportation funding allocated directly to affected municipalities for storm mitigation (e.g., evacuation routes, debris removal, and damages caused by storm debris affecting ingress/egress of state roads), in coordination and collaboration with the comprehensive planning goals of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

Water Quality

- Support legislation providing a recurring funding source for programs and projects for water quality preservation and enhancement, specifically aid for municipalities to upgrade drinking water infrastructure and waste water infrastructure
- Support legislation that reinitiates the public hearing and adoption process for the Statewide Stormwater Treatment Rule

OTHER IMPORTANT PRIORITIES

Beaches and Tourism

- Support protecting and maintaining bays and beaches to sustain environmental quality and economic prosperity for the State’s tourism and fishing industries
- Oppose near-shore oil drilling

Building and Development

- Oppose implementation of House Bill 447 – Florida Building Code, which limits the amount of fund balance that a municipality can carry forward to its building services fund to the average cost for enforcing the Building Code for the preceding four fiscal years, along with the imposition of new penalties and the requirement of rebating and/or reducing fees
- Oppose regulation included in HB 447 which prohibits municipalities ability to deny a building permit to contractors with expired building permits

Communications Services Tax and Local Business Tax Protection

- Support legislation that protects general revenues collected from the communications services tax and the local business tax

Economic Development

- Support legislation that promotes industry and commerce to strengthen and diversify Florida’s economy
- Support legislation that creates jobs through transportation and infrastructure projects, tourism, hospitality, alternative energy, industry and commerce and health care services
- Support continued funding of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) at the federal level and create a funding source at the State level for economic development projects in municipalities
- Support clarification of the intent of Section 163.387, Florida Statutes, Redevelopment Trust Fund, Section (2)(a) such that the number of payments to be appropriated into the redevelopment trust fund must be equal to the number of years of the Community Redevelopment Area
- Support the creation of a Commission on Social Equity at the State level
- Support the nationwide “Ban the Box” Initiative for public and private employers to consider a job candidate’s qualifications first and delay the background check inquiry until later in the hiring process

Climate and Energy

- Support a long and short-term Florida Energy Policy with greenhouse reduction and renewable energy targets
- Support protections and incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency, including ensuring net metering policies are not reduced or eliminated
- Support solar legislation that allows municipal governments to utilize solar energy systems to help defray municipal energy costs
- Support legislation that assists local governments to mitigate and adapt to sea level rise, changing precipitation patterns, increasing storm severity, and increasing extreme heat days

Fiscal

- Oppose legislation that modifies, restricts or eliminates the authority of municipalities to levy, collect and/or expend the local business tax
- Support legislation that authorizes municipalities to provide public notice by means other than newspaper
- Support legislation to expand usage of collected tourist (bed) taxes for both public safety services and infrastructure maintenance, repair, and replacement in municipalities where substantial portions of a county’s tourist taxes are collected by changing the population size requirement of the counties eligible from 225,000 to 400,000
- Oppose legislation that would prohibit municipalities from contracting for Solid Waste and Recycling services without a competitive procurement process

Medical Marijuana

- Support legislation which allows local counties and municipalities to establish zoning criteria for medical marijuana treatment centers (dispensaries), specifically as it relates to separation requirements from other dispensing centers, proximity to neighborhoods, schools, childcare facilities and hospitals, parking requirements, hours of operation, setback requirements, etc.

Public Safety

- Support legislation which addresses and clarifies antiquated public records laws as it relates to the retention and the designation of exemptions related to law enforcement body worn camera recordings
- Support legislation which clarifies when there is a reasonable expectation of privacy as it relates to body worn camera recordings by law enforcement officers
- Support legislation allowing a law enforcement agency to conduct a forensics video analysis of its body worn camera recordings prior to release pursuant to a request under Chapter 119, Florida Statutes
- Extend the authority to conduct warrantless searches of persons on probation to all law enforcement officers
- Support legislation prohibiting concealed weapons licensees from knowingly and willingly allowing their firearms to be accessible to or be possessed by anyone not known to them to be authorized under Florida law
- Support legislation banning the manufacture, possession, distribution, purchase and sale of synthetic drugs, including herbal incense, bath salts, synthetic marijuana, and/or any cannabinoids
- Support legislation to correct any infirmities found by the Supreme Court of Florida in Section 316.3045, Florida Statutes – Operation of radios or other mechanical sound making devices or instruments in vehicles
- Support continued funding for COPS (Community Oriented Police Services) and Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Programs
- Support legislation providing that owners of stolen property recovered from pawn shops do not have to pay to retrieve their property and support penalties for pawn shops not performing their due diligence when receiving property
- Support legislation restricting the access of guns and weapons to minors, mentally unstable individuals, and those individuals who, by law, are restricted from access to or possession of any type of weapon

Red Light Cameras

- Support local municipalities' ability to regulate the use of red light cameras

Ride-for-Hire Services

- Support legislation that defines and establishes uniform safety and insurance standards for transportation network companies and their drivers and that preserves Home Rule authority over such services

Right of Way Protection

- Oppose legislation which strips a local municipalities' ability to regulate the placement of wireless communications equipment on city property within city rights-of-ways

Stand Your Ground

- Support legislation that provides additional clarification to Florida's Stand Your Ground law. The Florida Legislature passed CS/CS/HB 89 – Threatened Use of Force - legislation effective June 20, 2014 that modified the Stand Your Ground law to clarify certain provisions

Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP)

- Support legislation extending the anti-SLAPP provisions to include "neighborhood associations."

Sunshine/Public Records Laws Reform

- Support legislation to amend the Government-in-the-Sunshine Laws to specify or define what constitutes a "meeting" that is subject to the Sunshine Law and to add legislative exemptions that facilitate more effective governmental decision-making while meeting constitutional requirements
- Support legislation to create a Public Records Counsel at the State level to enforce Florida's Government-in-the-Sunshine Laws
- Support legislation creating an exemption for a special needs database for law enforcement to use to assist and accommodate individuals with documented special needs, in conjunction with the authority established under Chapter 252, Florida Statutes
- Support legislation creating an exemption in Florida public records law for records related to law enforcement weapons, tactics or personnel designations related thereto

Federal Issues

- Support funding for Brownfield clean-up at the Marian Anderson site
- Support preservation of Beach Renourishment Funding and programs
- Oppose any proposal to limit the value of the tax-exemption for municipal bonds
- Support passage of the Marketplace Fairness Act H.R.684
- Support funding for a Downtown circulator
- Support funding for U.S. 41 North Trail Multi-modal improvements
- Support Long-term funding for the federal Highway Trust Fund
- Support an infrastructure funding bill for public infrastructure