



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM # IV.F

DATE: JANUARY 27, 2025
TO: COUNCIL MEMBER
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Councilmember Lincoln, incoming Chair of the Florida Association of Counties, will provide an update on the Florida Association of Counties 2025 State and Federal Legislative Priorities.

Recommendation: Information Only



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2025 Legislative Action Plan

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Executive Committee



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Okeechobee



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Letter from the President

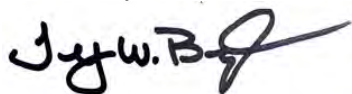
On behalf of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC), I am pleased to present our 2025 Legislative Action Plan. This document reflects the collective priorities and positions of Florida's counties, developed through input from local elected officials, staff, and stakeholders across the state. It serves as a comprehensive guide to the issues we will focus on during the 2025 legislative session.

As we approach the upcoming legislative session, our goal remains clear: to advocate for policies that empower our counties to meet the unique needs of our communities and to preserve the principles of local control and decision-making. Florida's counties are at the forefront of providing essential services, managing growth, and addressing the challenges that face our residents daily. Our legislative platform outlines the critical issues that will enable us to do so effectively.

The 2025 Legislative Action Plan covers a broad range of topics, including but not limited to, local government funding, infrastructure, public safety, environmental stewardship, and health care. We will work tirelessly to ensure that the voice of local government is heard and that our ability to serve our constituents is not hindered by burdensome mandates or inadequate resources.

As always, the strength of our efforts relies on the unity and participation of all Florida counties. I encourage you to engage with our legislative team, share your insights, and stay informed as we work toward achieving the goals set forth in this platform. Together, we will continue to advocate for policies that benefit all Floridians.

Sincerely,



Terry Burroughs
Okeechobee County



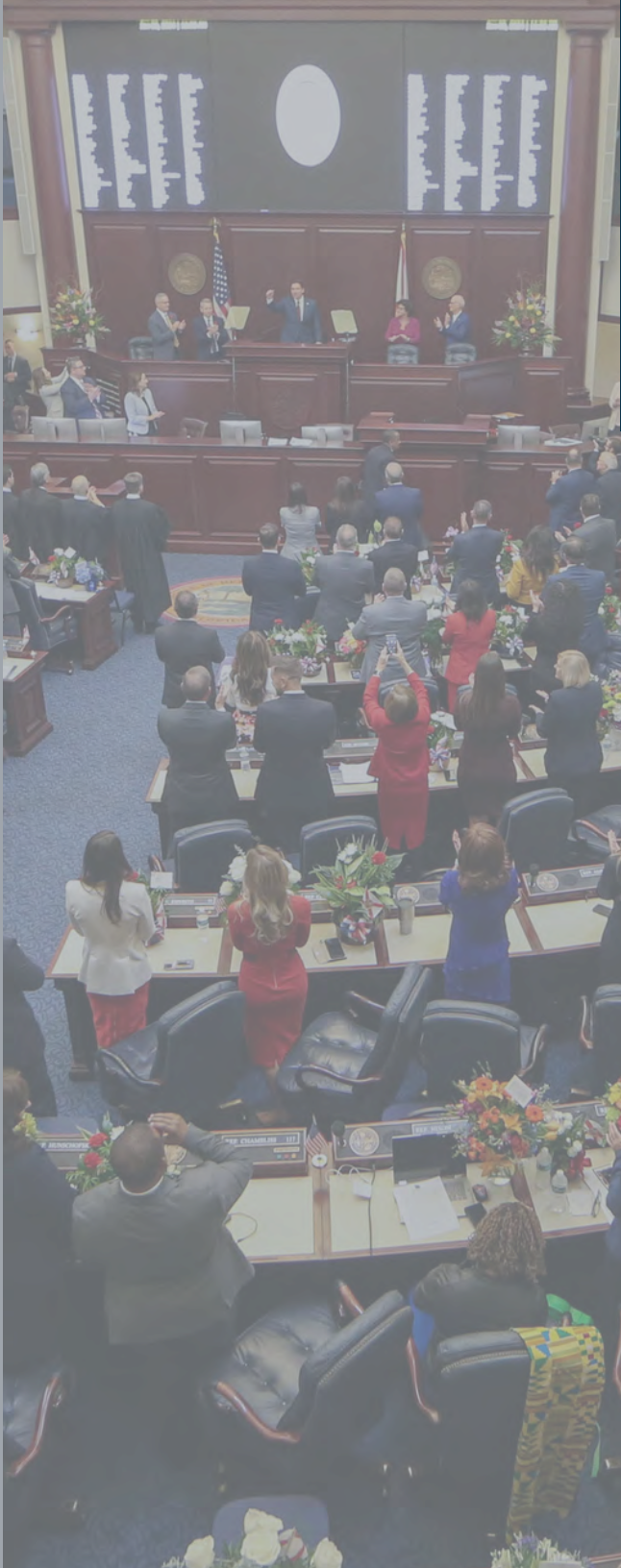


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Policy Development Process

The Florida Association of Counties has a deliberative, consensus-built policy development process. The goal is to solicit and develop policy statements on legislative issues affecting county government. Through participation in legislative policy committees, county officials identify, discuss, and ultimately vote on issues to be in FAC's Legislative Action Plan. Each policy committee has one presidentially-appointed Chair and Vice Chair as well as a number of volunteer Policy Leaders.

The FAC Legislative Action Plan is divided into two parts:

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

General policy principles of statewide importance that are relevant over several years at a time and over several individual policy issues. These statements exist automatically from year to year unless they are modified at the Legislative Conference's Closing Session by the membership.

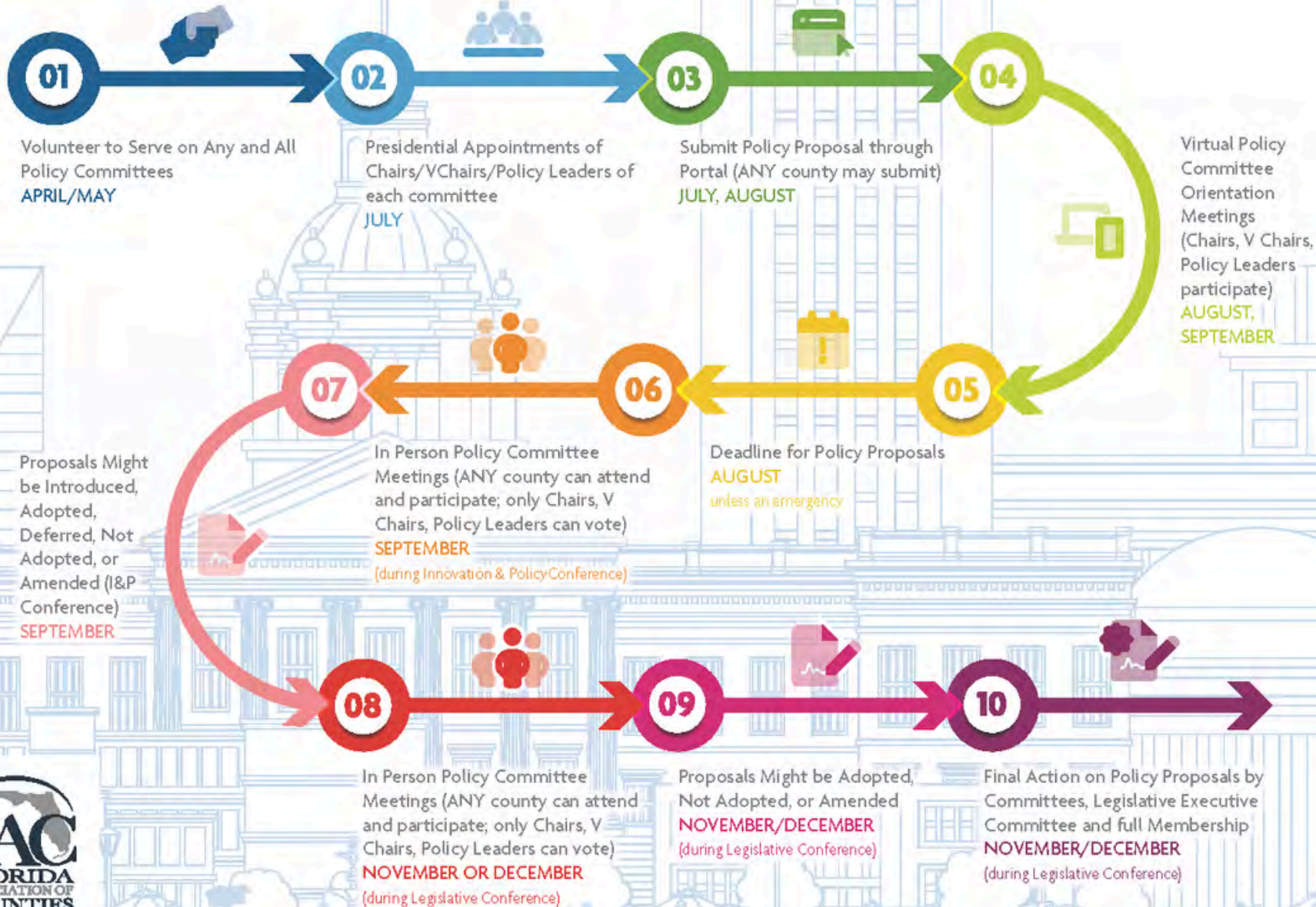
POLICY PROPOSALS

Single-purpose statements addressing a specific issue or piece of legislation. Policies must address an issue of statewide, regional, or significant and widespread impact and cannot promote individual county or project appropriations.

Scan the QR code to access the FAC Guiding Principles



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES POLICY PROCESS



Agriculture & Rural Affairs

Adopted

SMALL COUNTY SURTAX

SUPPORT legislation that allows fiscally constrained counties to place a referendum on the ballot for voters to determine whether or not that County can levy the Small County Surtax at a combined rate up to 2% in combination with the levy of the Local Government Infrastructure Surtax.

RURAL EXPANSION TOOLKIT REAUTHORIZATION

SUPPORT re-establishing the Rural Expansion Toolkit to provide marketing, training, consulting services, and site preparedness grants to assist Rural Areas of Opportunity in expanding their economic development efforts.

SMALL COUNTY ROAD PROGRAMS

SUPPORT increased funding for small county road programs specifically the Small County Road Assistance Program, the Small County Outreach Program, and the Farm to Market component of the Small County Outreach Program.

Adoption of ARA Guiding Principles



Chair
RUSSELL MELENDY
Hardee



Vice Chair
RICKY JONES
Franklin

Community & Urban Affairs

Adopted

LOCAL OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING

SUPPORT legislation repealing Chapter 2021-214, Laws of Florida, including all the created or amended statutory provisions presently in effect, such as s. 163.211, F.S., to allow counties to retain the authority to operate programs requiring the licensure, certification, or registration of local general contractors and specialty contractors, and other occupations as determined by each county's governing body by ordinance or resolution. In the alternative,

SUPPORT legislation amending s. 163.211(2)(a), F.S., to remove the expiration date of local government occupational licensing requirements and programs existing on or before the effective date of Chapter 2021-214, Laws of Florida, including the job scopes identified in s. 489.117(4)(a), F. S., and others that were locally licensed prior to the effective date Chapter 2021-214, Laws of Florida, to ensure the health, safety and welfare of county residents and businesses.

SUPPORT legislation amending s. 489.117(4)(a)2., F.S., to clarify the exemption provided to counties in areas of critical state concern.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS

SUPPORT amending Florida law relating to county and municipal code enforcement to restore the authority allowing a code inspector to act on a complaint submitted anonymously before the passage of Chapter 2021-167, Laws of Florida.



Chair
KEN CORNELL
Alachua



Vice Chair
STEVE GELLER
Broward

Community & Urban Affairs

SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES (5G) REPEAL

REPEAL state law preemption of local government regulation of small wireless facilities, also referred to as 5G equipment, and restore local authority to regulate 5G towers.

BUILDING INSPECTION FUNDS CARRYFORWARD

SUPPORT legislation amending Section 553.80(7)(a), Florida Statutes, regarding building inspection funds, which have severely limited a local government's ability to ensure they carry forward enough funds to cover pending inspections.

EXTRA-JURISDICTIONAL MUNICIPAL UTILITY SERVICES

SUPPORT legislation that provides that where a county has, by ordinance, established one or more utility service areas in the unincorporated area and where the county has the current ability to provide service, a municipality may not provide utility services within such county service area(s) without consent of the county.

Adoption of CUA Guiding Principles



Federal

Adopted

WRDA BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROJECTS

SUPPORTS amending the next (2024) Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) [22 U.S.C. § 2213(d)(1)(2021) (codifying Section 103(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986)] to clarify Army Corps of Engineers' (ACOE) policy is consistent with the law concerning the provision of land, easements, rights-of-way, relocation, and dredged material disposal areas by a Non-federal project sponsor (e.g., county) and ensure the Corps' policy fulfills the goals of storm damage reduction projects in Florida.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP) REFORM

SUPPORT reauthorization of the NFIP with legislative, policy and programmatic modifications to ensure no coverage lapses and to improve the affordability, transparency, and financial stability of the program through reforms in the following areas: 1) Affordability/Rate Structure; 2) Mapping/Data Collection/Modeling; and 3) Mitigation.

OPPOSE any reauthorization efforts that are detrimental to policy holders, local governments, and the integrity of the program.

WATER (Water Resources Development Act)

SUPPORT bi-annual passage of the Water Resources Development Act that authorizes U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects and policies that often have state-wide impacts to Florida, including Everglades' restoration, port and inlet construction, and beach nourishment projects.

SUPPORT restoration of congressionally directed spending.



Chair
KATHRYN STARKEY
Pasco



Vice Chair
RENE GARCIA
Miami-Dade

Federal

UPPER KISSIMMEE BASIN WATER STORAGE PROJECTS

SUPPORT the inclusion of funding in the Water Resources Development ACT (WRDA) for studies and implementation of water storage projects within the Upper Kissimmee Basin to reduce harmful discharges, enhance central Florida water supply, and to mitigate negative economic impacts on communities surrounding Lake Okeechobee.

SUPPORT including the following language in the next WRDA bill: The Secretary is authorized to conduct a feasibility study for the following - Expanding the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Program, to the fullest extent of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP), to include the Upper Kissimmee Basin and the headwaters of the Kissimmee River at the Shingle Creek tributary.

DISASTER RECOVERY & PREPAREDNESS

SUPPORT increased investment in mitigation programs such as the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and other partnerships between local and federal governments to complete mitigation projects and increase resiliency to disasters.

SUPPORT measures that ensure any supplemental disaster recovery assistance appropriated by Congress, including the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR), is expediated to states to be made available to disaster-impacted counties.

OPPOSE programmatic changes that would increase the local cost share for disaster recovery, such as implementation of a disaster deductible.

OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING

SUPPORT keeping Florida's east coast free from off-shore drilling and OPPOSE inclusion of Florida from offshore leasing in the proposed National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

Federal

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS

SUPPORT the continuation of adequate funding of critical programs that provide resources for the provision of local services and local public infrastructure. These funding programs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funds – Everglades’ restoration, port & inlet construction, maintenance, and beach nourishment (USACOE)
- Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG)
- Community Services Block Grant program (CSBG)
- Social Services Block Grant program (SSBG)
- Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)

VETERANS

SUPPORT legislation requiring the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide case management support to local housing authorities under the VA-supported housing program.

HEALTH CARE FOR NON-CONVICTED PERSONS

SUPPORT the reinstatement of federal health care benefits for non-convicted justice-involved individuals, including:

- Benefits awarded to veterans.
- Services for patients in an inpatient mental health or substance use disorder treatment facility with more than 16 beds and to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for said services.
- Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for all mental health and psychiatric care services.

Federal

NON-DOMESTIC SAND SOURCES

SUPPORT enabling the Secretary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allow counties to acquire sand by purchase, exchange or otherwise from non-domestic sources for the purpose of beach renourishment.

COVID-19 FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

SUPPORT the continuation and flexibility for state and local governments to assist with critical local response efforts and services from the COVID-19 pandemic through recovery funds.

LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT

SUPPORT legislation expanding the 4% and 9% tax credits of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program to encourage more private development of affordable housing units.

CORAL REEFS

SUPPORT the State of Florida delegation working with the State of Hawaii delegation, and other delegations represented on the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee and NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, to hold a Congressional hearing on the status, trends, and urgent issues facing the U.S.'s coral reefs.

SUPPORT reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2000, and additional recurring funding dedicated to improving the health of the nation's coral reefs. Also, recommend that NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration), in coordination with the states and territories, update the economic value of coral reefs for each region and establish a regular update schedule for these studies.

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS (SECTION 8) PORTABILITY

SUPPORT legislation to reform the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program's mobility feature by eliminating the negative fiscal impact to an initial Public Housing Agency (i.e., the PHA that initially issued the HCV to a family) that results when a voucher family moves to a high-cost area and the receiving PHA bills the initial PHA to administer the voucher instead of absorbing the moving family into its (i.e., the receiving PHA) program.

Federal

OPPORTUNITY ZONES

SUPPORT legislation allowing county governments to select additional eligible census tracts within the limits of their boundaries to be designated as opportunity zones when an existing opportunity zone does not attract investment or is subject to documented insufficient investment.

IMMIGRATION

SUPPORT federal legislation that establishes a secure border, but ensures a reasonable and workable process for individuals who desire to better their economic prosperity to apply to come and work in the US, especially those in the agricultural and hospitality industries.

TRUCK WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

OPPOSE legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight limits beyond those in current federal law due to safety concerns and potential impacts on local roads.

ARPA FUNDING RECOUPMENT

SUPPORT legislation to prohibit the U.S. Department of Treasury from recouping previously awarded funds for projects and services that have been certified as complete for at least three years, which will be 2029.

SUPPORT the implementation of a statute of limitations for the remediation and recoupment of funds directly allocated to Counties under the American Rescue Act.

REAUTHORIZATION OF WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

SUPPORT reauthorization of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the continuation of adequate funding of critical programs that provide resources for the provision of local workforce programs

OPPOSE redefining local workforce development board member participation to increase the percentage of union representation due to the shortfall of union representation in the state.

Federal

SOUTHERN RAIL COMMISSION

SUPPORT the State of Florida becoming a member of the Southern Rail Commission and actively working to secure federal funding for the restoration of passenger rail throughout Florida.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER BENEFIT

SUPPORT legislation expanding the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Public Safety Officers Benefits (PSOB) program to include coverage for public safety officers whose death or disability resulted from cancer diagnosed and sustained "in the line of duty," and to expand the death, disability, and educational benefits available to public safety officers and eligible survivors, as applicable.

Florida Resolutions Adopted in the NACo American County Platform

Community, Economic and Workforce Development

- Proposed Resolution to Support Legal Migration to Strengthen Local Economies and Workforce

Human Services and Education

- Proposed Platform Change to Self Sufficiency Programs, Section D. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Proposed Platform Change to Legal Immigrants, Migrants, Refugees and Undocumented Individuals, Section F. Immigration Enforcement

Federal

Florida Resolutions Adopted in the NACo American County Platform

Telecommunications & Technology

- Proposed Platform Change Under Policies and Practices, Section O. Cybersecurity
- Proposed Resolution in Support of Reappropriating the Affordable Connectivity Program and Reforming the Program for Long-Term Success
- Proposed Resolution Opposing the Ban of Bulk Billing Practices in Multi-Dwelling Units on the Basis of Broadband Affordability and Access

Transportation

- Proposed Platform Change, Wholesale Rewrite of Transportation Platform
- Proposed Resolution Urging Federal Policymakers to Reform Competitive Grant Programs for Transportation to Support Counties of All Sizes
- Resolution Urging Congress and the U.S. Department of Transportation to Expand Opportunities to Account for Inflation in Signed Grant Agreements

Finance, Tax, & Administration

Adopted

FUEL TAX INDEXING

SUPPORT indexing local option fuel taxes to annual adjustments of the Consumer Price Index.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES

SUPPORT establishing a system to provide for electric and alternative energy to pay a “fair share” of the cost of operating the road system.

SUPPLEMENTAL DISTRIBUTION FULL FUNDING

SUPPORT creating a separate statutory allocation of a percentage of state sales tax necessary to provide \$2.5 Million for the Supplemental Distribution to achieve full formula funding for those counties eligible to receive funds from the Supplemental Distribution while preserving the current percent of sales tax provided to small counties through the Emergency Distribution.

PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTION—SENIOR COUNTY LEADERSHIP

SUPPORT amending s.119.071, F.S., to grant a public records exemption to allow the protection of the County Administrator/Manager/Coordinator, the County Attorney, and the senior-most security personnel.

FISCALLY CONSTRAINED COUNTIES DISTRIBUTION REVISION

SUPPORT modification of the Fiscally Constrained Distribution in s. 218.67, F.S. to augment the revenue source for the program so that the program will return to historic funding levels and experience future growth while not impacting other local revenue sources.



Chair
JERRY DEMINGS
Orange



Vice Chair
CARL ZALAK
Marion

Finance, Tax, & Administration

SHADE MEETING EXPANSION STAFF PARTICIPATION

SUPPORT legislation amending s. 286.011(8), F.S., to allow designated senior county staff to participate in closed sessions (“shade meetings”) as subject matter experts to provide board members with the technical knowledge necessary to make informed decisions regarding litigation settlement negotiations or strategy sessions relating to litigation expenditures.

CONTINUING CONTRACT THRESHOLDS

SUPPORT modifications to the Competitive Consultant’s Negotiation Act (CCNA) by reducing the restrictions and expanding continuing contract thresholds.

Financial Accountability of PACE Providers

SUPPORT amending s. 163.08, F.S., relating to the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, to provide full financial disclosure of PACE providers to aid local governments in the selection process and limit excessive expenditures.

Adoption & Amendments to FTA Guiding Principles



Health, Safety, & Justice

Adopted

EMERGENCY BRIEFINGS PUBLIC MEETING EXEMPTION

SUPPORT legislation granting an exemption for county elected officials to be able to participate in emergency-related briefings during a declared state of emergency.

INMATE MEDICAL CARE

SUPPORT amending s. 409.9025(1), Florida Statutes, to allow incarcerated individuals to continue to receive medical assistance for any care, services, or supplies received during the course of their incarceration.

911 FEE INCREASE

SUPPORT raising the 911 fee to accommodate increased expenses and expansion of technology to continue providing high quality of service to citizens.

BODY WORN CAMERAS

SUPPORT amending Chapters 162 and 828 Florida Statutes, to incorporate the same statutory language found in Section 943.1718, Florida Statutes, to enable code compliance officer the ability to utilize BWC with the same guidance and protections as law enforcement.

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING INSURANCE

SUPPORT legislation providing insurance coverage for families of firefighters injured during official training exercises.

Adoption of HSJ Guiding Principles



Chair
CHRIS DOUGHERTY
Bradford



Vice Chair
RICK MINOR
Leon

Future Technology

Adopted

LIMITED REVISION TO DEFINITION OF BROADBAND SERVICE

SUPPORT modification of the definition of “communications services offered by governmental entities” within s. 350.81 F.S. to include education, healthcare, non-profit entities, and other county-affiliated entities that support governmental agencies for the public benefit.

BROADBAND BENCHMARK SPEEDS

SUPPORT amending s. 288.9961, F.S. to match state broadband speed benchmarks with Federal Communications Commission broadband service transmission speed standards.

Adoption & Amendments to TECH Guiding Principles



Chair
GREGG WEISS
Palm Beach



Vice Chair
LARRY HARVEY
Putnam

Water & Environmental Sustainability

Adopted

CONVERSION OF PRIVATE WELLS AND SEPTIC TANKS

SUPPORT recurring funding for conversion programs designed to move private wells to potable drinking water and private septic tanks to public wastewater collection systems. SUPPORT greater flexibility for programs that address the costs incurred by residents connecting to sewer and the proper abandonment of septic systems.

TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

SUPPORT state construction, improvement, and designation of additional trails for Floridians to increase accessibility between urban and rural areas.

ALUM TREATMENTS ON SOVEREIGNTY SUBMERGED LANDS

SUPPORT action by the Legislature and Florida Department of Environmental Protection to allow sediment inactivation, such as Alum treatments, as a safe and effective method of reducing phosphorus loading in Florida water bodies, including Sovereignty Submerged Lands.

ONE WATER INITIATIVE

SUPPORT holistic water management policies that seek to enhance integration between different water systems, while maintaining local flexibility.

Adoption & Amendments to WES Guiding Principles



Chair
HOLLY RASCHEIN
Monroe



Vice Chair
BETSY CONDON
Clay

FAC Staff



GINGER DELEGAL
Executive Director



DAVIN SUGGS
Deputy Executive
Director



JEFF SCALA
Deputy Director of
Public Policy



EDDY LABRADOR
Senior Legislative
Counsel



JARED GRIGAS
Associate Director of
Public Policy



COURTNEY MOONEY
Associate Director of
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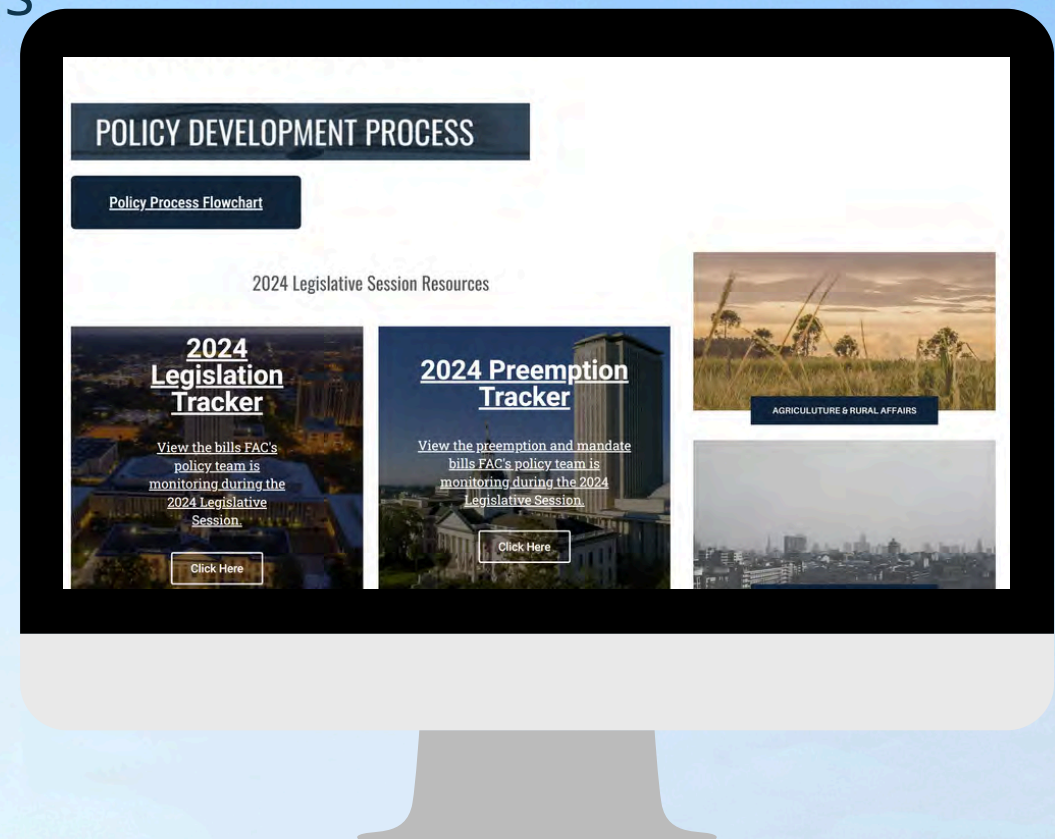
JASON MANN
Public Policy
Coordinator

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- ARA 1. The Florida Association of Counties recognizes the unique fiscal challenges of Florida's rural counties and state-designated fiscally constrained counties. The Association is dedicated to preserving established programs that provide critical resources for essential programs and infrastructure needs of these counties.
- ARA 2. The Florida Association of Counties supports enhancing programs to increase funding for rural infrastructure, job growth, and workforce development policies and efforts to reduce the digital divide and expand internet access to underserved areas through industry partnerships, new technologies, and collaboration with local stakeholders.
- ARA 3. The Florida Association of Counties supports enhancing the ability for Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAOs) to advance local rural economic development initiatives through allocation of additional resources.
- ARA 4. The Florida Association of Counties supports the development and maintenance of dedicated funding the Rural and Family Lands Protection Act to allow for the purchase of rural easements to prevent the subdivision and conversion of such land into other uses.
- ARA 5. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased state funding and policies that reduce food insecurity among Floridians, in order to: 1) increase the health and productivity of those currently without consistent access to healthy food, 2) consequently reduce the demand for public health and human services, 3) improve the financial security of those in need, and 4) accelerate the recovery and increase the resiliency of Florida's economy in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ARA 6. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased critical state funding for the Small County Road Assistance program (SCRAP).
- ARA 7. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased state funding for the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP).

Economic Development

Economic prosperity depends on communities with dependable basic services, but also where the quality of life encourages businesses and individuals to flourish. Maintaining and enhancing the standards that Floridians expect and deserve will require more innovative cooperation between the public and private sectors. Therefore, counties need flexible tools to develop economic strategies that target local strengths, enhance and expand employment opportunities, and maintain adequate infrastructure.

- CUA 1. The Florida Association of Counties supports measures that empower local governments and provides resources to work with community partners towards the creation of quality jobs, more vibrant Florida communities, as well as an enhanced level of national and global competitiveness.
- CUA 2. The Florida Association of Counties supports legislation and appropriation that enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of the state and local government partnership in economic development through the greater use of targeted strategic investments in infrastructure and programmatic enhancements designed to induce sustainable economic activity resulting in a consistent positive return on investment for both state and local governments.
- CUA 3. The Florida Association of Counties supports state and local policies, programs, and funding mechanisms that not only preserve, but enhance as well, the Florida tourism and film industries.

Growth Management

The impact of growth and development in Florida during the last 30 years has brought significant benefits and costs to county government. Given Florida's expected future growth and because Florida's communities are remarkably diverse, Florida's counties must have flexibility in planning decisions to address unique local concerns and conditions. County officials must have the ability to make reasonable decisions for the advancement of the local community on zoning, comprehensive planning, transportation, and infrastructure issues without being subjected to prohibitive claims for damages for infringement on private property rights.

- CUA 4. The Florida Association of Counties supports comprehensive policies that reduce a county's risk to the impacts of coastal and inland flooding.
- CUA 5. The Florida Association of Counties recognizes and supports the critical role Regional Planning Councils play in supporting communities by coordinating intergovernmental solutions to growth problems on greater-than-local issues, providing technical assistance to local governments.

- CUA 6. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that provide a mechanism to ensure the extra-jurisdictional impacts from large-scale development projects are adequately addressed within the impacted counties prior to development approval.
- CUA 7. The Florida Association of Counties supports retaining the full amount of dedicated documentary tax revenues to fund state and local affordable housing programs. The Florida Association of Counties further supports increased flexibility to counties participating in the State Housing Initiative Partnership program to maximize the distribution of funds in a manner that more effectively implements each county's local housing assistance plan, adopted local housing incentive strategies, housing-related priorities, and funding for housing projects; and also achieves greater housing availability and affordability for essential service personnel, very low-income, low-income and moderate-income residents, and residents with special housing needs consistent with each county's housing market.
- CUA 8. The Florida Association of Counties supports the development and maintenance of dedicated funding of the Florida Forever Grant Program and Florida Communities Trust which provide recreational opportunities for parks, open space, greenways and trails to help meet growth challenges and protect natural resources.
- CUA 9. The Florida Association of Counties supports the distribution of land management appropriations to local governments in proportion to the percentage of public conservation lands managed within local jurisdictions.
- CUA 10. The Florida Association of Counties supports broad county authority to regulate the location and number of medical marijuana facilities within county boundaries.

Transportation

FAC believes that Florida's transportation system is a vital component in building and sustaining communities, moving people and goods, and developing competition at local and regional levels, and on a national scale. Florida's counties play a critical role in the state's transportation system. Florida's counties should be recognized as major partners in the maintenance and development of Florida's transportation infrastructure and provided levels of funding and authority that adequately reflect their role in the state's transportation system.

- CUA 11. The Florida Association of Counties supports funding for all modes of the state and local transportation infrastructure network.
- CUA 12. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies and funding that encourage and facilitate more efficient and effective use of regional transportation solutions.
- CUA 13. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased critical state funding for the Small County Road Assistance program (SCRAP).
- CUA 14. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased state funding for the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP).
- CUA 15. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies providing for Strategic Intermodal System funds to be used on roads and other transportation facilities not designated on the SIS network if the improvement relieves congestion on the SIS.

- CUA 16. The Florida Association of Counties opposes any effort to divert revenues from the state transportation trust fund for non-transportation purposes.

Taxation and Funding of Local Government

County governments have the responsibility to provide not only core public services, but also to provide the infrastructure and services that form the foundation of local and state economies. Adequate revenue must be raised to fund these local needs, while also providing for services and programs that are mandated by the state. If counties are to succeed in meeting their responsibilities, an adequate and fair local tax policy that is commensurate with the many responsibilities of modern county government must be developed. The mechanisms for financing county services should be able to adapt to emerging technology, changing economic circumstances, and should be structured to address the ever-increasing demands on county government service delivery.

- FTA 1. The Florida Association of Counties is dedicated to protecting the integrity, functionality and fairness of local ad valorem taxing authority, as well as that of the other locally available revenue sources.
- FTA 2. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that consider impacts to state revenues shared with counties for the provision of local services and is opposed to permanent modifications to state shared revenue sources or related funding formulas that would significantly impact the counties' ability to continue to fund local services.
- FTA 3. The Florida Association of Counties supports tax reform measures that simplify administration and provide an economic boost to Florida's taxpayers while at the same time considering and minimizing the collective and cumulative negative impact on local revenues, including state shared and local discretionary revenue sources that are critical to local governments.
- FTA 4. The Florida Association of Counties supports measures that enhance the effectiveness of existing local revenue sources to meet current and future public service demands.
- FTA 5. The Florida Association of Counties supports the comprehensive Payment In Lieu of Taxes programs that offset the impact of lands acquired by Federal, State, or other tax-exempt entities. PILT programs should be funded in a fashion, so as not to diminish the fiscal capacity of small counties. Additionally, the Florida Association of Counties supports the adjustment of PILT payments to accommodate the increased value and/or the valued use of the property by the purchasing entity.
- FTA 6. The Florida Association of Counties supports state funding to offset property tax refunds required under s. 197.319, F.S.

Administration

The power to administer county government can be found in the State Constitution and the Florida Statutes. However, the system of shared governance between the state and counties, and its political subdivisions, is critical to the successful administration of local services in the most efficient and effective manner. Decisions regarding statewide administrative policy must accurately reflect the ability of the state and counties to utilize resources in an optimal manner to provide and produce essential public services.

FTA 7. The Florida Association of Counties supports that policies related to retirement, workers' compensation and other administrative systems be based on sound and accurate data analyzed with consideration for state and local fiscal impact, fairness and accessibility for state and local employees, as well as, predictability and stability relative to market forces for the long-term effective management of state and local financial plans.

FTA 8. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that enable local governments to comply with public notice and legal advertisements requirements through the application of various available mediums of technology to achieve an ideal balance between fiscal efficiency and public effectiveness.

FTA 9. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies which allow for competitive and efficient procurement procedures to streamline the development process for county projects.

Accountability and Transparency

The foundation of a strong democracy is a public that is educated and informed about the decisions of its government. Accessible and accountable county governments are more responsive to the needs of their citizens and result in more engaged and satisfied constituents. Counties work to uphold the trust of their voters and taxpayers by maintaining open and accessible meetings and records; providing timely, informative, and accurate public information; and adhering to the highest standards of administrative and fiscal transparency.

FTA 10. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that promote ethical standards for public officials that are fiscally reasonable, consistent throughout all levels of government, and that do not inhibit the efficient and effective administration of local services.

FTA 11. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that promote access to public records in a manner that is not frivolous; that upholds fiscal responsibility; that does not prevent the efficient and effective administration of local services; and allows for exemptions to protect the safety and security of individuals providing or receiving critical public services.

- FTA 12. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that promote the provision of accurate and accessible administrative and fiscal public information in a manner that is fiscally responsible, publicly comprehensible, technologically efficient, and that does not constrain the effective administration of local services.
- FTA 13. The Florida Association of Counties is dedicated to preserving, when at all possible, the link between the programs and services provided by counties with the decisions related to the funding for these programs and services, in an effort to maximize the manner and source of accountability of public officials to the citizenry.

Intergovernmental Relations

Florida's elected county commissioners are ultimately answerable to their voters for the provision of programs and services and associated funding decisions. Since Florida's citizens conferred home rule power to counties with the ratification of the 1968 Constitution. County officials have been dedicated to the preservation of democratic principles, specifically that the government closest to the people is the appropriate authority to serve the needs and requirements of the community. County governments reflect the communities that they serve and, particularly in a state as large and diverse as Florida, the needs and values of these communities vary widely between counties.

- FTA 14. The Florida Association of Counties is dedicated to maintaining the integrity of county home rule power which allows counties to develop and implement community-based solutions to local problems, without State limitations or mandates.
- FTA 15. The Florida Association of Counties opposes any state or federal unfunded mandates and preemptions that ultimately limit the ability of local elected officials to make fiscal and public policy decisions for the citizens to whom they are accountable.
- FTA 16. The Florida Association of Counties support the establishment of an agreed upon course of action whereby state and county elected officials deliberatively evaluate the appropriate funding and delivery of intergovernmental service responsibilities between counties and the state.
- FTA 17. The Florida Association of Counties recognizes that the statewide regulation of certain sectors may not be inconsistent with the principles of self-governance, to the extent that the state regulations do not hamper the counties' ability to regulate and control county facilities and to maintain minimal safety, aesthetic, and environmental standards.
- FTA 18. The Florida Association of Counties opposes the dilution of decision-making ability of local county commissioners/councilmembers with regard to the funding of the local duties of other constitutionally proscribed county officers.

- FTA 19. The Florida Association of Counties supports the provision of adequate state funding for constitutionally proscribed county officers that are required to perform duties on behalf of the state.
- FTA 20. The Florida Association of Counties opposes the use of local revenue sources to fund the state's judicial responsibilities.

Community, Health and Human Services Policy

County officials recognize the importance of adequately providing for quality health and human services to protect and assist citizens in need. As a critical link in the federal/state/county human services partnership, counties must be included in formulating and implementing policies that protect the health, safety, and welfare of all the citizens of the state.

- HSJ 1. The Florida Association of Counties supports allowing for flexibility in the delivery of health and human services within communities to achieve the desired level of services based on local needs and priorities.
- HSJ 2. The Florida Association of Counties supports expanding health care access and believe that efforts to refine and enhance state and local programs that provide access to affordable health care are essential.
- HSJ 3. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that increase access to acute care behavioral health services for individuals and families.
- HSJ 4. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that increase supportive housing, jail diversion, and employment and education initiatives for people with mental health, substance abuse issues, behavioral health issues and/or disabilities.
- HSJ 5. The Florida Association of Counties supports diverting, medically assisting, or treating the mentally ill outside of the criminal justice process through alternative programs, such as Crisis Intervention Teams.
- HSJ 6. The Florida Association of Counties supports Medicaid reform initiatives to ensure that persons with substance abuse and mental health treatment needs are appropriately served.
- HSJ 7. The Florida Association of Counties supports the implementation of discharge protocols and/or procedures for hospitals, correctional facilities, and mental health facilities when releasing homeless persons.
- HSJ 8. The Florida Association of Counties supports the development of policies that would allow local governments to work with the state and federal government to serve target populations: the chronically homeless, veterans, and families and children, with emphasis on children aging out of the foster care system.
- HSJ 9. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that promote continued coordination with the state's Council on Homelessness, specifically as it recommends policies and practices in support of the Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness.

- HSJ 10. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that lessen fragmentation, inefficient operation, and costly duplication of transportation disadvantaged services.
- HSJ 11. The Florida Association of Counties supports the implementation of guidance and regulations of Opportunity Zones tax benefits that prevent abuse, encourage developments that provide public benefits in low-income areas within the identifiable zone, and protect local governments and stakeholders.
- HSJ 12. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies and programs targeted at supporting and enhancing volunteer firefighting services in rural and unincorporated communities, including providing state incentives for completion of certification requirements in fiscally constrained counties.

Community, Health and Human Services Funding

While most health and human service programs and the laws that govern these programs are established by federal and state governments, many of these services are being provided through community-based services at the local level. Given the varying capacity and funding capabilities of counties, adequate federal and state funding to ensure uniformity in the human services continuum.

- HSJ 12. The Florida Association of Counties supports, when feasible, directing existing funding from institutional care to community-based care programs.
- HSJ 13. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased funding for core and crisis mental health services, including beds, statewide.
- HSJ 14. The Florida Association of Counties supports life-saving interventions, including medication-assisted treatment, residential treatment, twelve-step recovery and detoxification programs, and diversions from the criminal justice system.
- HSJ 15. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased funding of the Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program with recurring dollars in a trust fund.
- HSJ 16. The Florida Association of Counties supports sustainable matching state funds to counties that have received both planning and implementation Reinvestment Grant funds.
- HSJ 17. The Florida Association of Counties supports a system for distributing Low Income Pool dollars that ensures IGT-donor counties are able to direct the federal matching dollars generated by their local IGT contributions to best meet the health care needs of their constituents, rather than having those dollars redistributed throughout the state.
- HSJ 18. The Florida Association of Counties supports adequate funding for the Community Care for the Elderly Program, which provides cost efficient diversion from nursing home placement for impaired elders.

- HSJ 19. The Florida Association of Counties supports funding Graduate Medical Education programs to meet the healthcare needs of the state and its local communities, with an emphasis on programs that provide for specialties in need, as well as the development of physicians to practice in medically underserved areas.
- HSJ 20. The Florida Association of Counties supports funding for the Florida Healthy Start and Healthy Families program.
- HSJ 21. The Florida Association of Counties opposes policies that further shift state Medicaid costs to counties.
- HSJ 22. The Florida Association of Counties supports the continued evaluation of the county- state Medicaid cost-share arrangement, taking into consideration the impacts of state policies designed to contain growth in Medicaid costs, including statewide Medicaid managed care and diagnosis related group reimbursement for hospitals.
- HSJ 23. The Florida Association of Counties supports increasing state general revenue funding for county health departments (CHDs) and opposes any state reductions to the CHD Trust Funds.
- HSJ 24. The Florida Association of Counties supports maintaining a coordinated system of CHDs that is centrally housed within the Department of Health (DOH).
- HSJ 25. The Florida Association of Counties supports preserving the ability of CHDs to provide primary care and direct patient care services, particularly in communities without adequate substitutes or alternative providers for these services.
- HSJ 26. The Florida Association of Counties supports a dedicated state funding source for homeless programs.
- HSJ 27. The Florida Association of Counties supports the continuation of the Medically Needy program.
- HSJ 28. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that allocate state funds to hire Veterans Services Officers in counties in order to increase services and federal benefits for Florida veterans.
- HSJ 29. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that protect the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) trust fund, as well as dedicated state funding for the TD program, including funding to address unmet TD needs in rural areas.
- HSJ 30. The Florida Association of Counties supports continuing enhanced state funding for cultural historic initiatives.

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Providing for public safety is one of the core functions of county governments. Counties provide for safety through support of first-responder services from sheriffs' offices, ambulance services, fire and rescue, and emergency management centers that protect the public during natural or man-made disasters, terrorism, emergencies, and public health threats.

- HSJ 31. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that maintain and enhance established trauma care funding, including incentives for the development of new trauma centers.
- HSJ 32. The Florida Association of Counties opposes policies that shift the state's financial responsibility for the trauma system to counties or divert trauma care funding for purposes other than those intended by the existing legislation.
- HSJ 33. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that protect the ability of counties to provide for coordinated, countywide systems of emergency medical services through the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Process, and not limit the ability of ambulance and other emergency medical transportation providers to be reimbursed for their services.
- HSJ 34. The Florida Association of Counties opposes sentencing of state inmates to county jails, but supports counties' ability to contract with the Department of Corrections for housing state inmates.
- HSJ 35. The Florida Association of Counties supports funding for capital improvements to county courthouses and other court-related facilities, including jails.
- HSJ 36. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies designed to prevent human trafficking, protect victims, prosecute human traffickers, and create partnerships across all levels of government, the private sector, and state agencies to provide training opportunities for local government employees and their agents to recognize the signs of human trafficking including government inspectors, law enforcement, criminal justice, health care, transportation and public transit, educational partners, and employees working with vulnerable populations.
- HSJ 37. The Florida Association of Counties opposes policies that would shift funds or impede counties from building and maintaining an interoperable radio communication system as authorized by statute.
- HSJ 38. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased funding for locally-operated crime analysis laboratories.

- HSJ 39. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies and funding targeted at enhancing the quality of volunteer firefighting services in rural and unincorporated communities, including providing state incentives for completion of certification requirements in fiscally constrained counties.
- HSJ 40. The Florida Association of Counties supports the provision of state matching funds for all disaster-related / emergency management projects deemed eligible and approved by FEMA including, but not limited to, backup generators for facilities for elders.
- HSJ 41. The Florida Association of Counties supports continued state funding for county EOCs to ensure each is able to meet the minimum structural survivability and operational space criteria established by the state and federal government.
- HSJ 42. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies and funding that provide enhanced training and education opportunities for County Emergency Management employees.

Criminal Justice System

Florida's counties also play a critical role in state's criminal justice system, providing prevention, pre-trial, and reintegration services, juvenile programs, victims' assistance, and jail funding throughout the state. Success of such programs hinges on a comprehensive and coordinated approach across local agencies, jurisdictions, and with state and federal partners. When determining appropriate programming and funding, Florida's counties work to encourage improved outcomes for system participants and communities while also seeking cost reductions and efficiencies. Public safety and criminal justice services continue to have increased funding needs, however, as counties and their public safety partners face new and evolving threats to the safety and welfare of their communities and counties must be empowered to adequately address funding of necessary services. Furthermore, considering the interconnected nature of many of these threats, increased federal and state funding is essential to ensure that effective public safety systems are provided throughout Florida.

- HSJ 43. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies preserving counties' ability to provide risk assessment pretrial release services that prevent new offenses and ensures appearance as obligated.
- HSJ 44. The Florida Association of Counties opposes policies limiting the discretion of the first appearance judges.
- HSJ 45. The Florida Association of Counties opposes policies that restrict pretrial services to only indigent defendants.
- HSJ 46. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that reduce county jail expenses, including juvenile and adult diversion programs.

- HSJ 47. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that provide Medicaid eligibility for persons incarcerated in county jails while waiting disposition of their cases and to ensure that existing Medicaid benefits are not terminated during incarceration.
- HSJ 48. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies and initiatives which reduce juvenile detention through prevention, civil citation, treatment, and rehabilitation services.
- HSJ 49. The Florida Association of Counties supports state investments in juvenile facilities to improve the conditions of secure confinement for detained youth without such costs being shifted to the counties.
- HSJ 50. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that ensure that adequate safety, supervision, and facility maintenance is provided at juvenile residential assessment centers and secure detention facilities.
- HSJ 51. The Florida Association of Counties supports state funding of Juvenile Assessment Centers throughout Florida to strive to achieve equal treatment of youth offenders.
- HSJ 52. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that increase judicial oversight and authority for charging and sentencing juvenile defendants as adults without creating additional county service requirements.
- HSJ 53. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased state funding for the state corrections system to address compensation, retention, and recruitment of state correctional staff. As the state reviews the current prison system, the Florida Association of Counties supports monitoring DOC review of state-operated facilities with particular focus on any recommendations that may impact local community employment and revenue sharing, as well as other local impacts and supports minimizing any affects to local employment and revenue sharing resulting from DOC reviews.

Broadband

ACCESS 67 is an initiative of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) to implement a comprehensive approach to empowering our members to develop solutions to address the impacts of the lack of ACCESS to critical telecommunication and information technology resources in Florida communities. FAC recognizes that this lack of ACCESS impacts small, medium and large counties, as well as, Florida's rural and urban communities. Additionally, the lack of ACCESS impacts multiple policy areas that FAC's members are responsible for in the governance of their local communities to include, but are not limited to, public safety, healthcare, economic development and education

TECH 1. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased efforts to promote access to broadband, including competition and innovation in the marketplace, as well as provide resources to support accessibility, speed, and affordability of broadband in Florida.

TECH 2. The Florida Association of Counties supports improving service mapping accurately by requiring more granular data from service providers, allowing crowd sourced data to be used, and creating an appeal process to challenge demonstrable inaccuracies.

TECH 3. The Florida Association of Counties supports funding for State Digital Equity grants to include community outreach, data collection, plan development and analysis through digital navigators at the local level.

TECH 4. The Florida Association of Counties urges state and federal agencies to commit to the inclusion and engagement of counties in the earliest phases of the strategic planning and expansion of broadband services and access.

TECH 5. The Florida Association of Counties supports dedicated funding for Local Technology Planning Teams to enhance research collection for data-driven grant program implementation.

Cybersecurity

Local governments play a critical role in protecting the sensitive information and critical infrastructure for over 22 million Floridians. County governments have a statutory responsibility to safeguard the local government's data, IT, and IT resources to ensure availability, confidentiality, and integrity. This includes providing a comprehensive cybersecurity approach that includes standards adoption, training, and incident reporting.

Future Technology

Guiding Principles

TECH 6. The Florida Association of Counties supports recurring funding assistance to provide critical cybersecurity tools and resources required to adequately protect the county security infrastructure at all levels.

TECH 7. The Florida Association of Counties supports funding assistance for basic security awareness training of employees and advanced security training for information technology professionals within local government, including assistance in the completion of advance certification and degree programs.

TECH 8. The Florida Association of Counties supports cooperative efforts in information sharing among all federal, state, and local governments in addition to private sector organizations regarding breaches, potential threats, threat levels, and any techniques that would assist in the prevention or mitigation of cyber-related threats.

TECH 9. The Florida Association of Counties supports collaborative efforts to protect critical infrastructure in the form of committees or task forces that are inclusive of local government membership.

Artificial Intelligence

The rapid rise of generative artificial intelligence systems represents a watershed moment in the drive for technological modernization in the 21st century. Many counties have encountered and utilized artificially intelligent or “automated” services in the past for augmenting county processes, improving efficiencies in government services and increasing productivity within the county workplace. However, the advent of generative qualities in artificial intelligence systems is demonstrating vast new potential, and risk, and the new technological environment that counties find themselves in now necessitates the promotion of a set of policy principles and practices to minimize the harmful impact that the novel technology could pose to society and further exacerbate the existing digital divide for small and rural counties.

TECH 10. The Florida Association of Counties supports the adoption of appropriate guardrails, standards and policies, to ensure that artificial intelligence technologies continue to provide meaningful innovation opportunities while minimizing adverse effects to society.

TECH 11. The Florida Association of Counties supports direct funding assistance and resources for partnerships on artificial intelligence that promotes digital literacy and best practices educational resources, hands-on assistance for small and rural counties, and the elevation of community and workforce knowledge for understanding of novel generative artificial intelligence systems for county governments.

Future Technology

Guiding Principles

TECH 12. The Florida Association of Counties supports a dedicated support mechanism to federal and local government agencies on the utilization of artificial intelligence systems for public services, and a framework for adoption that maximizes efficiency and access for residents in areas such as permitting and licensing while minimizing risk of producing barriers to access, exacerbating biases or creating novel adverse effects.

TECH 13. The Florida Association of Counties supports the adoption of robust data privacy standards and data governance standards across all levels of government to protect consumer and constituent information, and maximize the efficiency and minimize the risk of artificially intelligent systems' adoption into government services over time.

TECH 14. The Florida Association of Counties encourages public engagement and participation in AI policy-making processes to ensure that the voices and concerns of diverse stakeholders, including citizens, researchers, industry representatives, and advocacy groups, are heard and considered.

Water

Increased demands on Florida's water supply are forcing many diverse interests to work with county government to plan the future of water policy in Florida. In an effort to achieve the best possible result, county government should continue to expand partnerships with the agricultural community, urban water users, regional government agencies, and environmental organizations to encourage water conservation, water resource, and water supply development projects. The primary goal of such water resource planning efforts should be ensuring resource availability for all reasonable beneficial uses, consistent with the protection of water and related natural resources.

- WES 1. The Florida Association of Counties supports the allocation of matching funds to county governments to restore impaired springs, estuaries, lagoons and other waterbodies in accordance with state policy and local needs.
- WES 2. The Florida Association of Counties supports state funding for water quality improvement projects designed to reduce nutrient pollution in Florida's impaired waterbodies, recognizing that multiple sources contribute to nutrient loading, including, but not limited to, stormwater runoff, wastewater and septic systems, industrial, agricultural, and residential water use.
- WES 3. The Florida Association of Counties supports efforts of the Water Management Districts to facilitate regional partnerships and prescribe regional resolutions to address the need of finding alternative water sources to accommodate the state's growing population.
- WES 4. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that enhance regional and local financial capacity to address water supply development with allocation flexibility in all available funding sources.
- WES 5. The Florida Association of Counties supports the funding of the Water Protection and Sustainability Program within the Department of Environmental Protection for the development of alternative water supplies, water quality improvement projects, and comprehensive water infrastructure needs.
- WES 6. The Florida Association of Counties supports the "Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices" as a basic level of water quality protection, with more stringent protections authorized to address water bodies in need.
- WES 7. The Florida Association of Counties supports the establishment of legislative and budget policies that better recognize the return on investment in Green Infrastructure funding projects in response to nuisance flooding, water quality degradation, extreme weather, sea level rise, and climate change.



- WES 8. The Florida Association of Counties supports the economically, technically and environmentally feasible use of reclaimed water.
- WES 9. The Florida Association of Counties supports state legislation to prohibit new well stimulation activities, including hydraulic fracturing (fracking).
- WES 10. The Florida Association of Counties opposes efforts to increase offshore drilling activities.
- WES 11. The Florida Association of Counties supports state funding to end the ocean outfalls in south Florida by the legislature's deadline of 2025.
- WES 12. The Florida Association of Counties supports prioritizing the reduction of the land application of human wastewater biosolids.
- WES 13. The Florida Association of Counties supports continued funding for research and mitigation for harmful algal blooms (HABs), including blue green algae, and red tide.
- WES 14. The Florida Association of Counties supports crediting new activities and regional projects and simplifying the process for existing activities to obtain nutrient removal credits towards a Basin Management Action Plans (BMAP).
- WES 15. The Florida Association of Counties supports repealing or modifying the preemption on local fertilizer ordinances in sec. 576.181, F.S.
- WES 16. The Florida Association of Counties supports developing strategies and prioritizing funding for regional efforts to protect Florida Estuaries and supports development of special state designation to estuaries and their watersheds in getting funding for water quality and resiliency projects.
- WES 17. The Florida Association of Counties supports the creation of a recurring five-year water-related work plan and statewide strategic plan, and further supports increased funding for local water infrastructure projects with direction for coordination of the various state/regional entities funding water issues toward local priorities.

Environment

Conservation and protection of Florida's natural resources is critical to managing growth, promoting economic development, and maintaining a healthy environment to ensure a high quality of life for Floridians.

- WES 18. The Florida Association of Counties supports the allocation of matching funds to county governments to purchase environmentally sensitive and endangered lands.



- WES 19. The Florida Association of Counties supports a comprehensive state climate change action plan, with energy policies and other initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases and to address ecosystem sustainability, long term water supply, flood protection, public health and safety, and economic prosperity.
- WES 20. The Florida Association of Counties supports state and federal recognition of adaptation and mitigation as critical to any climate change plan, and the funding necessary to assist local governments in developing and implementing these initiatives.
- WES 21. The Florida Association of Counties supports collaboration among regional coalitions focused on resiliency and climate change in order to maximize resources, share information, analysis, and best practices, and foster useful collaboration.
- WES 22. The Florida Association of Counties supports streamlining the permitting and regulatory processes for solar product manufacturers, installers, and consumers, and further supports reducing burdensome regulations that hinder solar market penetration.
- WES 23. The Florida Association of Counties supports the ability of counties to utilize electricity produced at county-owned facilities at other adjacent and non-contiguous county- owned properties without penalty, or in the alternative, be able to sell surplus power at market rate.
- WES 24. The Florida Association of Counties supports state designation of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Conservation Area.
- WES 25. The Florida Association of Counties supports maintaining funding of the Small County Consolidated Grant Program and maintaining the waste tire fee as a dedicated revenue source for funding mosquito control, solid waste and recycling programs.
- WES 26. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that provide appropriate resources and incentives to local governments to achieve statewide recycling goals, and further supports comprehensive recycling initiatives that encourage increased participation of the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.
- WES 27. The Florida Association of Counties supports the modification of the Statewide Recycling Goal in Section 403.7032, Florida Statutes.
- WES 28. The Florida Association of Counties supports the creation of a new dedicated and recurring statutory funding source for beach renourishment projects.
- WES 29. The Florida Association of Counties supports the acquisition of conservation lands that ensure the continued viability, preservation, and enhancement of the Florida Wildlife Corridor.



WES 30. The Florida Association of Counties supports establishing a dedicated, recurring funding mechanism for assessment and remediation of PFAS contamination in soil, groundwater, and surface water. Assessment and remediation of PFAS should be conducted pursuant to risk-based corrective action strategies that categorize and remediate sites based on the relative risk to human health. Additionally, the Florida Association of Counties supports public information campaigns and creation of GIS dashboards to inform the public about existing PFAS sites