



MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2017



MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 18, 2017

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Florida Association of Counties

Small County Coalition

Southeast Florida Climate Compact

National Association of Counties

International City/County Management Association



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REPORT AND DISCUSSION

BACKGROUND

Staff is seeking Board approval of the issues presented herein to be included in the County's 2017 State Legislative Program. Upon Board approval, staff and the contract lobbying teams will pursue all of the legislative issues approved by the Board, and in so doing, place appropriate priority on the issues that the Board directs to receive a special level of attention in 2017.

Annually, the Board reviews legislative priorities and gives direction on and approval of priority legislative issues to guide the County's lobbying efforts at both the state and federal level. Typically, the County identifies as priorities only its most pressing issues and then supports the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and the Small County Coalition (SCC) in achieving their broader substantive initiatives. FAC and SCC finalized its legislative program during its legislative conference in November. As a member of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact, Monroe County works collaboratively to help develop the Compact's draft legislative program. The Compact finalized its draft agenda in December; and is before the County Commission for approval at its January meeting.

Each year, the BOCC and staff evaluate the trends and issues affecting all County programs and services to identify potential policy or substantive legislative issues. Staff has provided a list of substantive priorities and a list general issues that we should monitor for the 2017 state legislative session; and welcomes the addition or deletion of issues that the Board deems appropriate for the County's 2017 legislative efforts.

Like most legislation, the County's legislative efforts are incremental and focused on issues that are built upon throughout several sessions, such as funding for water quality infrastructure and land acquisition, and protecting Citizen's wind insurance affordability; these will continue to be legislative priorities in the 2017 session.

The County's number one priority to is secure a \$25M appropriation through the Florida Keys Stewardship Act (FKSA), of which \$20M is to fund water quality projects and \$5M is for land acquisition. The water quality funding will be drawn from the Mayfield authorization. The FKSA expanded the authorized the uses for remaining \$100M in the Mayfield authorization (originally limited to wastewater treatment projects) for water quality projects like canal restoration and storm water.

The FKSA also authorized an annual \$5M set-aside of Florida Forever funding, dedicated specifically to enable Florida Department of Environmental Protection to renew an aggressive land acquisition program in the Florida Keys. As the universe of development permits shrinks, there is need to keep our state legislators mindful about the impacts and consequences of Monroe County's challenge of protecting both environmentally sensitive lands while balancing private property rights. We continue to work closely with the State's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) on these issues.

Wind insurance affordability is yet another critical need for our constituents and a key component in preserving the Keys' strong local economy that is a valuable economic engine for the State. At the State level, this requires working with and monitoring Citizens Property Insurance Company's wind storm insurance to find ways to enhance affordability, with the Office of Insurance Regulation to address annual rate increases, and to oppose efforts to increase premiums, reduce coverage, and reduce eligibility. Affordable flood insurance is another important issue, but mainly a federal one. However, Monroe supports any efforts that may be made by State Legislature on behalf of the 1.8 million Floridians who are policy holders in the National Flood Insurance Program, to preserve the NFIP and affordable flood insurance.

The 2017 expiration date of the FWC Anchoring and Mooring Pilot Program raises another legislative priority for Monroe. Through the pilot program, Monroe County implemented a highly successful pump out program, based

on authorization through the pilot program to require a proof of pump out for vessels in the four managed anchoring zones throughout the Florida Keys. Preserving this proof of pump out program after the pilot program sunsets will require legislation. FWC developed a report of recommendations for the Legislature, and the preservation of the pump out program in the Florida Keys is included among its recommendations. We will have to monitor how the Legislature acts on FWC's report. We expect a committee bill to address FWC's recommendations, but in the absence of that Monroe is prepared to draft its own bill. Securing funding to continue the pump out service program is also a priority. Last year we secured a \$500,000 legislative appropriation in addition to Clean Vessel Act funding. We will seek this same appropriation this year.

Another important issue this session and one supported by Monroe County is state funding for land acquisition in the Everglades Agricultural Areas for water storage in order to expedite Everglades Restoration.

As always, it remains important for the lobbying teams to monitor the budgetary and programmatic decisions made by the Legislature to determine their impact on local governments in the form of pre-emptions, revenue reductions, cost shifts and unfunded mandates.

It is beneficial for the Board to be active participants in the legislative process by testifying on behalf of the County and working with the legislative delegation. Staff will continue to keep the Board involved in legislative issues through agenda items, resolutions, memoranda, FAC "Call to Action" emails, and regular updates.

Finally, while not strictly legislative in nature, we will be monitoring the meetings, discussions and recommendations of the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC). The CRC is convened once every 20 years to review and make recommendations for changes to the State Constitution. Given the wide breadth of its purview, the CRC's recommendations, which all become referenda on the 2018 ballot, carry significant potential impacts to local governments' operations, structure, home rule, and legislative interests.

LOBBYING CONTRACTS

The County utilizes contract lobbying services at the state level to further Monroe County's legislative goals and to secure vital appropriations. Monroe County currently contracts with Robert Reyes with Capital Group, John Wayne Smith of Peebles Smith (with a sub-contract with Gray-Robinson), and Frank Bernardino with Anfield Consulting. These firms provide a daily presence in Tallahassee and advocate for the County's legislative priorities.

Staff coordinates regularly with the County's state lobbying team by phone and e-mail to strategize on key state policy, regulatory, and budget issues. In addition to weekly conference calls during session, and weekly issues tracking, lobbyists also submit monthly reports, and formally report annually to the Board of County Commissioners.

Please find on the following pages a listing of the proposed Monroe County 2017 state legislative issues; with a brief discussion on each.

KEY DATES

- ❖ March 7, 2017: State Legislative Session Opens
- ❖ April 5, 2017: Florida Association of Counties Legislative Day
- ❖ April 18, 2017: Florida Keys Legislative Day
- ❖ May 5, 2017: Last Day of Regular Session

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

LAND ACQUISITION: CONSERVATION, PROPERTY RIGHTS, MILITARY BUFFERS

CHALLENGES:

- **Area of Critical State Concern:** The State of Florida designated the Florida Keys an Area of Critical State Concern, in recognition of its unique and significant environmental resources.
- **Hurricane Evacuation:** The State’s hurricane evacuation rules for the Keys mandate that the Keys be safely evacuated within 24 hours. This limits the number of cars on the road which limits the number of people that can live here, which the State accomplishes through an annual rationing of building permits, until we reach a cap or “build out.”
- **Development Permits:** The State caps the total number of permits in the Keys. In 2013 that cap was set at 3,550. Each year, the State then allocates to the Keys, a specific limited number - 355. At this rate we will reach build out in 2023, after which no further development will be permitted.
- **Property Rights/Takings:** After we apply all of the available permits (3,550), there will still be 7,800 privately-owned, undeveloped parcels, potentially with no ability to develop. The deficit of permits could trigger takings lawsuits against the local governments and the State from owners who may have been denied the ability to build on their property. The total value of the remaining 7,800 parcels is estimated to be \$317M.

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

Continue to work with in partnership with FDEP to implement an aggressive, long-term land acquisition strategy in the Florida Keys aimed at preserving land and reducing the total inventory of privately owned vacant land to curtail the threat of significant future takings liability. As a reflection of this partnership, Monroe County has allocated \$10M in local match funds for land acquisition. Thus far, in FY 2016 and FY 2017 to date, the County has acquired 107 parcels and expended \$3M in local dollars.

- ✓ **SUPPORT appropriation of \$5M within Florida Forever pursuant to The Florida Keys Stewardship Act** for land acquisition within the Florida Keys. Of the 7,800 privately-owned, undeveloped properties that could be left without permits almost half lie within Florida Forever projects.
- ✓ **SUPPORT Military Base Protection Program funding for Naval Air Station Key West encroachment threats:** The Keys are home the U.S. Naval Air Station Key West; to be prioritized within the State’s Military Base Protection Program, land that presents encroachment threats to the base’s operation, would advance our land acquisition/retirement of development rights needs. Approximately 500 of the 7,800 privately-owned, undeveloped parcels lie within military buffer areas.
- ✓ **SUPPORT significant, reliable funding from Land Acquisition Trust Fund** for the acquisition of land including land management, restoration of natural systems, conservation of land to improve water quality, and protection of critical land and water habitat.

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION: WASTEWATER TREATMENT, STORMWATER, CANAL WATERS

CHALLENGES:

- **Unique Ecosystem:** The Florida Keys lie within the waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. This fragile and complex marine ecosystem of the Florida Keys is one of the most unique ecosystems in the

world and is home to the **only living coral reef** in the continental U.S. and the third largest barrier reef in the world, the largest sea grass meadow in the hemisphere, and 6,000 species of marine life. Leaching cesspits, runoff and degraded canal waters pollute the nearshores waters of the Sanctuary and threaten the ecosystem.

- **Unrivaled Economic Impact:** This ecosystem is the lifeblood of marine-based tourism and fisheries economy unrivaled in the State of Florida generating over **\$4B in economic activity**, enabling the Keys to generate **\$200M in sales tax revenue** for the State last year.
- **Federal State Water Quality Mandates:** The implementation of Advanced Wastewater Treatment standards, storm water management and canal water restoration in the Florida Keys are all pursuant to and in furtherance of the Federal Water Quality Protection Program mandates that apply to all of the waters surrounding the Florida Keys. Congress created the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary in 1990 and directed US EPA and the State to develop a Water Quality Protection Program to restore and protect water quality.
- **Wastewater Implementation:** The Florida Keys have invested almost \$900M for a centralized advanced wastewater treatment system that spans the 100+mile archipelago. The State has invested \$100M in that system.
- **Storm water and Degraded Canal Waters:** With wastewater treatment system improvements almost complete, the Keys must now address two remaining areas of water quality concern, storm water and degraded canal waters. There are approximately 300 poor water quality canals throughout the Keys that do not meet state water quality standards. Runoff and poor canal water leach into the nearshore waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and threaten its fragile ecosystem.

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** a \$20M appropriation pursuant to The Florida Keys Stewardship Act to construct water quality projects in the Florida Keys.

WIND INSURANCE AND FLOOD INSURANCE: AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSABILITY

CHALLENGES:

- **Single provider of wind insurance:** Citizens Property Insurance Company provides wind insurance coverage for approximately 90% of Keys' homes, and is limited to homes valued up to \$750,000. Those properties valued over \$750,000 must use surplus lines.
- **Affordability:** Property insurance affordability is a key component in preserving the Keys' strong local economy that is a valuable economic engine for the State, and critically important to our residents and business community.
 - Citizens Property Insurance Corporation statute reads: *"The absence of affordable property insurance threatens the public health, safety, and welfare and likewise threatens the economic health of the state. The state therefore has a compelling public interest and a public purpose to assist in assuring that property in the state is insured and that it is insured at affordable rates so as to facilitate the remediation, reconstruction, and replacement of damaged or destroyed property in order to reduce or avoid the negative effects otherwise resulting to the public health, safety, and welfare, to the economy of the state, and to the revenues of the state and local governments which are needed to provide for the public welfare."*
- **Premium increases and depopulation:** Each year Citizens lobbies the State Legislature to increase its premiums and limit its availability; higher costs and limited coverage negatively impacts our citizens, our

real estate market and our economy. Monroe County opposes any legislation that increases present premiums or efforts to further depopulate (for example, prohibiting homes over a certain market value, or second homes, from coverage). We urge the legislature, Citizens and OIR to consider the current and any further rate increases given the following:

- From 2004-2015 Monroe paid \$769M in premiums to Citizens, and filed only \$83M in claims.
 - Monroe's claims have never exceeded its premiums in any of those years, including 2004 and 2005.
 - Monroe County's claim to premium ratio is .11 as compared to a statewide ratio of .64.
 - Yet, Monroe's premium rate is 8.10 per 1,000 of exposure, the highest in the State and 175% higher than the median coastal rate.
- **Monroe's building standards:** Monroe County's building standards are among the most rigorous in the State, yet this is not reflected in Citizens' rate calculations for Monroe property owners. We are working with Citizens to account for Monroe's building code in mitigation credit calculations and supports legislation that establishes premium rates that are commensurate with actual risk.
- **Flood Insurance:** Affordable flood insurance is another important issue, but mainly a federal one. Affordable flood insurance is provided through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). With more NFIP policies than any other state, Florida has a lot at stake with the future of the program, and its continued ability to provide flood insurance to Floridians at affordable rates. The majority of NFIP policies belong to homes and businesses in the state's coastal communities; these coastal communities generate 80% of the State's GDP. The County encourages the State Legislature to recognize the value of NFIP and the local and state-wide economic benefits of affordable flood insurance and to ensure and support measures that preserve it.

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation that increases Citizens' wind insurance premiums or limits the availability of Citizens' coverage (particularly in areas such as Monroe, where there is no reasonable degree of competition for windstorm insurance.)
- ✓ **OPPOSE** the 2017 rate increase in Citizens Wind Insurance for Monroe County and suspend any future rate increases for five years, pending the completion of the following:
 - Application of mitigation credits that account for Monroe's rigorous building standards;
 - Consider be given to converting Monroe County from a single geographic area into smaller discreet geographic area, given its unique linear geography. There is a strong correlation between rate levels and total amount of insurance and loss projections in a geographic area; smaller, more discreet areas have lower total insured amounts and loss projections. Smaller areas also carry lower storm hit prediction likelihoods than larger areas. Smaller, more discreet areas have lower risk and ultimately lower rates. Since storms do not hit more than one geographic area in the Florida Keys, it does not make sense for us to be considered a single geographic area for the purposes of risk modeling and predictions.
 - Application of an affordability definition or standard, per the statutory language mandating affordability.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** state legislative efforts that recognize the importance of affordable flood insurance to homeowners and local businesses, particularly in coastal communities, and to their local economies, which in turn contribute tremendously to the overall state economy; and that seek to address flood insurance premium rate hikes associated with changes to the National Flood Insurance Program.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** the legislative efforts of Fair Insurance Rates for Monroe (FIRM) related to both wind and flood insurance affordability and availability for Monroe County.

MARINE PROTECTION: VESSEL PUMP OUT REQUIREMENT AND DERELICT VESSELS

CHALLENGES:

- **FWC Pilot Program:** Under the authority of the FWC Pilot Program for Anchoring and Mooring, Monroe County in 2012 established 4 “Managed Anchoring Zones.” Within those zones is a regulation for proof of pump out. In order to assist those boaters in complying with the proof of pump out regulation (and requirements of the federally established “No Discharge Zone” throughout the Keys’ waters), the County has provided a free mobile vessel pump out service. After four years of provision of the pump out service and requirement of proof of pump out, FWC and the County have determined that there is near 100% compliance of the proof of pump out regulation within the “Managed Anchoring Zones.” Based on the success of the proof of pump out requirement in association with the mobile pump out service provided, the County desires to preserve this program. However, the pilot program sunsets in 2017, and with that Monroe’s authority to continue proof of pump out requirement in those specific anchoring zones.
- **FWC’s Final Report and Recommendations to Legislature:** FWC submitted a final report to the Legislature on the pilot program, including a set of recommendations, of which the following are the most important: 1) authority to maintain the proof of pump out requirement in current managed anchoring zones; and 2) establish no-anchoring zones within 300 feet of mooring fields.

Other FWC report recommendations of importance to Monroe include those related to the prevention of derelict vessels, providing authority to Counties to regulate the anchoring of vessels, and establishing anchoring prohibited areas within 150’ of marinas, boat ramps or other vessel launching facilities.

Monroe is supporting legislative action to enact the FWC recommendations via a committee bill. Alternatively, Monroe is prepared to draft and file its own bill to preserve FWC’s recommendations most important to Monroe, primarily preserving the ability to require proof of pump-out in its managed anchoring zones.

- **Derelict Vessels:** Monroe County has the highest number of derelict vessels in the State. Consistent with FWC and statewide goals, Monroe County supports legislation that 1) reduces the number of derelict vessels, including specifically addressing long-term anchoring (storage) of vessels that often leads to degeneration and ultimately to derelict condition, and 2) ensures sufficient funding to remove and dispose of derelict vessels.

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** legislation that enacts the recommendations in FWC’s Anchoring/Mooring Pilot Program, specifically and primarily:
 - Maintaining Proof of Pump Out Requirement in Managed Anchoring Zones in the Florida Keys;
 - Establish no-anchoring zones within 300 feet of mooring fields;
 - Preventing derelict vessels (specifically adding an “inoperability” condition to the At-Risk Vessel law);
 - And, while not a specific recommendation in the FWC report but acknowledged as an unresolved issue: provide authority to Counties to regulate the anchoring of vessels outside of public mooring fields, specifically regulating stored vessels, by limiting the period of time that stored vessels may anchor in one location on public waters.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** continued Clean Vessel Act funding to Monroe County, and state efforts to secure higher level of CVA funding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and State appropriation for pump out services. This funding is critical to incentivizing boaters to pump out.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** a \$1 surcharge on vessel registrations to be deposited into a State fund for the sole purpose of derelict vessel removals, and an additional \$1 surcharge on all Monroe County vessel registrations to be

retained for Monroe County and to be used solely for the purpose of derelict vessel removals within Monroe County.

- ✓ **OPPOSE** further dilution of county authority to regulate vessels and waterways.

OVERSEAS HERITAGE TRAIL

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** funding to address the poor conditions of DEP's pedestrian bridges which are part of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail (FKOHT). Last year, DEP proposed a legislative budget request for 10M; 5M for a comprehensive study of the conditions of all of the bridges and 5M for repairs to the bridges with the most hazardous conditions. Monroe County supports such a request again this year.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** DEP's efforts to construct the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail, including specifically:
 - Redesign of the portions of the trail that have been impacted by erosion;
 - Prioritizing the Sugarloaf section of the trail from MM 16-20. In the event that funding is too expensive, Monroe support phasing of the project; and
 - Request FDOT provide transportation alternative program funds in the upcoming Five Year Work Program to support the completion of the Sugarloaf portion of the FKOHT.

EVERGLADES RESTORATION

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** legislation and funding supporting complete implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** legislation and funding for land acquisition in the Everglades Agricultural Area for the purposes of water storage.

VACATION RENTALS

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation that preempts local communities from regulating vacation rentals.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** legislation that protects grandfathered vacation rental ordinances and that would allow entities with grandfathered ordinances to amend and update their regulations without losing their grandfathered status.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR MEETINGS OF ADVISORY BOARDS

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- SUPPORT** legislation to modify sunshine law statutory requirements to allow for teleconferencing presence to substitute for physical presence at advisory committee meetings.

CLERKS FUNDING

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** adequate funding for the functions of the clerks of court, including an allocation process that results in a fair and sufficient distribution of court generated revenue.

SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **OPPOSE** preempting local communities from banning single use plastic bags, particularly coastal communities where plastic bags are not only an environmental pollutant but also pose a danger to ocean and coastal wildlife.

OIL DRILLING/FRACTURING

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation authorizing hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” or similar well stimulation processes and treatments performed for the purpose of exploration or production of energy resources in the State, or in the Florida Keys, or any area near conservation land or drinking water aquifers.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation pre-empting local regulation of fracking/drilling activities, including ancillary activities such as waste storage, handling and disposal, truck traffic, and other local public health and safety impacts.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation that would create a public records law exemption for proprietary information provided by drilling companies.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** continuation of prohibitions against leases or permits for oil or gas drilling within Florida’s territorial seas, state lands, and the Everglades.

RESILIENCE HARDENING AND PLANNING

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** state legislation that encourages vulnerability assessments, coordinates resources and supports the efforts of local governments to mitigate and adapt to sea level rise, increasing storm severity and other climate changes, and state funding for adaptation planning and investments in areas such as roads and other infrastructure projects that provide hazard mitigation and serve to reduce immediate and long-term risks to critical infrastructure.

CELL TOWER REGULATION ADDRESSING THE PLACEMENT AND NUMBER OF POLES, AND BY WHOM, IN COUNTY RIGHTS OF WAY

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** current statutory framework and home rule authority for placement of traditional infrastructure in county rights of way. Utilities and telecoms already have rights to be in County rights-of-way.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** extending the authority to third party pass through providers that are not utilities (oppose efforts to reclassify these providers as utilities.)

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** home rule: maintaining local authority to determine land use, zoning, and other regulatory standards for marijuana cultivation, processing, and distribution.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** recurring revenue: a taxation or fee structure should be implemented with the State or independently to help counties recoup any and all costs in public services, including but not limited to law enforcement, and regulatory enforcement.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** legislation that provided comprehensive health-based regulatory system where the DOH is responsible for licensing cultivation sites, dispensing facilities, and manufacturers of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

UNFUNDED MANDATES, COUNTY REVENUES, STATE FUNDING LEVELS AND HOME RULE

CHALLENGES:

- **Unfunded Mandates:** The State Legislature frequently passes legislation that compels local governments to provide a service, program, or benefit without providing the appropriate funding. As more and more mandates are created, local governments are faced with the burden of using local tax dollars to finance functions that they have little control over and compromising local governments' ability to provide services requested by our local communities.
- **Cost shifts:** The State Legislature frequently passes legislation that passes along the costs or increases local share requirements for services traditionally funded by the State, such as but not limited to County Health Departments, Courts, Clerks' offices, Juvenile Justice, and mental health services.
- **Restrictions of County Revenue Sources:** At the same time the State Legislation imposes more mandates and costs, it often pursues legislation reducing, restricting or eliminating sources of revenue for county services, such as the Local Business Tax, Communication Services Tax, impact fees, transportation concurrency fees, state park admission fees, and sales taxes.
- **Pre-emption of Home Rule:** Home rule, conferred to Florida counties by Article VIII, Section 1(f) and 1(g) of the Florida Constitution (1968), and by section 125.01, Florida Statutes, is the principle that the government closest to the people is the appropriate authority to serve the needs and requirements of the community. The preservation of this concept is essential to the operation of county governments in Florida, and which allows counties to develop and implement county-based solutions to local problems.
- **Pre-emption Examples:** The State Legislature often pursues local government pre-emptions in its bills that prohibit local governments from banning or even regulating activities enabled by the Legislature such as: fracking, single use plastic bags and vacation rentals.

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation that preempts the legislative and policy making powers of counties used to regulate land use and implement local zoning controls.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** efforts to shift cost of services, unfunded mandates, pre-emption of local government authority (home rule), reduce state funding for infrastructure, programs and services, or other legislation that is costly and limits Monroe County's ability to serve the needs of its citizens without requisite increases in local property taxes.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation that would revise current law in a manner that reduces current local government-

related revenues including Communication Services tax, elimination of existing recapture provisions for homesteaded and non-homesteaded property, modifying current aviation fuel taxes in a manner that would negatively impact counties or the state's ability to provide resources in support of aviation transportation-related operation, reduce state park admissions fees, and reducing or eliminating concurrency and impact fees.

APPROPRIATIONS

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** \$20M appropriation for water quality projects in the Florida Keys.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** \$5M appropriation for land acquisition in the Florida Keys through Florida Forever set-aside.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** \$500,000 appropriation for pump-out services in the Florida Keys.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** funding to DEP for Overseas Heritage Trail Pedestrian Bridges Study and Repairs.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** funding to DEP for Overseas Heritage Trail to expedite Sugarloaf section of Trail.

GENERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

GROWTH MANAGEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** the continued designation of the Florida Keys as an Area of Critical State Concern.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation that prevents counties from having local environmental protection programs that are stricter in nature than state or federal regulatory programs.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** any legislation that restricts state, county and city government purchases of conservation land, and which would effectively eliminate land conservation efforts in the Florida Keys.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** growth management legislation that is thoroughly vetted with all stakeholders, and that takes a targeted approach to increasing regulatory efficiencies, rather than broadly preempting local governments.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** any changes to the definition which have the effect of transferring large quantities of wetlands and uplands from state ownership to private ownership.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** legislative efforts that strengthen the existing roles and home rule powers of local governments to implement comprehensive planning programs that guide future development and encourage the most appropriate use of land and natural resources.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** county home rule authority, and current statutory provisions, which allow counties to retain their current transportation concurrency systems, and impact fees, as adopted by local ordinance.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation that preempts local government's ability to establish and maintain local ordinances which regulate billboards.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING /HOMELESSNESS

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** full appropriation of Sadowski Housing Trust Fund monies for affordable housing.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** the Florida Keys set-aside in the State’s competitive Low Income Housing Tax Credit program.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** legislation that creates a dedicated state funding source for homelessness programs and services.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** continued coordination with the state’s homeless planning council, specifically as it develops policies in support of the new Federal Strategic Plan to end Homelessness.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** the development of strategies 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 particular emphasis on children aging out of the foster care system.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** a process that would waive the fees related to obtaining personal identification from the state for persons identified as homeless.

HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** increasing state general revenue funding for County Health Departments (CHDs), 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, and maintaining a coordinated system of county health departments (CHDs) that is centrally housed within the Department of Health (DOH).
- ✓ **OPPOSE** efforts to decentralize the public health system by transferring authority over CHDs from the DOH to the respective county governments, any state reductions to the County Health Department Trust Funds; and any efforts, legislative or otherwise, to limit or eliminate the provision of primary care services in CHDs.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** increased funding for core mental health and substance abuse services. **SUPPORT** efforts to increase supportive housing, employment and education initiatives for people with behavioral health issues and/or disabilities. **SUPPORT** diverting, medically assisting, or treating mentally ill persons outside of the criminal justice system through alternative community programs.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** establishing a cap on growth in the individual county Medicaid costs to address cost shifts; and continued evaluation of the County-State Medicaid cost-share arrangement.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** state legislation drawing down federal funds made available to Florida under the PPACA to expand health care coverage to certain individuals who earn up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, provided that such a program does not further shift Medicaid costs to counties.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation that limits the ability of county EMS providers to be reimbursed for out of network transports.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** maintaining a countywide regulatory system for EMS through the current Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) process.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** efforts to increase supportive housing, employment and education initiatives for people with behavioral health issues and/or disabilities.

- ✓ **SUPPORT** appropriate funding for children in early learning and school age care to ensure children’s access to educational, enrichment and readiness programs; and continuation of funding for the Florida Healthy Start and Healthy Families program.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** restoration and expansion of state funding for the Community Care for the Elderly Program, which provides cost efficient diversion from nursing home placement for impaired elders.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** the continuation of a coordinated Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) system, and appropriate and dedicated state funding for the TD program; protect the TD trust fund.

LIBRARIES

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** full funding of State Aid to Libraries based on the current statutory formula that provides counties 25 cents for every local dollar spent.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** measures that ensure decisions and policies regarding county libraries are made at the local level.

TRANSPORTATION

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** continuing enhanced state funding for the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP). This funding is critical to Monroe County which is a small county with major bridge and local road responsibilities.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** increasing the cost cap (from \$400,000 to \$750,000) for counties to self-perform road improvement projects using the Constitutional Gas Tax proceeds.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** legislation that would index local option fuel taxes to annual adjustments of the CPI.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** amending s.336.045, Florida Statutes, to include an additional paragraph expressly authorizing Florida counties to determine the reasonable level and frequency of local road maintenance.

VETERANS

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** legislation establishing a program that allocates state funds to hire Veterans Services Officers in counties in order to increase services and federal benefits for Florida veterans.

COUNTY JAILS, INMATE MEDICAL COSTS, JUVENILE JUSTICE

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **OPPOSE** sentencing of state inmates to county jails, but support counties’ ability to contract with the Department of Corrections for housing state inmates.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** legislation that reduces jail expenses by setting a reimbursement amount paid by counties to medical providers for health care services for inmates and arrestees at no higher than the established

Medicare rate plus 10%, the same rate as currently charged to the Department of Corrections, unless there is an existing contract in place or a business practice providing a lower rate.

- ✓ **SUPPORT** continued efforts to obtain 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.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** initiatives which reduce juvenile detention through prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** the Legislature appropriating state funds to the Department of Juvenile Justice to upgrade, renovate, or reconstruct detention centers across Florida that are in a state of disrepair and state investments in juvenile facilities to improve the conditions of secure confinement for detained youth without such costs being shifted to the counties.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** assistance for building/identifying Out of County Shelter for residents of Monroe County in cases of mandatory evacuation during storm-related events and other emergencies.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** state funding for county Emergency Operations Centers to ensure each is able to meet the minimum structural survivability and operational space criteria established by the state and federal government.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** an increase to the county base grant funding, which has remained unchanged for nearly a decade.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** maintaining the original intent and purpose of the Emergency Management Preparation And Assistance Trust Fund, which is to serve as a funding source for state and local emergency management programs, by ensuring that all monies collected for purposes of funding emergency management, preparedness and assistance are deposited into the EMPA Trust Fund and spent on emergency management activities, and opposing legislative sweeps of these trust fund monies.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** changes to the EMPA trust fund by ensuring the \$2.00 and \$4.00 annual surcharge on all homeowner and business insurance policies is assessed on either a per-parcel or per-unit basis of coverage, rather than on a single policy and a repeal of the service charge to general revenue on the EMPA trust fund and redirect these monies back to the counties in the same manner in which the EMPA base grant is distributed.
- ✓ **Disaster Funding: SUPPORT** a 50/50 cost-share arrangement with the state for the non-federal portion of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). **SUPPORT** the creation of an emergency bridge loan program for counties to provide a source of expedient cash flow to counties impacted by a major catastrophe.

SUSTAINABILITY, RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** the 2017 legislative initiatives of the SE Florida Regional Climate Compact's State Energy and Climate Legislative Program.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** incentives for local governments to assist in furthering state energy policies such as green building and carbon emissions reductions, and the technical assistance to implement these programs and legislation

that provides appropriate resources and incentives to local governments to achieve any statewide recycling goals.

- ✓ **SUPPORT** state legislation that encourages vulnerability assessments, coordinates resources and supports the efforts of local governments to mitigate and adapt to sea level rise, increasing storm severity and other climate changes, and state funding for adaptation planning and investments in areas such as roads and other infrastructure projects that provide hazard mitigation and serve to reduce immediate and long-term risks to critical infrastructure.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** a state comprehensive climate change action plan, energy policies, and other initiatives to reduce carbon dioxide and other compounds in the atmosphere which will help provide solutions to present and future generations, including ecosystem sustainability, long term water supply, flood protection, public health and safety, and economic growth and prosperity.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** state funding of Solid Waste Management Grants.

PACE (PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY)

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** amending statutory language to clarify that in addition to energy retrofits and wind mitigation, that flood mitigation is also an allowable use.

PENSION CHANGES

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **OPPOSE** any benefit changes that result in an increase in the FRS county and county employee contribution rates.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** requiring all legislation that potentially results in an increase in the FRS contribution rate or the closing of the traditional pension plan to new employees to be analyzed and evaluated to determine the direct fiscal impact of proposed changes to all local and state government to be eligible for consideration.

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