



2025 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

FLORIDA KEYS STEWARDSHIP ACT FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

Water Quality Protection:

- ✓ Support **\$20M appropriation** for the Florida Keys Stewardship Act to construct **water quality projects** to improve/protect the quality of the Florida Keys' nearshore waters and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and \$5M appropriation within Florida Forever for land acquisition the Florida Keys.
- ✓ Support Monroe's water quality restoration projects submitted to the 2024 Stewardship Funding grant program.

Land Acquisition:

- ✓ Support the \$5 million set-aside in Florida Forever funding, authorized under the Florida Keys Stewardship Act, to enable the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to acquire land in the Florida Keys, helping to protect sensitive lands and private property rights.
- ✓ Extend the authorization for this set-aside, which is due to expire in 2026, for another 10 years to 2036.

AREA OF CRITICAL STATE CONCERN WORKFORCE HOUSING

- ✓ Increase Monroe's statutory 24-hour **hurricane evacuation clearance time to up to 26 hours** to allow for the issuance of up to 3,350 new residential permit allocations, Keys-wide, to be distributed over 40 years. The majority of these are to be directed to vacant buildable lots (to address takings liability), and 70% of those will be dedicated to workforce housing.
- ✓ Exempt Habitat for Humanity from the requirement to purchase **construction performance bonds** for new affordable housing constructed on county-owned/long term leased properties, to reduce housing costs.
- ✓ Authorize local governments to grant **ad valorem property tax relief** for residential properties voluntarily used to provide affordable/workforce rental housing.
- ✓ Ensure that Monroe's protective ACSC **Comprehensive Plan and ROGO regulations** are not overridden by development-related preemptions.
- ✓ Support **SHIP and SAIL** program funding; and the Keys **Tax Credit** set-aside.

LOWER INSURANCE COSTS

- ✓ Maintain **Citizens' annual rate increase cap at 10%**.
- ✓ Raise the Citizens' value cap of primary homes from \$1M to \$1.5M.
- ✓ Require only properties at flood risk to carry flood insurance.

MARINE PROTECTIONS

- ✓ Support **\$4.5M** appropriation for critical **mooring field development** to reduce derelict vessels, enhance boater safety, and protect the marine environment.
- ✓ Support statutory language to define and classify "**migrant vessel**" to allow for their expedited removal.
- ✓ Support continued DEP funding and management of Monroe County's **vessel pump out program**.

SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- ✓ Enable children of Monroe's working families to benefit from this vital program by **increasing the eligibility threshold** to account for Monroe's high cost of living.

VACATION RENTAL REGULATIONS

- ✓ Restore authority to local communities to regulate short-term rental properties, or **exempt ACSC from preemptive vacation rental regulations** or legislation or allow local governments to amend and update grandfathered regulations without losing grandfathered status.

RESILIENCE/ FLOODING MITIGATION FUNDING

- ✓ Support robust funding for the **Resilient Florida Grant Program; reduce match requirement**.