



# MONROE COUNTY

## STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

SESSION End Report 2025

### MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mayor James K. Scholl, District 3  
Mayor *Pro Tem* Michelle Lincoln, District 2  
Commissioner Craig Cates, District 1  
Commissioner David Rice, District 4  
Commissioner Holly Merrill Raschein, District 5

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS  
JULY 16, 2025

# 2025 SESSION DATES

## 2025 Legislative Session Dates:

- November: Swearing in of House Speaker Danny Perez and Senate President Albritton.
- December 2/Dec 9: First committee weeks for House and Senate
- December 11: Approval of Monroe County's Legislative Agenda
- January 7: Local Delegation Meeting
- January 13-17, 21-24, Feb 3-7, 10-14, 17-21: Committee Weeks for House and Senate
- January/February: Bill drafting and filing deadlines, and appropriations requests due
- March 4: First Day of Regular Session
- March 13: Keys Day
- March 19: FAC Legislative Day
- April 22: Last day for scheduled committee meetings
- May 2: Last Day of Regular Session
- June 16: Actual last day

# LEGISLATIVE TEAM

- **House District 120: Representative Jim Mooney**
- **Senate District 39: Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez**
- **County Personnel: County Commissioners, County Administrator, County Attorney, Legislative Affairs Director**
- **Lobby team:**
  - Robert Reyes of Capital Group
  - Dean Cannon and Ryan Matthews of Gray Robinson
  - Nick Iarossi and Andrew Ketchal of Capital City Consulting
  - Noah Valenstein of Brightwater Strategies Group
  - Edgar Fernandez of Arrow (formerly Anfield) Consulting
- **Associations:**
  - Florida Association of Counties
  - Small County Coalition

# LEGISLATIVE WORK PROGRAM

## Processes and tools:

- Discussion and Approval of Annual County Legislative Agenda and Priorities
- Issues-based One Pagers, Issue Briefs, and Resolutions
- Regular communications with our delegation (Sen. Rodriguez and Rep. Mooney)
- Bill and Amendment drafting
- Bill and Amendment Tracking (*House and Senate, interest organizations*)
- Lobby corps provides daily presence in Tallahassee
- Weekly lobby team meetings / progress tracking
- Weekly (sometimes daily!) updates to BOCC and administration
- Monthly updates at BOCC meetings
- FAC weekly briefings/meetings (*for commissioners, county managers, county attorneys, and leg staff*)
- End of session accomplishments report

# 2025 Session LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- **New ROGOs** (number, distribution, time frame, needs)
- **Stewardship Act funding:** \$20M for water quality restoration projects
- **Land acquisition funding** (statutory annual \$5M until 2026, extension to 2036)
- **Marine protection** (Mooring field approp, derelict vessel – new definition, pump out funding)
- **Affordable/accessible wind insurance** (modest changes to Citizens to reduce costs for insureds – return to 10% cap, increase value to \$1.5M, roll back requirement for flood insurance for props in x zones.)
- **Affordable housing initiatives** (exemption for HFH requirement for construction performance bonds, reduce prop tax for homes rented affordably, address statewide policies related to the proliferation of short-term rentals and high-cost property/wind insurance that affect housing affordability. )
- **Protective carve outs for ACSC** as necessary (against preemptions efforts affecting land development and environmental protection that would override its comprehensive plan and ROGO regulations, pump out and anchoring regulations, etc.)
- **Home rule and local authority**

# Summary

- Policy bill(s) Passed
  - SB 180 New Allocations (900 over 10 years, distributed by vacant lot percentage)
  - SB 830 migrant vessel definition
- Appropriations Secured
  - Stewardship Act Water Quality \$20M
  - Funding for construction of mooring field shore side facility (\$1.6M)
  - Funding for Pump out program \$650K
- Misc needs addressed:
  - Number of carve outs secured to protect local anchoring regs, robust state funding for affordable housing (SHIP and SAIL funding) and roads (SCOP and TAP grant programs); successfully opposed preemptions related to sovereign immunity and commissioner term limits, continued advocacy with agencies on various staff level issues (derelict vessel funding, mooring field permitting, etc).

# 2025 SESSION OUTCOMES

## Monroe County Board of County Commissioners Legislative Priorities and Outcomes 2025 Session



MONROE BOCC ISSUE/PRIORITY	MONROE BOCC REQUEST	FINAL ACTION	ACCOMPLISHED
FL Keys Stewardship Funding (for Water Quality Projects)	\$20M	\$20M	Yes
FL Keys Stewardship Funding (for Land Acquisition)	\$5M	\$5M	Yes
Mooring Field Development Appropriation	\$4M	\$1.65M	Yes
Vessel Pumpout Program Funding Appropriation	\$650K	\$650K	Yes
<b>ROGOS: Increase the statutory hurricane evacuation window to allow for additional allocations</b>	Increase hurricane evacuation window to allow for more allocations from the state to address the legal liability of vacant lots and to help with workforce housing. 3,500 allocations over 40 years to be distributed by percentage of vacant lots and to be used one allocation per vacant lot.	<b>Passage of SB 180:</b> Increases hurricane evacuation window by .5hrs, providing 900 new allocations, over 10 years, to be distributed by percentage of vacant lots and to be used one per vacant lot.	Yes
<b>Expediting Removal of Migrant Derelict Vessels</b>	Seek statutory authority to enable more expedient removal of these specific types of abandoned "vessels."	<b>Passage of SB 830:</b> Established a different definition for migrant vessels (vs. manufactured vessels with hull numbers), allows law enforcement to remove migrant vessels within five days, and authorizes state funds for their removal.	Yes
<b>Florida Keys Stewardship Land Acquisition Set Aside Extension</b>	Seek statutory extension to 2036 (ten years) of Monroe County's set-aside in Florida Forever (per 2016 Stewardship Act)	SB 1326/HB 995 did not pass	No
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	Seek exemption for HFH to the requirement to purchase performance bonds for construction of affordable housing on 99-year leased county property	SB 1326/HB 995 did not pass	No
<b>Citizens Wind Insurance</b>	Seek a return to 10% annual cap, increase to home value, remove flood insurance requirement for homes not at flood risk	HB 1073/SB 1029 did not pass	No
<b>School Readiness Program: Increase Income Eligibility Threshold for Monroe</b>	Seek an increase to the income threshold for program eligibility	SB 859 Did not pass, did not include Monroe's provision	No
<b>Protective Carve Outs for Florida Keys ACSC</b>	Seek carve outs to legislation that preempts Monroe County's local protective regulations (comp plan, rogo, vessels, etc.)	Carve out amendments secured for SB 164 Vessel Accountability bill that would supercede local anchoring regulations (Bill passed) Carve out amendment secured for HB 481 Local Regulation of Anchoring that would also supercede local anchoring regulations (Bill passed) Carve out amendment secured to SB 180 taking us out of limitation on new comp plan amendments within a 100 mile hurricane zone for future storms (Bill passed) Carve out amendment secured for SB 184 ADU bill (did not pass)	Yes
<b>State Funding for Resilience</b>	Support robust State funding for resilience	Legislature appropriated <b>\$150M</b> for the Resilient Florida Program	Yes
<b>State Funding for Land Acquisition</b>	Support robust State funding for Forever Florida	Legislature appropriated <b>\$18M</b> for Florida Forever State Lands and <b>\$250M</b> for Florida Forever Rural and Family Lands	Yes
<b>State funding for Everglades Restoration</b>	Support robust State funding for Everglades Restoration, esp projects that impact Florida Bay such as CERP/EAA reservoir	Legislature appropriated <b>\$800M</b> for Everglades Restoration	Yes



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2025

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