



## 2025 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### FLORIDA KEYS STEWARDSHIP ACT

#### WATER QUALITY PROTECTION AND LAND ACQUISITION FUNDING

- ✓ 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 Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.
- ✓ Support Monroe's water quality restoration projects submitted to the 2024 Stewardship Funding grant program.
- ✓ 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 and **extend this authority for another 10 years**.

### FLORIDA KEYS AREA OF CRITICAL STATE CONCERN

#### DEVELOPMENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING HB 995 / SB 1326

- ✓ Increase Monroe's statutory 24-hour **hurricane evacuation clearance time** to enable additional residential permit allocations, Keys-wide, with important provisions that: 1) disburse the new allocations over time to manage growth and ensure infrastructure concurrency; 2) direct majority of new allocations to vacant buildable lots to address takings liability; and 3) steer new allocations to permanent workforce housing.
- ✓ Extend the **Stewardship Act authorization for land acquisition** for 10 years to 2036 (due to expire in 2026).
- ✓ Exempt Habitat for Humanity from requirement to purchase **construction performance bonds** for affordable housing constructed on county-owned/long-term-leased properties, to **reduce development costs**.
- ✓ Authorize local governments to grant **ad valorem property tax relief** for residential properties voluntarily used to provide affordable/workforce rental housing.

### FLORIDA KEYS MARINE PROTECTIONS

#### BOATING SAFETY, MOORINGS, AND CLEAN WATERS HB 1285 / SB 830

- ✓ Support **\$4.3M** appropriation for critical **mooring field development** to reduce derelict vessels, enhance boater safety, and protect the marine environment.
- ✓ Support **HB 1285/SB 830** statutory language to define and classify "**migrant vessel**" to expedite removal.
- ✓ Support continued DEP funding and management of Monroe County's **vessel pump out program**.

### FLORIDA KEYS ACSC COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROTECTIONS

- ✓ Ensure that Monroe's protective **ACSC Comprehensive Plan and ROGO regulations** are not overridden by development-related preemptions.

### FLORIDA KEYS LOWER WIND INSURANCE COSTS HB 1073 / SB 1020

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

### FLORIDA KEYS SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY HB 859 / SB 1382

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

### FLORIDA KEYS VACATION RENTAL REGULATIONS

- ✓ Allow Monroe County to regulate vacation rental regulations.

### RESILIENCE/ FLOODING MITIGATION FUNDING

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