State Legislative Priorities

SUPPORT legislative changes to preemptions within SB 180.

- Narrow the scope of the preemption of land use regulations to structures actually damaged by storms for which federal disaster declarations were made.
- Clarify whether the more restrictive and burdensome provision applies broadly to all ordinances or comprehensive plan and land development regulations.
- Eliminate Section 2, which prohibits the county from enforcing Floodplain Management Regulations imposing a 5-year lookback period for substantial improvements.

SUPPORT full repeal of Laws of Florida 81-429 or amending legislation to allow for local ability to modify Manatee County's Library Advisory Board as follows:

- Shall consist of nine (9) members as stated below
    - One member from each of the following locations:
        - Bradenton, Palmetto, the island, Parrish/Ellenton Area, Lakewood Ranch, Myakka City Area, Manatee County at large.
    - One parent or guardian of a child enrolled in a public, private or charter school in Manatee County.
    - One youth representative (18-25 years old) living in Manatee County.

SUPPORT legislative amendments to F.S. §112.0801.

- Require a minimum year of service with a specific local government employer before retirees qualify for employer-sponsored health insurance benefits.

SUPPORT legislative changes to F.S. §316.183 and §316.189 regarding reduced residential speed limits.

- Revise the F.S. Section 316.183 as follows (new underlined):
    - (2)"…with respect to a residence district, a county or municipality may set a maximum speed limit of <u>15</u>, 20 or 25 miles per hour on local streets and highways…"
- Revise the F.S. Section 316.189 as follows (new underlined):
    - (2)(a) "In any business or residence district, …provided that with respect to residence districts a county may set a maximum speed limit of <u>15, 20, or</u> 25 miles per hour after an investigation determines…"

SUPPORT legislative changes to the Live Local Act (LLA).

- Require current projects that are currently at 120% AMI to be reduced to 100% AMI.

SUPPORT revised requirements for the release schedule of credits in mitigation banks.

- Revisions and changes based on the language used in SB 492.

SUPPORT Economic Development Division of Manatee County to identify and prioritize potential tracts for the new federal Opportunity Zones.

- Coordinate with the Governor's office and local partners to identify new potential areas for investment.
- Prepare supporting materials to ensure our priority areas are recommended for designation when the Governor submits selections to the federal government in summer 2026.

Federal Legislative Priorities

SUPPORT Congressional passage of the Thin Blue Line Act (H.R. 115).

- Expands the list of statutory aggravating factors in death penalty determinations to also include killing or targeting a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or other first responder.

SUPPORT Congressional passage of the Manatee Protection Act (H.R. 135).

- Requires the Department of the Interior to include the West Indian manatee in the endangered species list and give the species protections provided to endangered species.

SUPPORT Congressional passage of the Protecting Local Communities from Harmful Algal Blooms Act (H.R. 132).

- Amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to include algal blooms in the definition of a major disaster.

SUPPORT Congressional passage of Goldie's Act (H.R. 349).

- Directs the Department of Agriculture to document and record detailed descriptions of violations of the act observed during inspections and investigations.
- USDA must provide a copy of all records documenting violations to state, local, and municipal animal control or law enforcement officials within 24 hours of such inspections or investigations.

SUPPORT the Myakka Wild and Scenic River Act (H.R. 642).

- Amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the portion of the Myakka River lying within Sarasota County as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
- Explore options to include the portion of the Myakka River in Manatee County in the bill's provisions.

FAC Policies

SUPPORT Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Statewide Legislative Priorities, with particular interest in:

- Legislative changes to SB 180.
- Property tax legislation or ballot initiative.
- Retaining home rule.
- Support for existing federal policies.
- Fuel tax indexing.
- Beach Renourishment and Shoreline Protection.
- Public Safety Equipment

SUPPORT Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Federal Legislative Priorities, with particular interest in:

- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) reform
- Water Resources Development Act
- Off-Shore Oil Drilling
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit
- Public Safety Officer Benefit
- ARPA Funding Recoupment

NACo Policies

SUPPORT National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Priorities, with particular interest in:

- Reauthorization of surface transportation programs, ensuring robust funding for roads, bridges, safety programs, rail and transit systems.
- Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) with local control and flexibility.
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Reform
- Reforms to FEMA's Public Assistance Program to ensure expedited reimbursement.
- Funding of critical federal grant programs.
- Increased federal collaboration and direct federal funding to counties for election security measures.

Potential Appropriations Requests

Veterans Resource Hub and Memorial Park (Federal & State)
Department: Government Relations
Total Project Cost: $40 million
Funding Request: $3 million (both)
Purpose: Centralized services and memorial space for veterans and families.
Location: 5431 Buckeye Rd, Palmetto, FL

Singletary Road Bridge Replacement (State)
Department: Public Works
Total Project Cost: $3 million
Funding Request: $1.5 million
Purpose: Replace aging bridge infrastructure.
Location: Singletary Rd over Myakka River branch
Additional Information: House will require local match.

North/South Gateway Greenway Trail (CR-675 to SR 62) (Federal)
Department: Public Works
Total Project Cost: $6 million
Funding Request: $6 million (ask for $3 million in each FY27 and FY28)
Purpose: Trail development as part of regional and state trail systems.
Location: CR-675 to SR-62

51st St. W Extension (53rd Ave W to El Conquistador Pkwy) (State)
Department: Public Works
Total Project Cost: $35 million
Funding Request: $3 million
Purpose: Roadway extension to support economic development in Southwest District.
Location: 51st St. W corridor
Additional Information: Requesting reclassification of previously allocated funds from construction to design. County is looking into designating 51st St. to the "Charlie Kirk Memorial Parkway".

Gamble Creek Flood Mitigation Area (Federal)
Department: Public Works
Total Project Cost: $10 million
Funding Request: $3 million
Purpose: Flood mitigation, stormwater treatment, and support for nearby road projects.
Location: 15150 Golf Course Road, Parrish, FL

Fresh Start, Phase 2 (State and Federal)
Department: Manatee County Sheriff's Office
Total Project Cost: $10 million
Funding Request: $2.5 million (State); and $3 (Federal)
Purpose: Renovation of facility to permanently house the Fresh Start services.
Location: 1022 26th Ave E, Bradenton, FL 34208

Anna Maria City Pier (State)
Department: City of Anna Maria
Total Project Cost: $8 Million
Funding Request: $2 million
Purpose: Reconstruction of the Anna Maria pier after it was destroyed due to the 2024 storms.
Location: 103 N Bay Blvd, Anna Maria, FL 34216

Fort Hamer Road/I-75 Interchange
Department: Public Works
Total Project Cost: $5 million
Funding Request: $5 million
Purpose: For design for an interchange connecting Interstate 75 and the Fort Hamer Road northern extension.
Location: Northern Manatee County, near the border with Hillsborough County.
Additional Information: This interchange will connect Fort Hamer to Interstate 75, bringing relief for local commuters and serving as an alternate evacuation route.

Additional Policy Positions

(Will Live on Website)

- **SUPPORT** preserving home rule and local authority in all service areas, including land use, planning, water resources, and revenues.
- **SUPPORT** regulations that preserve local emergency management authority.
- **SUPPORT** regulations that preserve local authority over water resources.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that removes citizen advisory committees and boards from being subject to the Sunshine Law.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that allows local jurisdictions to provide transitional housing and to reuse existing structures like hotels, etc.
- **SUPPORT** the retention of local control for local revenues and budgets. Ensure local government bond ratings are not jeopardized.
- **SUPPORT** for State recognition of EMS personnel as essential services and of 911 dispatchers as first responders.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that prohibits funding, promoting, or taking official actions related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).
- **SUPPORT** legislation allowing for the expanded use of additional dwelling units.
- **SUPPORT** economic growth and job creation through infrastructure investment, business development, tourism, and other partnerships with local governments.
- **SUPPORT** Federal transportation funding legislation that relies more on population-based formula fund distributions and has fewer discretionary grant programs.
- **SUPPORT** recurring and full funding of programs such as the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund, Safe Children Coalition, Community Care for the Elderly, Home Care for the Elderly, and others.
- **SUPPORT** funding and policies that strengthen extreme weather preparedness, stormwater and flood control, and coastal protection.
- **SUPPORT** increased funding and grant opportunities to enhance public safety technologies that improve preparedness and response to emergencies and natural disasters.
- **SUPPORT** increased funding, partnerships, and policies for stormwater improvements, septic-to-sewer conversions, watershed restoration, and water quality initiatives.
- **SUPPORT** full funding of the justice system and expanded investment in behavioral health, substance abuse treatment, veterans treatment courts, and related services.
- **SUPPORT** increased funding for workforce training, apprenticeships, and education programs, including for veterans, public service employees, and high-demand technical fields, to strengthen the local workforce.
- **SUPPORT** funding and policies that expand regional trail networks, promote walking and biking, parks and green spaces, and increase access to active recreation for health and community benefits.

- **SUPPORT** increased funding of parks, green spaces, and tourism-related infrastructure that enhance quality of life and drive economic growth.
- **SUPPORT** increased funding and grant opportunities for public safety and EMS, ensuring adequate resources in emergency and disaster response.
- **SUPPORT** comprehensive multimodal transportation funding and policies, including roads, transit, trails, ports, airports, EV infrastructure, walking, and biking.
- **SUPPORT** funding for broadband expansion, ensuring connectivity for underserved areas and allowing connectedness for all residents, particularly regarding storm preparation, response, and recovery.
- **SUPPORT** the continued funding of all benefits for veterans, active-duty service members, and their dependents.
- **SUPPORT** the ability for municipal water supply systems to acquire expiring well credits, to be transferred at 100% if the permit is current.
- **SUPPORT** legislation to allow the State to set debris hauling rates following hurricane landfall and related impacts.
- **SUPPORT** legislative protection for local businesses from unsafe contractors and similar activities.
- **SUPPORT** Federal legislation or regulatory actions that ensure companies responsible for producing PFAS chemicals bear the costs of cleanup.
- **SUPPORT** maintaining agricultural lands to strengthen economic contributions.
- **SUPPORT** legislative flexibility in regulating or mandating cybersecurity programs by verifying alignment with industry frameworks or applicable regulatory standards, including the NIST cybersecurity framework.
- **SUPPORT** development and implementation of clear regulatory guidance in emerging technology fields, particularly with artificial intelligence.
- **OPPOSE** changes to single family home regulations that allow the following:
    - Building permit expiration dates longer than 180 days
    - Allow for no permits needed on jobs that cost less than $7,500
    - Removal of windows and doors from permit process
- **OPPOSE** legislative changes to development services converting services to private providers.
- **OPPOSE** legislative changes to development services that are not clearly defined.
- **OPPOSE** further State laws that hinder the collection of impact fees based on demonstrated-need studies.
- **OPPOSE** the diversion of transportation trust fund revenues.

Missed on Previous Version

SUPPORT Economic Development Division of Manatee County to identify and prioritize potential tracts for the new federal Opportunity Zones.

- Coordinate with the Governor's office and local partners to identify new potential areas for investment.
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