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FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

As approved by the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners on September 21, 2011

APPROPRIATIONS ISSUES

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Funding

Oppose drastic cuts to federal funding for important local initiatives, including needed affordable housing development and management.

Regional Water Infrastructure and Supply Enhancement Project (WISE)

Seek appropriations to continue development of an innovative reclaimed water aquifer recharge system to eliminate over 50 million gallons per day of wastewater discharges and over 200 tons of nutrients annually, while creating a barrier against saltwater intrusion into the regional supply of drinking water.

Head Start

Advocate for full funding to maintain current Head start and Early Head Start enrollment levels to ensure current enrollees continue to receive services.

Transportation

- Promote federal funding to repair and improve functionally obsolete channel-beam bridges that serve as important community connectors.
- Monitor transportation funding sources and acts to ensure adequate funding of multi-modal systems that may benefit Hillsborough County.

Egmont Key

Solicit federal authorization and appropriation of funds required for long-term shoreline stabilization activities to restore and preserve historic Egmont Key.

Justice Investments

- Support creation of a statewide gang registration and monitoring system with fines directed to the local level to offset costs and implement gang prevention programs.
- Petition for continued funding of Hillsborough County's successful methamphetamine drug use prevention, treatment, and laboratory site clean-up programs.
- Request maintaining or increased funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program for housing of both "charged" and "convicted" undocumented criminal aliens in county jail.
- Support current or additional funding of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Formula Grant Program, including authorization to recover greater than 10% for required grant administration.
- Promote ongoing or increased funding of the original Super 6 community anti-gang initiative sites that assist local communities to combat gang activity.

APPROPRIATIONS ISSUES (continued)

Justice Investments (continued)

- Support development and funding of a coordinated network of comprehensive planning and reintegration services with the U.S. Department of Justice for inmates transitioning back to a community following release from prison.

Unfunded Mandates

Oppose federal unfunded mandates that negatively affect local government budgets and control.

POLICY ISSUES

Tax Return Identity Theft

Encourage legislation to fight a growing epidemic of tax fraud involving identity theft.

3% Withholding Tax on County Purchases

Support legislation to repeal a federal unfunded mandate requiring only counties that spend over \$100 million annually on products and services to withhold 3% in federal taxes on nearly every purchase.

Local Tourist Development Taxes/Online Travel

Resist proposals that would codify the current practice of online travel companies to keep tourist development taxes already collected and due to local governments as excess revenues.

Federal Numeric Nutrient Criteria

Oppose a one-size-fits-all federal water nutrient limit that would impose millions of dollars in unfunded mandates on local taxpayers, while supporting work of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to develop criteria that are more feasible.

Legislative and Congressional Redistricting

Promote federal congressional redistricting plans to ensure adequate representation of Hillsborough County in the United States House of Representatives.

Health Care

Monitor potential changes to and implementation of the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act for any impact on Hillsborough County's Health Care Plan, associated services, and budget.

Internet Sales Tax

Support legislation that would require online retailers to collect and remit required state sales taxes.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACo)

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Support the National Association of Counties' (NACo) Legislative Program unless specific issues conflict with BOCC positions.