



STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

APPROPRIATIONS ISSUES

Affordable Housing

Preserve the dedicated funding streams from document stamp revenues and other sources to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund; and seek to maintain or increase appropriations for important affordable housing activities, including oversight requirements.

Justice Investments

- Support continued funding for local drug and alcohol abuse treatment beds.
- Seek an increase in substance abuse treatment and mental health services for vulnerable, high-risk populations in the criminal justice system to reduce recidivism.
- Request funding to develop a comprehensive, community-based, youth violence prevention program.
- Solicit the Florida Department of Corrections to develop and fund a coordinated network of comprehensive planning and reintegration services with for inmates transitioning back to a community.
- Seek funding for a Department of Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Grant pilot program to demonstrate that investments in treatment will reduce demand on judicial and corrections services.
- Petition the Department of Juvenile Justice to create a pilot prevention coordinator position in Hillsborough County to coordinate the development of needed programs and grants opportunities.
- 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.
- Seek an increase in funding to provide girls involved in the justice system with comprehensive screening, assessment, and treatment services that address gender-specific needs.

Enterprise Zones Economic Incentives

Pursue adequate funding for enterprise zone economic incentives to promote economic growth and investment in targeted, economically challenged areas.

Brownfield Voluntary Cleanup Tax Credits

Seek full funding of the Brownfield Voluntary Cleanup Tax Credit Program to encourage development and revitalization of environmentally damaged properties.

Environmental Protection and Preservation

Advocate for restoration of the highly successful Florida Forever Program and sufficient associated funding for acquisition and preservation of environmentally sensitive lands.

APPROPRIATIONS ISSUES (continued)

Libraries

Support full funding of the State Aid to Libraries Grant Program that enables maximum drawdown of federal match dollars to preserve library operations.

Egmont Key

Maintain funding of key, on-site state personnel to protect historic Egmont Key.

Animal Fines

Request an amendment to state statutes to authorize local governments to retain animal fines for furtherance of community animal welfare initiatives.

Unfunded Mandates

Resist state unfunded mandates that negatively affect local government budgets and self-determination.

POLICY ISSUES

Transportation

- Oppose any effort to eliminate the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority, or otherwise diminishing local control of transportation choices and/or funds generated in Hillsborough County.
- Monitor any proposal to merge the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority and the Pinellas Sun Coast Transit Authority.

Traffic Safety

Contest statutory changes that would limit or eliminate the ability of local governments to utilize red light traffic infraction detectors currently in operation that have promoted public safety.

Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems

Advocate in favor of legislation to repeal the one-size-fits-all onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems inspection program, while preserving the authority of local communities to act as they deem appropriate (per resolution R11-022 of the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners)

Internet Sweepstakes Cafes

Support legislation creating a clear, statewide definition of internet sweepstakes cafes while providing local governments flexibility to implement community standards.

Pretrial Services

Oppose legislation that would restrict or eliminate local control over coordinated, highly effective local pretrial services that might increase the local jail population and therefore increase expenses.

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.

POLICY ISSUES (continued)

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 state legislative redistricting plans that ensure adequate representation of Hillsborough County in Florida Legislature.

Metal Theft Prevention

Seek legislation creating a uniform statewide methodology for electronically reporting the purchase transaction information of second hand precious metals to law enforcement.

Recreational Easement Liability Indemnification

Request statutory authority for local governments to grant limited liability indemnification for private property easements that expand recreational opportunities at a lower cost.

Growth Management

Assess growth management issues in order to protect local government home rule authority.

Water Back Flow Device Exemptions

Seek an exemption from the requirement to install and maintain a water back flow device for certain nonprofit entities.

Personal Injury Protection (PIP) Fraud

Monitor legislation addressing PIP insurance fraud to ensure compatibility with any local ordinance.

Juvenile Pre-adjudicatory Cost Sharing

Promote various measures for the fair, efficient, effective, and transparent operation of local juvenile pre-adjudicatory facilities throughout the state in conjunction with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

Water Policy

Use the BOCC adopted Eight Point Water Program to evaluate legislation.

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (FAC)

Florida Association of Counties (FAC)

Support the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Legislative Program and Guiding Principles unless specific issues conflict with BOCC positions.