



2018 Federal Legislative Program

As approved by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners on November 1st, 2017

Strategic Priority Initiatives

I. Hurricane Impacts and Flood Attenuation

- Support increased funding for Hurricane related construction, specifically to enhance local facilities capability to endure Hurricane impacts.
- Solicit funding support for key emergency management equipment that will assist in continuity of local safety operations, during and after a declared emergency.
- Advocate for specific funding for flood attenuation caused by storm surge and heavy rains during a Hurricane.

II. Federal Emergency Management Agency

- Encourage increased funding for FEMA, in particular to assist with reimbursement for debris removal both for public and private roads, as well as codifying in federal code the process for reimbursement.
- Advocate full reimbursement for costs associated with housing families from Puerto Rico.

III. Transportation and Infrastructure Funding

- Seek new federal funding for local transportation and infrastructure projects that have a direct nexus to economic growth, provided a local match or effort is provided.

IV. Federal Tax Reform

- Support efforts to keep intact the State and Local Tax deduction (SALT), provided no other equitable solution be proposed to pay for any tax reforms.
- Continue to advocate for the preservation of the current tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

V. Public Health

- Encourage Congress to provide funding for the Opioid epidemic that is disproportionately affecting Florida.
- Oppose healthcare reform efforts that look to shift future costs to counties and cities.

VI. Federal Compliance

- Oppose changes in federal statutes, rules or policies that would sanction or penalize the County based on actions of other local agencies or officials within Hillsborough County.



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General Issues

Affordable Housing

- Support increased funding of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs for important local initiatives, including needed affordable housing development and ongoing mandated management.

Appropriations

- Monitor proposed budget cuts and advocate for the preservation of discretionary programs important to the economic development and well-being of states and localities

Economic Development

- Seek federal funding for key economic development programs, including workforce funding and manufacturing training programs.

Energy

- Monitor comprehensive energy legislation for potential impacts to the county.

Environmental Protection

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

Fleet Management

- Support extension of the federal investment in the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA).

Flood Insurance

- Monitor implementation of, or any proposed changes to, the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014, including the future expiration of National Flood Insurance Program, for impacts on ratepayers and the economy of Hillsborough County.

Head Start

- Advocate for restoration of full funding to maintain current Head Start and Early Head Start enrollment levels and ensure ongoing quality services.

Human Resources

- Monitor any changes to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) that could result in unfunded mandates to the County.



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General Issues (continued)

Infrastructure

- Monitor congressional efforts to advance a broad infrastructure package and advocate for opportunities to address priority needs in transportation, water, telecommunications, or other infrastructure areas addressed in the legislation.

Justice

- Support increased funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) for housing of both “charged” and “convicted” undocumented criminal aliens in county jail.
- Support additional funding of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Formula Grant Program, including authorization to recover greater than 10% for required grant administration.

Library Services

- Monitor funding opportunities that may fund technology upgrades to libraries.

MacDill Air Force Base

- Support the long-term viability and stability of MacDill Air Force Base as a valuable asset in the Tampa Bay community.
- Monitor any congressional efforts to request the implementation of a Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) and its impact on MacDill Air Force Base.

Public Health

- Monitor any changes to federal law that would impact access to healthcare for Hillsborough County residents.
- Advocate for the appropriation of Department of Justice funding authorized in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) to address the opioid crisis.
- Support policy and funding efforts related to Zika.
- Monitor federal policy on medical marijuana for potential state and local impacts.

Public Works

- Advocate for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s allowance of states to adopt and support waste-to-energy as a carbon dioxide mitigation technology.
- Support any federal legislation on “net metering” waste-to-energy, which would allow waste-to-energy facilities to sell energy to customers in an entire service area without restriction.



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General Issues (continued)

RESTORE Act

- Continue coordinating with local, state, and federal stakeholders to ensure funding of local restoration projects from RESTORE Act funds, and monitor any proposals to amend current law or agency rules.

Taxation and Tax Reform

- Support legislation that would require online retailers to collect and remit required state sales taxes to create parity for Florida-based retail outlets.
- Oppose 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.
- Support expansion of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit.
- Support extension of New Market Tax Credits.

Telecommunications

- Oppose any efforts to preempt local authority regarding revenue and right-of-way.

Unfunded Mandates

- Resist federal unfunded mandates that negatively impact limited local government budgets and undermine community self-determination.

Hillsborough County Authorities

- Support the Legislative Programs of Hillsborough County cities, agencies, authorities and community partners unless specific issues conflict with Hillsborough County BOCC positions.

National Association of Counties (NACo)

- Support the NACo Legislative Program unless specific issues conflict with BOCC positions.