

## 2019 State Legislative Program

As approved by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners on January 24th, 2019 and as amended on April 3th, 2019

### Legislative Budget Requests

#### **Emergency Shelter Preparedness and Sustainability Equipment**

- **State Request:** \$885,000
- **Purpose:** Equip the Emergency Operations with generators and chillers for the Hillsborough County General Purpose and Special needs Emergency Shelter. These strategic emergency items will provide the appropriate power to ensure all core functions of the shelter are operational during a time of emergency, as well as provide proper temperatures during summer months.

#### **Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative**

- **State Request:** \$1,000,000
- **Purpose:** To expand its Community-wide, Affordable Supportive Housing (C.A.S.H) Program. The funding would create an additional 70 units of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for homeless Veterans, youth, families and those experiencing chronic homelessness.

#### **Septic Tank Elimination Program**

- **State Request:** \$5,000,000
- **Purpose:** Hillsborough County has over 120,000 registered septic tanks, many of these are located along waterways and within flood prone areas. The Public Utilities Department will plan improvement to extend wastewater collection and transmission systems in residential neighborhoods within the Urban service areas currently using septic systems. The long term benefits will be to protect the groundwater resources of the County and provide improved levels of collection, treatment, and nutrient management.

#### **Hillsborough County Stormwater Enhancement and Improvement Project**

- **State Request:** \$500,000
- **Purpose:** Provide infrastructure and stormwater relief in areas prone to significant and consistent flooding in rural areas of the county. These improvements will help with the safety of homeowners as well as automobile congestion caused by flooding.

#### **School Sidewalks and Safety Enhancements**

- **State Request:** \$2,000,000
- **Purpose:** This project includes the design and construction of sidewalks, lighting, cross walks, warning devices and other safety enhancements near schools. Hillsborough County is a member of the Vision Zero Coalition that is committed through a multi-prong approach to improving safety for all forms of mobility. In the unincorporated area of Hillsborough County, there are over 125 public schools where students walk and bike to school. These enhancements will provide safer routes for students.

## 2019 State Legislative Program

As approved by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners on January 24th, 2019 and as amended on April 3th, 2019

### Legislative Budget Requests (Continued)

#### **Two Rivers Ranch Conservation**

- **Estimated State Request:** \$1,500,000
- **Purpose:** The proposed Two Rivers Ranch Conservation Easement is a 6,946.5-acre property located in northeast Hillsborough County. This property provides the last remaining natural landscape linkage and wildlife corridor between Hillsborough River State Park and the County's Blackwater Creek Preserve. Other contiguous conservation lands that provide habitat connectivity to the Ranch include the County's Lower Green Swamp Preserve and SWFWMD's Lower Hillsborough Flood Detention Area. In all, the Ranch connects over 33,000 acres of preserved lands within a rapidly urbanizing area immediately north of Tampa, while providing over \$51 million in annual ecosystem benefits (e.g. water/air quality, natural systems) to the region.

## 2019 State Legislative Program

As approved by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners on January 24th, 2019 and as amended on April 3th, 2019

### Priority Policy Issues

#### **Home Rule Authority**

- Support legislation that promotes and upholds the statutory authority of Home Rule, and oppose legislation which would handicap local government's ability to provide their mandated services.

#### **Affordable Housing and Homelessness**

- Support legislation that protects and prevents sweeping of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for uses outside of the trust funds original use.
- Support maximum funding of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, SHIP, and other funding options; and monitor for any changes to the document stamp tax funding source.
- Support changes that allow local flexibility in determining how funds are spent in order to serve the greatest number of clients, and permitting administrative costs necessary to comply with state mandated oversight requirements.
- Support a permanent and adequate state dedicated funding source for homeless initiatives.
- Support policies that allow local governments the option to regulate inclusionary housing practices.

#### **Health and Human Services**

- Support additional state funds to address the local and statewide opioid epidemic and any relevant legislation committed to this crisis.
- Encourage state leaders to expand Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act as well promote the expansion of the Florida Healthy Kids Plan.
- Advocate lawmakers to pass legislation that would return local control of zoning requirements for Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTC).
- Support lawmakers to dedicate additional funding for behavioral-health, in particular for Short-term Residential Treatment Facilities (SRT) and for medically assisted treatments.
- Support the voluntary designation of persons with certain disabilities to be displayed on personal ID cards.

#### **Family and Animal Services**

- Encourage lawmakers to amend the Domestic Violence statute to include protections and safeguards for the family pet.
- Support efforts to address the difficult placement of children in our welfare system through the Department of Juvenile Justice.

#### **Economic Development**

- Support Hillsborough County Community College obtain funding for their Southshore Workforce Center.
- Support legislation that seeks to assist and incentivize local business growth and retention, in addition to partnering with local schools and universities to develop local workforce.
- Oppose efforts to prohibit the use of locally levied taxes for the purposes of developing and procuring local economic development and activity.
- Support required comprehensive assessments of potential environmental impacts for future state-wide transportation expansion.

## 2019 State Legislative Program

As approved by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners on January 24th, 2019 and as amended on April 3th, 2019

### Priority Policies (Continued)

#### **Emergency Shelters and Sustainability**

- Encourage lawmakers to require charter school facilities to be used as local emergency shelters.
- Support legislation creating a fund for the purposes of resiliency and sustainability for the purposes of declared state of emergencies.

#### **Water Quality**

- Support comprehensive water legislation that would encourage emerging technologies to address alternative water solutions.

### 2019 General Policy

#### **Energy**

- Monitor comprehensive energy legislation for potential impacts to the county, as well as the development of additional energy sources, specifically in the area of renewable energy.

#### **Coastal Management and Restoration**

- Support legislation that seeks to dedicate a funding source to maintain and enhance Florida's coastline, beaches, and intra-coastal waterways.

#### **Gaming**

- Monitor legislation regarding the Seminole Indian Gaming Compact with the state of Florida, and work to preserve or increase the existing local government revenue sharing structure.

#### **Transportation**

- Encourage lawmakers to make the statutory changes needed to allow the local governments and school boards the flexibility to address traffic safety concerns.
- Seek legislative funding and approval to provide courtesy bussing for students that reside further than 1 mile from their school.
- Support strategic funding requests of the Florida Department of Transportation, District 7, and the legislative priorities of the Hillsborough Area Transit Authority (HART) that benefit the citizens and visitors of Hillsborough County consistent with Hillsborough County BOCC positions.

#### **Environmental Protection and Preservation**

- Monitor any water legislation to ensure continued local authority over water resources.
- Seek state funding (Amendment 1 or other) and/or operational mutual-aid partnership to match local resources for conservation land acquisition, restoration, and preservation, to maximize the impacts of the Hillsborough County Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program (ELAPP).

## 2019 State Legislative Program

As approved by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners on January 24th, 2019 and as amended on April 3th, 2019

### 2019 General Policy Issues (continued)

- Support increased state funding for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program that conserves agricultural lands and operations through conservation easement acquisitions.

#### **Health and Human Services**

- Support the Central Florida Behavioral Network Legislative focus, specifically in the areas of mental-health and substance abuse.
- Monitor any proposed changes to the Low Income Pool (LIP) for impact on IGTs.

#### **Dentistry Care**

- Advocate for legislation which would call for the Florida Department of Health to conduct a comprehensive study on affordability, access, and delivery of dental care in the State of Florida or any comparable legislation.

#### **Library Services**

- Support additional funding for the purposes of state aid to libraries.

#### **Claims Bill Process**

- Monitor legislation amending the Claims Bills Process for economic impact to Hillsborough County.

#### **Unfunded Mandates**

- Oppose state 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.

#### **Florida Association of Counties (FAC)**

- Support the FAC Legislative Program and Guiding Principles unless specific issues conflict with Hillsborough County BOCC positions.