

## 2020 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

As approved by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners on January 23rd, 2020

### PRIORITY ISSUES

#### Home Rule Authority

- **Support** legislation that promotes and upholds the statutory authority of Home Rule.
- **Oppose** legislation that would handicap the ability for local government to provide mandated services.
- **Oppose** House Bill 637 and Senate Bill 1066, and other similar language, that would restrict or limit the ability of local governments to impose impact fees on new development to fund needed infrastructure.

#### Affordable Housing & Homelessness

- **Support** maximum funding of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and advocate legislation that prevents the sweeping of the fund for uses outside of affordable housing.
- **Support** changes that afford flexibility to local governments in determining how funds should be spent in order to serve the greatest number of citizens and permit administrative costs necessary to comply with state mandated oversight requirements.
- **Support** the initiative by members of the Hillsborough County delegation to obtain funding in the amount of \$3,500,000 for the Tampa-Hillsborough Homelessness Initiative in the Shared Program, which will provide housing for 150 needy individuals and/or family members.
- **Support** additional affordable housing opportunities by increasing the singular 9% tax credit cap for large urban counties.

#### Health & Human Services

- **Support** the allocation of additional state funds, specifically to the Central Florida Behavioral Network, to address the local and statewide opioid epidemic and any relevant legislation committed to combatting this crisis.
- Encourage state leaders to expand Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act as well as promote the expansion of the Florida Healthy Kids Plan.
- **Support** legislation by members of the Hillsborough County delegation which would appropriate \$3,600,000 for 30 Short-term Residential Treatment beds (SRT). This effort will address the significant deficit in SRT beds to mitigate the ongoing opioid crisis, and in particular, patients affected by the neonatal epidemic abstinence syndrome.
- **Support** efforts by members of the Hillsborough County delegation to bolster the county's swimmer safety program by acquiring \$150,000, which would provide funding for an additional 1,900 low-income kids to receive life-saving swimming lessons.
- Collaborate with partners on efforts to allow local governments greater autonomy to regulate tobacco and vaping use, products, and services.
- **Oppose** efforts to cut funding to the Medicaid Waiver Program, which enables persons with qualifying developmental disabilities to obtain home and community-based support and services instead of being hospitalized or institutionalized.

## PRIORITY ISSUES (CONTINUED)

### Emergency Shelters, Sustainability, & Public Safety

- **Support** legislative efforts addressing the specific need for increased resiliency and sustainability measures for the state and local governments.
- **Support** the initiative by members of the Hillsborough County delegation to obtain \$2 million for the design and construction of sidewalks, warning devices, and other safety enhancements, which will aim to provide safer routes for students who walk or bike to schools located in unincorporated areas of the county.

### Natural Resources & Environmental Preservation

- Monitor comprehensive water legislation that encourages the development of emerging technologies to address alternative water solutions.
- Collaborate with state efforts to remove septic tanks for the purposes of making improvements to the collection and treatment of wastewater in residential neighborhoods.
- Monitor legislation that deals with potential negative impacts to Florida lands and endangered species.
- **Support** legislation by members of the Hillsborough County delegation to obtain funds in the amount of \$5,000,000 to facilitate septic-to-sewer conversions throughout Hillsborough County.
- Monitor state efforts to ensure implementation Amendment IX's ban on offshore drilling.

### Civil & Criminal Justice

- Advocate for the state of Florida's ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- Seek support from state agencies for the provision of assistance to children and foster children in the care of our welfare system.
- **Support** legislation that clarifies the mechanics of the public records exemption afforded to crime victims through Marsy's Law.
- **Support** continued legislative efforts to combat human trafficking throughout the state and local governments.
- Monitor any legislative or legal action pertaining to the implementation of Amendment IV.
- **Support** House Bill 903 and Senate Bill 1328, and other similar language, to modernize Florida's criminal justice system fine and fee structure to allow ex-offenders the ability to successfully reintegrate into society while meeting their financial obligations.

### Economic Development

- **Support** Senate Bill 362 and House Bill 213 which would appropriately fund and reauthorize Visit Florida for eight years.
- **Support** legislation that extends the operation of the qualified targeted industry (QTI) refund program throughout the state.
- **Support** the initiative to acquire funding for the construction and enhancement of cultural arts throughout the county.
- **Support** specific legislation creating the Film, Television, and Digital Media Targeted Rebate Program within the Department of Economic Opportunity.
- **Support** the initiative by members of the Hillsborough County delegation to acquire \$2 million for the purposes of conducting a project development & environment (PD&E) study of Gibsonton Road, which is at capacity and in need of proper modifications to address the needs of South County residents.

## GENERAL ISSUES

### Environment & Natural Resources

- Monitor comprehensive energy legislation for potential impacts to the county, as well as the development of additional energy sources, specifically with regards to renewable energy.
- **Support** legislation that seeks to dedicate a funding source to maintain and enhance Florida's coastline, beaches, and intra-coastal waterways.
- 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).
- **Support** increased state funding for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program that conserves agricultural lands and operations through conservation easement acquisitions.

### 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

- **Support** strategic funding requests by 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.

### Health & Human Services

- Monitor any proposed changes to the Low Income Pool (LIP) for impact on IGTs.

### 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.

### General Support & Opposition

- **Support** the Legislative Programs of Hillsborough County cities, agencies, authorities and community partners unless specific issues conflict with Hillsborough County BOCC positions.
- **Support** the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Legislative Program and Guiding Principles unless specific issues conflict with Hillsborough County BOCC positions.
- **Oppose** state unfunded mandates that negatively impact limited local government budgets and undermine community self-determination.