



MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2016



MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 20, 2016

Office of the County Administrator, Legislative Affairs

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Senate District 39: Dwight Bullard

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Florida Association of Counties

Small County Coalition

Florida City and County Management Association

National Association of Counties

International City/County Management Association

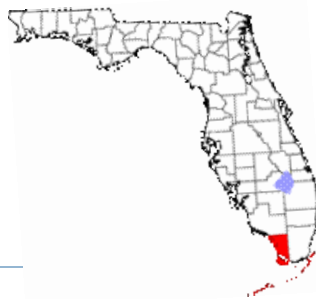


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REPORT AND DISCUSSION

BACKGROUND

Staff is seeking Board approval of the issues presented herein to be included in the County's 2016 State Legislative Program. Upon Board approval, staff and the contract lobbying teams will pursue all of the legislative issues approved by the Board, and in so doing, place appropriate priority on the issues that the Board directs to receive a special level of attention in 2016.

Annually, the Board reviews legislative priorities and gives direction on and approval of priority legislative issues to guide the County's lobbying efforts at both the state and federal level. Typically, the County identifies as priorities only its most pressing issues and then supports the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and the Small County Coalition (SCC) in achieving their broader substantive initiatives. FAC finalized its legislative program during its legislative conference in November. As a member of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact, Monroe County works collaboratively to help develop the Compact's draft legislative program. The Compact finalized its draft agenda in December; and was reviewed and approved by the County Commission for approval at its December meeting.

Each year, the BOCC and staff evaluate the trends and issues affecting all County programs and services to identify potential policy or substantive legislative issues. Staff has provided a draft list of substantive priorities and a list general issues that we should monitor for the 2016 state legislative session; and welcomes the addition or deletion of issues that the Board deems appropriate for the County's 2016 legislative efforts.

Like most legislation, the County's legislative efforts are incremental and focused on issues that are built upon throughout several sessions, such as water quality infrastructure funding, land acquisition, and Citizen's wind insurance affordability; these will continue to be legislative priorities in the 2016 session.

The County will seek to steer dedicated annual funding through proposed legislation, the "Florida Keys Stewardship" bill, which seeks to establish a 10 year authorization to fund both water quality projects and land acquisition. For water quality funding, it will encompass the current Mayfield wastewater authorization, expanding its uses beyond wastewater to include storm water management and canal water restoration and expanding the term to 10 years (with the intention to eventually extend for an additional 10 years.) The new legislation will further include an annual appropriation for land acquisition to enable Florida Department of Environmental Protection to renew an aggressive land acquisition program in the Florida Keys.

There is need to keep our state legislators mindful about the economic value and return on investment that water quality protection and land conservation have for the State of Florida. Our state legislators also need to be reminded about the impacts and consequences of Monroe County's challenge of protecting both environmentally sensitive lands while balancing private property rights. We continue to work closely with the State's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) on these issues.

Property insurance affordability is yet another critical need for our constituents and a key component in preserving the Keys' strong local economy that is a valuable economic engine for the State. At the State level, this requires working with and monitoring Citizens Property Insurance Company's wind storm insurance to find ways to enhance affordability, and to oppose efforts to increase premiums, reduce coverage, and reduce eligibility. Affordable flood insurance is another important issue, but

mainly a federal one. However, Monroe supports any efforts that may be made by State Legislature on behalf of the over 1 million Floridians who are policy holders in the National Flood Insurance Program, to preserve the NFIP and affordable flood insurance.

As always, it remains important for the lobbying teams to monitor the budgetary and programmatic decisions made by the Legislature to determine their impact on local governments in the form of revenue reductions, cost shifts and unfunded mandates.

It is beneficial for the Board to be active participants in the legislative process by testifying on behalf of the County and working with the legislative delegation. Staff will continue to keep the Board involved in legislative issues through agenda items, resolutions, memoranda, FAC “Call to Action” emails, and regular updates.

LOBBYING CONTRACTS

The County utilizes contract lobbying services at the state level to further the County’s legislative goals and in pursuit of support and appropriations for Monroe’s interests. Monroe County currently contracts with Robert Reyes with Capital Group (formerly Floridian Partners) and John Wayne Smith of Peebles Smith (with a sub-contract with Capitol Insight), and Frank Bernardino with Anfield Consulting. These firms provide a daily presence in Tallahassee and advocate for the County’s legislative priorities.

For the specific focus area of water quality and land acquisition funding, and to assist with the passage of the Keys Stewardship bill, Monroe County contracted with Anfield Consulting, whose specialty and expertise is water-related state funding and appropriations.

Capitol Group, Peebles Smith, and Capitol Insight will continue to focus on state funding for water quality and land acquisition, wind insurance, state funding for critical services and infrastructure, and various programmatic and financial interests as they arise in the upcoming session.

Staff coordinates regularly with all of the lobbyists by phone and e-mail to strategize on key state policy, regulatory, and budget issues. In addition, lobbyists will submit monthly memoranda to update the Board on their lobbying activities in order to further improve communication between the Board and their federal lobbying firm.

Please find on the following pages a listing of the proposed Monroe County 2016 state legislative issues; with a brief discussion on each.

KEY DATES

- ❖ January 12: 2016 State Legislative Session Opens
- ❖ February 3: Florida Association of Counties Legislative Day
- ❖ February 17: Florida Keys Legislative Day
- ❖ March 11: Last Day of Regular Session

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

LAND ACQUISITION: CONSERVATION, PROPERTY RIGHTS, MILITARY BUFFERS

CHALLENGES:

- **Area of Critical State Concern:** The State of Florida designated the Florida Keys an Area of Critical State Concern, in recognition of its unique and significant environmental resources.
- **Hurricane Evacuation:** The State’s hurricane evacuation rules for the Keys, mandate that the Keys be safely evacuated within 24 hours. This limits the number of cars on the road which limits the number of people that can live here, which the State accomplishes through an annual rationing of building permits, until we reach a cap or “build out.”
- **Development Permits:** The State allots the Florida Keys 355 permits annually. At that rate, according to the most recent hurricane evacuation modelling, we will reach build out in 2023. As of 2013, the Keys has a total of 3,550 permits over the next years, after which no further development will be permitted.
- **Property Rights/Takings:** There are approximately 11,384 privately-owned undeveloped parcels. After we apply the rest of our available permits (3,550), there will still be 7,800 privately-owned, undeveloped parcels valued conservatively at \$317M, potentially with no ability to develop. The deficit of permits could trigger takings lawsuits against the local governments and the State from owners who may have been denied the ability to build on their property.

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

Reinitiate a State partnership to implement long-term land acquisition strategy in the Florida Keys aimed at preserving land and reducing the total inventory of privately owned vacant land to curtail the threat of significant future takings liability. Monroe County has allocated \$10M in local match funds for land acquisition.

- ✓ **SUPPORT HB 447/SB 770, The Florida Keys Stewardship Act:** Will provide a 10 year annual state appropriation of \$5M dedicated to the acquisition of vacant land for the purposes of complying with the legislative intent of the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern.
- ✓ **SUPPORT funding from Land Acquisition Trust Fund/Florida Forever for two highly-ranked Florida Forever projects in the Florida Keys:** The Keys have two prioritized Florida Forever projects. Of the 7,800 privately-owned, undeveloped properties that could be left without permits almost half — 3,400—lie within these Florida Forever projects.
- ✓ **SUPPORT Military Base Protection Program funding for Naval Air Station Key West encroachment threats:** The Keys are home the U.S. Naval Air Station Key West; we are working to get prioritized within the State’s Military Base Protection Program, land that presents encroachment threats to the base’s operation. Approximately 500 of the 7,800 privately-owned, undeveloped parcels lie within military buffer areas.
- ✓ **SUPPORT significant, reliable funding from Land Acquisition Trust Fund** for the acquisition of land including land management, restoration of natural systems, conservation of land to improve water quality, and protection of critical land and water habitat.
- ✓ **SUPPORT increased Florida Communities Trust Funding.**

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION: WASTEWATER TREATMENT, STORMWATER, CANAL WATERS

CHALLENGES:

- **Unique Ecosystem:** The Florida Keys lie within the waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. This fragile and complex marine ecosystem of the Florida Keys is one of the most unique ecosystems in the world and is home to the **only living coral reef** in the continental U.S. and the third largest barrier reef in the world, the largest sea grass meadow in the hemisphere, and 6,000 species of marine life. Leaching cesspits, runoff and degraded canal waters pollute the nearshores waters of the Sanctuary and threaten the ecosystem.
- **Unrivaled Economic Impact:** This ecosystem is the lifeblood of marine-based tourism and fisheries economy unrivaled in the State of Florida generating over **\$4B in economic activity**, enabling the Keys to generate **\$200M in sales tax revenue** for the State last year.
- **Federal State Water Quality Mandates:** The implementation of Advanced Wastewater Treatment standards, storm water management and canal water restoration in the Florida Keys are all pursuant to and in furtherance of the Federal Water Quality Protection Program mandates that apply to all of the waters surrounding the Florida Keys. Congress created the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary in 1990 and directed US EPA and the State to develop a Water Quality Protection Program to restore and protect water quality.
- **Wastewater Implementation:** The Florida Keys have invested almost \$900M for a centralized advanced wastewater treatment system that spans the 100+mile archipelago. The State has invested \$100M in that system.
- **Storm water and Degraded Canal Waters:** With wastewater treatment system improvements almost complete, the Keys must now address two remaining areas of water quality concern, storm water and degraded canal waters. There are approximately 300 poor water quality canals throughout the Keys that do not meet state water quality standards. Runoff and poor canal water leach into the nearshore waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and threaten its fragile ecosystem.

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT HB 447/SB 770, The Florida Keys Stewardship Act:** Will provide a 10 year annual state appropriation of \$20M dedicated to address water quality projects in the Florida Keys.
- ✓ **SUPPORT expansion of use of infrastructure sales tax** for restoration of public water bodies including ecologically beneficial muck removal.

WIND INSURANCE AND FLOOD INSURANCE: AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSABILITY

CHALLENGES:

- **Single provider of wind insurance:** Citizens Property Insurance Company provides wind insurance coverage for approximately 90% of Keys’ homes, and is limited to homes valued up to \$750,000. Those properties valued over \$750,000 must use surplus lines.
- **Affordability importance:** Property insurance affordability is a key component in preserving the Keys’ strong local economy that is a valuable economic engine for the State, and critically important to our residents and business community.
- **Premium increases and depopulation:** Each year Citizens lobbies the State Legislature to increase its premiums and limit its availability; higher costs and limited coverage negatively impacts our citizens, our real estate market and our economy. Monroe County opposes any legislation that increases present premiums or efforts to further depopulate (for example, prohibiting homes over a certain market value, or second homes, from coverage).
- **Monroe’s building standards:** Monroe County’s building standards are among the most rigorous in the State, yet this is not reflected in Citizens’ rate calculations for Monroe property owners. We are working with Citizens to account for Monroe’s building code in mitigation credit calculations and supports legislation that establishes premium rates that are commensurate with actual risk.
- **Flood Insurance:** Affordable flood insurance is another important issue, but mainly a federal one. Affordable flood insurance is provided through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). With more NFIP policies than any other state, Florida has a lot at stake with the future of the program, and its continued ability to provide flood insurance to Floridians at affordable rates. The majority of NFIP policies belong to homes and businesses in the state’s coastal communities; these coastal communities generate 80% of the State’s GDP. The County encourages the State Legislature to recognize the value of NFIP and the local and state-wide economic benefits of affordable flood insurance and to ensure and support measures that preserve it.



REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **MONITOR** all legislation related to Citizens wind insurance and flood insurance.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation that increases Citizens’ wind insurance premiums.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation that limits the availability of Citizens’ coverage (particularly in areas such as Monroe, where there is no reasonable degree of competition for windstorm insurance.)
- ✓ **SUPPORT** legislative fix to rate calculation for condominium owners.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** state legislative efforts that recognize the importance of affordable flood insurance to home-owners and local businesses, particularly in coastal communities, and to their local economies, which in turn contribute tremendously to the overall state economy; and that seek to address flood insurance premium rate hikes associated with changes to the National Flood Insurance Program.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** the legislative efforts of Fair Insurance Rates for Monroe (FIRM) related to both wind and flood insurance affordability and availability for Monroe County.

UNFUNDED MANDATES, COUNTY REVENUES, STATE FUNDING LEVELS AND HOME RULE

CHALLENGES:

- **Unfunded Mandates:** The State Legislature frequently passes legislation that compels local governments to provide a service, program, or benefit without providing the appropriate funding. As more and more mandates are created, local governments are faced with the burden of using local tax dollars to finance functions that they have little control over and compromising local governments' ability to provide services requested by our local communities.
- **Cost shifts:** The State Legislature frequently passes legislation that passes along the costs or increases local share requirements for services traditionally funded by the State, such as but not limited to County Health Departments, Courts, Clerks' offices, Juvenile Justice, and mental health services.
- **Restrictions of County Revenue Sources:** At the same time the State Legislation imposes more mandates and costs, it often pursues legislation reducing, restricting or eliminating sources of revenue for county services, such as the Local Business Tax, Communication Services Tax, impact fees, and sales taxes.
- **Pre-emption of Home Rule:** Home rule, conferred to Florida counties by Article VIII, Section 1(f) and 1(g) of the Florida Constitution (1968), and by section 125.01, Florida Statutes, is the principle that the government closest to the people is the appropriate authority to serve the needs and requirements of the community. The preservation of this concept is essential to the operation of county governments in Florida, and which allows counties to develop and implement county-based solutions to local problems.
- **Pre-emption Examples:** The State Legislature often pursues local government pre-emptions in its bills that prohibit local governments from banning or even regulating activities enabled by the Legislature such as: fracking, single use plastic bags and vacation rentals.

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** measures to adequately and fairly fund County Clerks' offices.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** increased State general revenue funding for State Department of Health County Health Departments (CHDs); and oppose any further efforts that reduce state support and shift costs to counties.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** current level of funding from the Clean Vessel Act to enable continued water quality protection measures to address impacts from boaters.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation that reduces revenues collected from state park admission fees.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** any legislation that eliminates, reduces, or restricts uses of the Communications Services Tax, Local Business Tax and/or Commercial Lease Sales Tax.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation that restricts local governments' home rule authority to set impact or concurrency fees.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** further efforts to shift cost of services, unfunded mandates, pre-emption of local government authority (home rule), or other legislation that is costly and limits Monroe County's ability to serve the needs of its citizens without requisite increases in local property taxes.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** continued/increased state funding for local infrastructure and service needs including: Roads, Affordable Housing, Homelessness, Social Services, Libraries, Veterans, and Mental Health.

DERELICT VESSELS

CHALLENGES:

- The generation of derelict vessels statewide has been recognized by the Florida Legislature and FWC as posing significant navigational and environmental impacts to be addressed. In the summer of 2015 the FWC held a series of workshops throughout the State to consider regulatory options to: 1) reduce the number of derelict vessels, including specifically addressing long-term anchoring (storage) of vessels that often leads to degeneration and ultimately to derelict condition, and 2) ensure sufficient funding to remove and dispose of derelict vessels.
- Monroe County has the highest number of derelict vessels in the State. Consistent with FWC and statewide goals, Monroe County supports anchoring restrictions and ensuring sufficient revenues for removing and disposing of derelict vessels.
- During the workshops, FWC identified 8 conceptual regulatory concepts that were highly supported by stakeholders, designed to discourage dereliction of vessels, including ability to place a hold on derelict vessel titles, limitation on renewal of registrations, penalties for expired registrations, identification and prohibition of “at risk” vessels, and rapid removal of some types of derelict vessels.
- Under the authority of the FWC Pilot Program for Anchoring and Mooring, Monroe County in 2012 established 4 “Managed Anchoring Zones.” Within those zones is a regulation for proof of pumpout, requiring vessel owners/operator to provide proof that they have had their sewage holding tank has been pumped out on a regular basis. In order to assist those boaters in complying with the proof of pumpout regulation (and requirements of the federally established “No Discharge Zone” throughout the Keys’ waters), the County has provided a free mobile vessel pump out service. After three years of provision of the pump out service and requirement of proof of pumpout, FWC and the County have determined that there is near 100% compliance of the proof of pumpout regulation within the “Managed Anchoring Zones”. Based on the success of the proof of pumpout requirement in association with the mobile pump out service provided, the County desires to expand the proof of pumpout requirement Keys-wide.

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** a \$1 surcharge on vessel registrations to be deposited into a State fund for the sole purpose of derelict vessel removals, and an additional \$1 surcharge on all Monroe County vessel registrations to be retained for Monroe County and to be used solely for the purpose of derelict vessel removals within Monroe County.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** regulations pertaining to the anchoring and mooring of vessels outside public mooring fields, specifically limited anchoring of non-liveaboards in one location on public waters to 60 days.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** statutory authority that would enable Monroe County to regulate by ordinance the requirement that all vessels in Monroe County waters which are required to have a marine sanitation device provide proof of pumpout.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** continued Clean Vessel Act funding to Monroe County, and state efforts to secure higher level of CVA funding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and/or State appropriation of funding for pumpout services. This funding is critical to incentivizing boaters to pumpout.

- ✓ **SUPPORT** development and implementation of the eight derelict vessel regulatory concepts that were identified by stakeholders during the FWC workshops.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** continued state and local regulation of vessels, mooring fields, bulkheads and seawalls, floating vessel platforms, and seagrasses in order to protect water quality.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** further dilution of county authority to regulate vessels and waterways.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR MEETINGS OF ADVISORY BOARDS

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** a Monroe County local bill amending sunshine law statutory requirements to allow for teleconferencing presence at advisory committee meetings.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE SALES TAX:

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** an amendment to the local option sales tax statutory requirements to include professional services, such as legal and planning services, as an allowable use of funds.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** an amendment to the local option sales tax statutory requirements that “public facility” be defined as a facility owned by any governmental entity, and not limited to County ownership in order to facilitate jointly financed projects with other governmental entities.
- ✓ **SUPPORT SB 346** amending local option sales tax statutory requirements to include restoration of public water bodies and ecologically beneficial muck removal as an allowable use of funds.

CLERKS FUNDING

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** legislative efforts to establish permanent, reliable funding for Clerks’ offices.

OIL DRILLING/FRACKING

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **OPPOSE** hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” or similar well stimulation processes and treatments performed for the purpose of exploration or production of energy resources in the State, or in the Florida Keys, or any area that would impact the water supply or watersheds of the Florida Keys.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** a pre-emption of fracking/drilling activities, including ancillary activities such as waste storage, handling and disposal, truck traffic, and other local public health and safety impacts.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** any state law that would create a public records law exemption for proprietary information provided by drilling companies.

- ✓ **OPPOSE** efforts to lift the ban on oil drilling within Florida’s territorial waters.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** oil drilling on state lands.

VACATION RENTALS

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **OPPOSE** preemption prohibiting local communities from regulating vacation rentals.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** SB 338 that would allow entities with grandfathered ordinances to amend and update their regulations without losing their grandfathered status.

UTILITY RELOCATION

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation requiring counties to pay for the relocation of private utilities when such utilities are located within a county-owned right of way and must be moved to accommodate a county project.

SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **OPPOSE** preemption prohibiting local communities from banning single use plastic bags, particularly coastal communities where plastic bags are not only an environmental pollutant but also pose a danger to ocean and coastal wildlife.

GENERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

GROWTH MANAGEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** the continued designation of the Florida Keys as an Area of Critical State Concern.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation that prevents counties from having local environmental protection programs that are stricter in nature than state or federal regulatory programs.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** any legislation that restricts state, county and city government purchases of conservation land, and which would effectively eliminate land conservation efforts in the Florida Keys.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** growth management legislation that is thoroughly vetted with all stakeholders, and that takes a targeted approach to increasing regulatory efficiencies, rather than broadly preempting local governments.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** the current case law definition of the "ordinary high water mark" delineating state lands from lands in private ownership and
- ✓ **OPPOSE** any changes to the definition which have the effect of transferring large quantities of wetlands and uplands from state ownership to private ownership.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** legislative efforts that strengthen the existing roles and home rule powers of local governments to implement comprehensive planning programs that guide future development and encourage the most appropriate use of land and natural resources.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** county home rule authority, and current statutory provisions, which allow counties to retain their current transportation concurrency systems, and impact fees, as adopted by local ordinance.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation that preempts local government's ability to establish and maintain local ordinances which regulate billboards.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING /HOMELESSNESS

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** full appropriation of Sadowski Housing Trust Fund monies for affordable housing.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** the Florida Keys set-aside in the State's competitive Low Income Housing Tax Credit program.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** legislation that creates a dedicated state funding source for homelessness programs and services.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** legislation that streamlines current state statutes relating to homelessness and associated programs.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** continued coordination with the state's homeless planning council, specifically as it develops policies in support of the new Federal Strategic Plan to end Homelessness.

- ✓ **SUPPORT** the development of strategies that would allow local governments to work with the state and federal government to serve target populations: The chronically homeless, Veterans and Families and children, with particular emphasis on children aging out of the foster care system.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** a process that would waive the fees related to obtaining personal identification from the state for persons identified as homeless.

HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, AND SOCIAL SERVICES

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** increasing state general revenue funding for County Health Departments (CHDs), preserving the ability of CHDs to provide primary care and direct patient care services, particularly in communities without adequate substitutes or alternative providers for these services, and maintaining a coordinated system of county health departments (CHDs) that is centrally housed within the Department of Health (DOH).
- ✓ **OPPOSE** efforts to decentralize the public health system by transferring authority over CHDs from the DOH to the respective county governments, any state reductions to the County Health Department Trust Funds; and any efforts, legislative or otherwise, to limit or eliminate the provision of primary care services in CHDs.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** legislative reforms enhance and improve the coordination and delivery of high quality mental health services, including diverting, assisting and treating mentally ill persons outside of the criminal justice system, and the necessary increased funding to implement and support those reforms; and continued efforts to work through Medicaid reform initiatives to ensure that persons with substance abuse and mental health treatment needs are appropriately served.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** appropriate funding as outlined in the existing state capacity formula for crisis mental health and substance abuse beds statewide (Baker Act).
- ✓ **SUPPORT** establishing a cap on growth in the individual county Medicaid costs to address cost shifts; and continued evaluation of the County-State Medicaid cost-share arrangement.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** state legislation drawing down federal funds made available to Florida under the PPACA to expand health care coverage to certain individuals who earn up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, provided that such a program does not further shift Medicaid costs to counties.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** legislation that limits the ability of county EMS providers to be reimbursed for out of network transports.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** efforts to increase supportive housing, employment and education initiatives for people with behavioral health issues and/or disabilities.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** appropriate funding for children in early learning and school age care to ensure children's access to educational, enrichment and readiness programs; and continuation of funding for the Florida Healthy Start and Healthy Families program.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** restoration and expansion of state funding for the Community Care for the Elderly Program, which provides cost efficient diversion from nursing home placement for impaired elders.

- ✓ **SUPPORT** the continuation of a coordinated Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) system, and appropriate and dedicated state funding for the TD program; protect the TD trust fund.

LIBRARIES

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** full funding of State Aid to Libraries based on the current statutory formula that provides counties 25 cents for every local dollar spent.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** measures that ensure decisions and policies regarding county libraries are made at the local level.

TRANSPORTATION

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** continuing enhanced state funding for the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP). This funding is critical to Monroe County which is a small county with major bridge and local road responsibilities.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** increasing the cost cap (from \$400,000 to \$750,000) for counties to self-perform road improvement projects using the Constitutional Gas Tax proceeds.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** amending s.336.045, Florida Statutes, to include an additional paragraph expressly authorizing Florida counties to determine the reasonable level and frequency of local road maintenance.

JAILS, JUVENILE JUSTICE

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **OPPOSE** sentencing of state inmates to county jails, but support counties' ability to contract with the Department of Corrections for housing state inmates.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** legislation that reduces jail expenses by setting a reimbursement amount paid by counties to medical providers for health care services for inmates and arrestees at no higher than the established Medicare rate plus 10%, the same rate as currently charged to the Department of Corrections, unless there is an existing contract in place or a business practice providing a lower rate.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** continued efforts to obtain Medicaid eligibility for persons incarcerated in county jails while waiting disposition of their cases and to ensure that existing Medicaid benefits are not terminated during incarceration.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** the state taking full responsibility for funding and operation of detention facilities serving juveniles, both for pre-disposition and post-disposition days and implementing juvenile justice reform.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** initiatives which reduce juvenile detention through prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services.

- ✓ **SUPPORT** the Legislature appropriating state funds to the Department of Juvenile Justice to upgrade, renovate, or reconstruct detention centers across Florida that are in a state of disrepair and state investments in juvenile facilities to improve the conditions of secure confinement for detained youth without such costs being shifted to the counties.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** assistance for building/identifying Out of County Shelter for residents of Monroe County in cases of mandatory evacuation during storm-related events and other emergencies.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** state funding for county Emergency Operations Centers to ensure each is able to meet the minimum structural survivability and operational space criteria established by the state and federal government.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** an increase to the county base grant funding, which has remained unchanged for nearly a decade.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** maintaining the original intent and purpose of the Emergency Management Preparation And Assistance Trust Fund, which is to serve as a funding source for state and local emergency management programs, by ensuring that all monies collected for purposes of funding emergency management, preparedness and assistance are deposited into the EMPA Trust Fund and spent on emergency management activities, and opposing legislative sweeps of these trust fund monies.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** changes to the EMPA trust fund by ensuring the \$2.00 and \$4.00 annual surcharge on all homeowner and business insurance policies is assessed on either a per-parcel or per-unit basis of coverage, rather than on a single policy and a repeal of the service charge to general revenue on the EMPA trust fund and redirect these monies back to the counties in the same manner in which the EMPA base grant is distributed.
- ✓ **Disaster Funding: SUPPORT** a 50/50 cost-share arrangement with the state for the non-federal portion of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). **SUPPORT** the creation of an emergency bridge loan program for counties to provide a source of expedient cash flow to counties impacted by a major catastrophe.

SUSTAINABILITY, RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** the 2016 legislative initiatives of the SE Florida Regional Climate Compact's State Energy and Climate Legislative Program.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** incentives for local governments to assist in furthering state energy policies such as green building and carbon emissions reductions, and the technical assistance to implement these programs and legislation that provides appropriate resources and incentives to local governments to achieve any statewide recycling goals.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** state legislation that encourages vulnerability assessments, coordinates resources and supports the efforts of local governments to mitigate and adapt to sea level rise, increasing storm severity and other climate changes, and state funding for adaptation planning and investments in

areas such as roads and other infrastructure projects that provide hazard mitigation and serve to reduce immediate and long-term risks to critical infrastructure.

- ✓ **SUPPORT** a state comprehensive climate change action plan, energy policies, and other initiatives to reduce carbon dioxide and other compounds in the atmosphere which will help provide solutions to present and future generations, including ecosystem sustainability, long term water supply, flood protection, public health and safety, and economic growth and prosperity.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** state funding of Solid Waste Management Grants.

PACE (PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY)

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **SUPPORT** amending statutory language to clarify that in addition to energy retrofits and wind mitigation, that flood mitigation is also an allowable use.

PENSION CHANGES

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- ✓ **OPPOSE** any benefit changes that result in an increase in the FRS county and county employee contribution rates.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** requiring all legislation that potentially results in an increase in the FRS contribution rate or the closing of the traditional pension plan to new employees to be analyzed and evaluated to determine the direct fiscal impact of proposed changes to all local and state government to be eligible for consideration.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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