

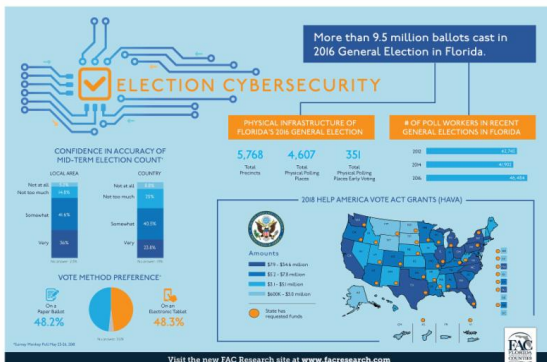


FEDERAL UPDATE

Florida Association of Counties, June 2018

Florida receives federal election security money

On June 7, Florida received a \$19.2 million federal grant for election security. While Congress originally approved these funds in March, Florida did not request its share until May. The State Legislature must now approve the distribution of funds through a vote of the Legislative Budget Commission. Funds will ultimately be shared among the county supervisors of elections, who will determine the best use of the funds in combatting elections security threats, including enhancing cybersecurity systems and technology, updated voting systems, as well as poll worker training and voter education.



Don't miss our cybersecurity workshop: [Are Your Voting Systems Secure?](#), at the 2018 FAC Annual Conference in Orange County June 26 - 29, 2018.

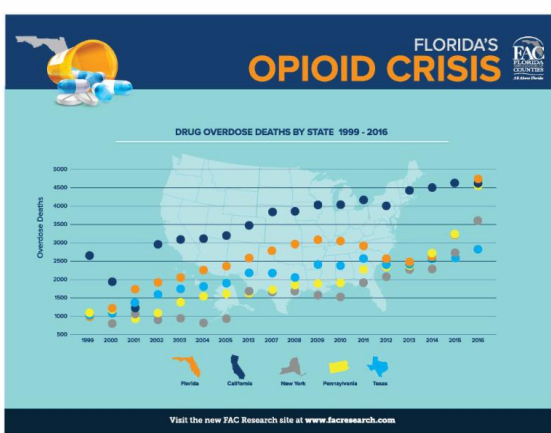
Check out our cyber-security research at www.facresearch.com

U.S. House voting on opioid legislation while the Senate continues to work

The House of Representatives has begun voting on dozens of bills aimed at enhancing the nation's response to the opioid crisis after a series of committee hearings and markups in

various committees throughout May.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee recently approved fifty-seven opioid-related bills, and members of the Ways and Means Committee advanced an additional seven. Other committees of jurisdiction, including the House Judiciary and Financial Services Committees, are working on measures relating to specific aspects of the crisis, such as drug interdiction and housing for individuals struggling with addiction.



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*It's not too late to register for the **2018 FAC Annual Conference** where you can participate in the Opioid Forum presented by Aetna. Register onsite starting Tuesday, June 26.*

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Supreme Court Decision on Collection of Internet Sales Tax



On June 21, the Supreme Court ruled in *South Dakota v. Wayfair* that state and local governments can require online retailers to collect and remit sales tax, regardless of whether the company has a physical presence in the state. This 5-4 decision overturns a 1992 ruling that established the “physical presence test,” which holds that a state cannot require an out-of-state retailer with no physical presence in a state to collect sales tax on goods that it ships to buyers in that state.

The 1992 decision was decided prior to the explosion of online shopping. Nationwide, the Government Accounting Office estimates that between \$8 billion and \$13.4 billion in online sales taxes goes uncollected annually. FAC will continue to monitor the next steps of the state and federal governments in response to this major decision.

The *South Dakota v. Wayfair* decision can be [read here](#).

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PILT Underpayment Litigation

Kane County, Utah successfully challenged Congress' underfunding of the PILT

program for the years 2015, 2016, and 2017, resulting in back payments due to all local governments in the PILT program. All Florida counties that receive PILT payments are members of the class established and are entitled to a portion of the litigation proceeds.



Funds will be divided among the participating local entities on a pro rata basis. The law firm representing the class sent notices to impacted local governments on Monday, June 6, outlining the process for each county to participate in the case.

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2019 Budget Bills

In order to complete a 2019 budget, Congress must pass twelve different spending bills by October 1. The House approach has been to bundle these bills into a handful of “minibus” spending packages. The first minibus package, H.R. 5895 (115), which passed the House by a 235-179 vote, combines the Energy and Water, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and the Legislative Branch funding bills that has previously been approved by the House Appropriations Committee.

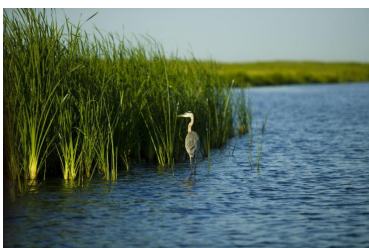


The \$147 billion House package includes increased funding for the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). While the bill increases DOE funding overall, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy would receive a significant \$2 billion budget cut.

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Water Resources Development Act of 2018



Congress appears to be on track to pass a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), as the House passed the H.R. 8 (115), the 2018 WRDA bill, by a 408-2 vote on June 6. Congress generally aims to pass a WRDA bill, which authorizes federal (Army Corps of Engineers) navigation, flood control and protection, ecosystem restoration, and other types of water projects, every two years. H.R. 8 includes some Florida-specific provisions

including hurricane and storm damage risk reduction in St. Lucie and St. Johns Counties, as well expediting construction of the water storage reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee with the goal of reducing water discharges from the lake.

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