



Growth Management

The impact of growth and development in Florida during the last 30 years has brought significant benefits and costs to county government. Given Florida's expected future growth and because Florida's communities are remarkably diverse, Florida's counties must have flexibility in planning decisions to address unique local concerns and conditions. County officials must have the ability to make reasonable decisions for the advancement of the local community on zoning, comprehensive planning, transportation, and infrastructure issues without being subjected to prohibitive claims for damages for infringement on private property rights.

- GATE 1. The Florida Association of Counties supports comprehensive policies that reduce a county's risk to the impacts of coastal and inland flooding.
- GATE 2. The Florida Association of Counties recognizes and supports the critical role Regional Planning Councils play in supporting communities by coordinating intergovernmental solutions to growth problems on greater-than-local issues, providing technical assistance to local governments.
- GATE 3. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that provide a mechanism to ensure the extra-jurisdictional impacts from large-scale development projects are adequately addressed within the impacted counties prior to development approval.
- GATE 4. The Florida Association of Counties supports retaining the full amount of dedicated documentary tax revenues to fund state and local affordable housing programs.
- GATE 5. The Florida Association of Counties supports the development and maintenance of dedicated funding of the Florida Forever Grant Program and Florida Communities Trust which provide recreational opportunities for parks, open space, greenways and trails to help meet growth challenges and protect natural resources.
- GATE 6. The Florida Association of Counties supports the development and maintenance of dedicated funding the Rural and Family Lands Protection Act to allow for the purchase of rural easements to prevent the subdivision and conversion of such land into other uses.
- GATE 7. The Florida Association of Counties supports the distribution of land management appropriations to local governments in proportion to the percentage of public conservation lands managed within local jurisdictions.



Transportation

FAC believes that Florida's transportation system is a vital component in building and sustaining communities, moving people and goods, and developing competition at local and regional levels, and on a national scale. Florida's counties play a critical role in the state's transportation system. Florida's counties should be recognized as major partners in the maintenance and development of Florida's transportation infrastructure and provided levels of funding and authority that adequately reflect their role in the state's transportation system.

- GATE 8. The Florida Association of Counties supports funding for all modes of the state and local transportation infrastructure network.
- GATE 9. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies and funding that encourage and facilitate more efficient and effective use of regional transportation solutions.
- GATE 10. The Florida Association of Counties supports critical state funding for the Small County Road Assistance program (SCRAP).
- GATE 11. The Florida Association of Counties supports continuing enhanced state funding for the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP).
- GATE 12. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies providing for Strategic Intermodal System funds to be used on roads and other transportation facilities not designated on the SIS network if the improvement relieves congestion on the SIS.
- GATE 13. The Florida Association of Counties opposes any effort to divert revenues from the state transportation trust fund for non-transportation purposes.

Environment

Conservation and protection of Florida's natural resources is critical to managing growth, promoting economic development, and maintaining a healthy environment to ensure a high quality of life for Floridians.

- GATE 14. The Florida Association of Counties supports the allocation of matching funds to county governments to purchase environmentally sensitive and endangered lands.
- GATE 15. The Florida Association of Counties supports a comprehensive state climate change action plan, with energy policies and other initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases and to address ecosystem sustainability, long term water supply, flood protection, public health and safety, and economic prosperity.



- GATE 16. The Florida Association of Counties supports state and federal recognition of adaptation and mitigation as critical to any climate change plan, and the funding necessary to assist local governments in developing and implementing these initiatives.
- GATE 17. The Florida Association of Counties supports collaboration among regional coalitions focused on resiliency and climate change in order to maximize resources, share information, analysis, and best practices, and foster useful collaboration.
- GATE 18. The Florida Association of Counties supports streamlining the permitting and regulatory processes for solar product manufacturers, installers, and consumers, and further supports reducing burdensome regulations that hinder solar market penetration.
- GATE 19. The Florida Association of Counties supports the ability of counties to utilize electricity produced at county-owned facilities at other adjacent and non-contiguous county-owned properties without penalty, or in the alternative, be able to sell surplus power at market rate.
- GATE 20. The Florida Association of Counties supports state designation of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Conservation Area.
- GATE 21. The Florida Association of Counties supports maintaining funding of the Small County Consolidated Grant Program and maintaining the waste tire fee as a dedicated revenue source for funding mosquito control, solid waste and recycling programs.
- GATE 22. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that provide appropriate resources and incentives to local governments to achieve statewide recycling goals, and further supports comprehensive recycling initiatives that encourage increased participation of the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.

Water

Increased demands on Florida's water supply are forcing many diverse interests to work with county government to plan the future of water policy in Florida. In an effort to achieve the best possible result, county government should continue to expand partnerships with the agricultural community, urban water users, regional government agencies, and environmental organizations to encourage water conservation, water resource, and water supply development projects. The primary goal of such water resource planning efforts should be ensuring resource availability for all reasonable beneficial uses, consistent with the protection of water and related natural resources.



- GATE 23. The Florida Association of Counties supports the allocation of matching funds to county governments to restore impaired springs, estuaries, lagoons and other waterbodies in accordance with state policy and local needs.
- GATE 24. The Florida Association of Counties supports state funding for water quality improvement projects designed to reduce nutrient pollution in Florida's impaired waterbodies, recognizing that multiple sources contribute to nutrient loading, including, but not limited to, wastewater and septic systems, industrial, agricultural, and residential water use.
- GATE 25. The Florida Association of Counties supports efforts of the Water Management Districts to facilitate regional partnerships and prescribe regional resolutions to address the need of finding alternative water sources to accommodate the state's growing population.
- GATE 26. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that enhance regional and local financial capacity to address water supply development with allocation flexibility in all available funding sources.
- GATE 27. The Florida Association of Counties supports the funding of the Water Protection and Sustainability Program within the Department of Environmental Protection for the development of alternative water supplies, water quality improvement projects, and comprehensive water infrastructure needs.
- GATE 28. The Florida Association of Counties supports the "Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices" as a basic level of water quality protection, with more stringent protections authorized to address water bodies in need.
- GATE 29. The Florida Association of Counties supports the economically, technically and environmentally feasible use of reclaimed water with incentivized infrastructure investment and reliable distribution including reuse service areas and prioritized irrigation and nonpotable uses.
- GATE 30. The Florida Association of Counties supports state legislation to prohibit new well stimulation activities, including hydraulic fracturing (fracking).
- GATE 31. The Florida Association of Counties opposes efforts to increase offshore drilling activities.



GATE 32. The Florida Association of Counties supports continued state funding to end the ocean outfalls in south Florida by the legislature's deadline of 2025.