

Summary: FAC 2019 Legislative Action Plan

Federal Policy

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM REFORM

SUPPORT reauthorization of the NFIP with legislative, policy and programmatic modifications to ensure no coverage lapses and to improve the affordability, transparency and financial stability of the program through reforms in the following areas: 1) Affordability/Rate Structure; 2) Mapping/Data Collection/Modeling; and, 3) Mitigation.

OPPOSE any reauthorization efforts that are detrimental to policyholders, local governments and the integrity of the program.

SUPPORT the Sustainable, Affordable, Fair and Efficient National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (SAFE NFIP) 2017.

WATER

Comprehensive Water Policy:

TBD – FAC staff is working to determine policy statement language and action items.

Water Resources Development Act:

SUPPORT bi-annual passage of the Water Resources Development Act that authorizes Corps of Engineers projects and policies that often have state-wide impacts to Florida, including Everglades restoration, port and inlet construction, and beach nourishment projects.

SUPPORT restoration of congressionally directed spending.

DISASTER RECOVERY

De-obligation:

SUPPORT changes to the Stafford Act that will ensure counties are not denied a disaster project appeal by FEMA, whenever the state, while serving as the grantee, fails to meet the regulatory timeline for project appeals.

Recovery and Preparedness:

SUPPORT increased investment in mitigation programs such as the Pre-disaster Mitigation Program, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and other partnerships between local and federal governments to complete mitigation projects and increase resiliency to disasters.

OPPOSE programmatic changes that would increase the local cost share for disaster recovery, such as the implementation of a disaster deductible.

OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING

SUPPORT the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA), which bans oil and gas leasing within 125 miles off Florida's Gulf Coast until 2022 and OPPOSES any legislation that

moves the ban to an earlier date. FAC meanwhile SUPPORTS keeping Florida's east coast free from offshore drilling and maintaining the Department of Interior's commitment to remove Florida from consideration in the next draft of the proposed leasing plan.

APPROPRIATIONS for Programs of Significant Importance

- Corps of Engineers – funding for Everglades restoration, port and inlet construction and maintenance, and beach nourishment
- Community Development Block Grant program
- Community Services Block Grant program
- Social Services Block Grant program
- Economic Development Administration
- State Criminal Alien Assistance Program

VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

SUPPORT legislation ensuring that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) supported housing program has at least one program manager for every 35 rental assistance cases under such program.

INFRASTRUCTURE

SUPPORT federal legislation that ensures funding for locally-owned infrastructure, including water and wastewater facilities, preserves the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, streamlines the federal permitting process, promotes innovative financing, and ensures the long-term certainty and solvency of the Federal Highway Trust Fund.

Finance, Tax, and Administration Policy

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TAX

SUPPORT modernizing the Communications Service Tax in a manner that is: revenue neutral; that simplifies administration and collection of the tax; provides for a broad and equitable tax base; provides for enhanced stability and reliability; provides the opportunity for market-based application.

COURTHOUSE SECURITY

SUPPORT requiring any legislation related to authority for courthouse security to include coordination with the county's governing body.

PUBLIC RECORDS - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SUPPORT legislation offering public records exemptions to counties which benefit the county's ability to provide and administer services to citizens.

PUBLIC RECORDS - DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

SUPPORT legislation offering public records exemptions to counties which benefit the county's ability to provide and administer services to citizens.

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUPPORT eliminating the cap on the Rural Development Loan Fund allowing the full \$1.07 M be available for each grant cycle, and SUPPORT reducing the match to 50% and increasing the appropriation for each RAO to \$250,000.

SUPPORT modifying the grant verbiage to allow for up to 50% of the total project costs on any RIF grant request.

LOCAL OPTION TAX FLEXIBILITY

SUPPORT expanding the ability to levy Local Option High Impact Tourist Development Tax authorized pursuant to s. 125.0104(3)(m)(2).

SUPPORT legislation that allows counties that levy the small county surtax to exceed a combined rate of more than 1% in combination of with the levy of another discretionary sales surtax.

SUPPORT authorizing Local Government Infrastructure Surtax revenue for short-term operational expenses.

FUEL TAXES

SUPPORT indexing local option fuel taxes to annual adjustments of the Consumer Price Index.

CONSULTANTS COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATION ACT (CCNA)

SUPPORT increasing the value of the construction costs at which a continuing contract must be bid pursuant to the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act ("CCNA") from the existing threshold of \$2 million.

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

SUPPORT removing the exemption for tuition and fees for students enrolled in apprenticeship programs.

Growth Management, Agriculture, Transportation & Environmental Policy

RECYCLING

SUPPORT modifying the existing 2020 75% Recycling Goal in Section 403.7032, Florida Statutes to reflect a statewide recycling goal that is based on energy-efficiency rather than weight.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE AREAS

SUPPORT legislation that provides that where a county has, by ordinance, established one or more utility service areas in the unincorporated area and where the county has the current ability to provide service, a municipality may not provide utility services within such county service area(s) without consent of the county.

BROWNFIELD DESIGNATIONS

SUPPORT creating clear guidance for the award of a brownfield designation and the local authority to decline to award the determination if the site does not meet the statutory criteria.

RESILIENCY

SUPPORT the development of a Florida Resiliency Plan.

Health & Safety Policy

COUNTY MEDICAID COST SHARE PROGRAM

SUPPORT the provision determining the rate of overall growth of the County Medicaid cost share be maintained at 50% and not be changed to 100% of the rate of growth in the State Medicaid expenditures.

CORRECTIONS CONTRABAND ARTICLES - PORTABLE COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES

SUPPORT legislation that strengthens the safety and security of county detention facility staff and the inmates that they are responsible for by listing portable communication devices as contraband.

DISTRACTED DRIVING

SUPPORT legislation to make texting while driving a primary offense.