



2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



WHY FLORIDA COUNTIES MATTER



COUNTY POPULATION INFORMATION


7 URBAN COUNTIES
with a total population of 10,792,569


29 FISCALLY-CONSTRAINED COUNTIES
with a total population of 900,768


LARGEST COUNTY MIAMI-DADE
with 2,779,332 residents


31 MEDIUM COUNTIES
with a total population of 10,948,167


35 COASTAL COUNTIES
with 825 miles of beaches


SMALLEST COUNTY LAFAYETTE
with 8,501 residents

APPROPRIATIONS

Continue adequate funding of critical programs that provide resources for the provision of local services and local public infrastructure. These programs include, but are not limited to, the following:

ENVIRONMENT

Water Quality

- **Everglades Restoration:** resources for habitat protection and conservation efforts.
- **Springs Restoration:** matching funds to county governments to protect springs and for capital projects that protect the quality and quantity of water that flow from springs.
- **Total Maximum Daily Loads:** innovative water treatment projects aimed at rapidly achieving phosphorous and/or nitrogen load reductions.
- **Water Quality Enhancement and Accountability:** reduces nutrient pollution in Florida's impaired waterbodies increasing water quality monitoring.
- **Grants for Innovative Technologies:** research, monitoring, control and mitigation of the effects of harmful algal blooms and red tide affecting Florida's waterways.

Florida Forever: conservation and recreation land acquisitions.

Beach Management Funding Assistance Program: grants and aids to local governments and non-state entities with an emphasis on economic return on investment.



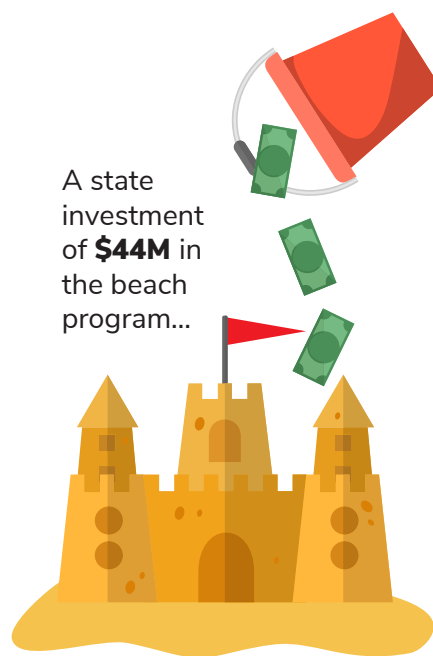
Beaches are the most important feature of Florida's brand, accounting for **25.5% of the state's attractiveness to visitors.**



5.4 ROI*

Positive return on state's investment in the Beach Management and Restoration Program.

*The ROI was estimated using tax revenues resulting from visitor spending induced by the state's investment in beaches. A return of greater than 1 means that the tax revenue generated by tourists to the state of Florida more than covers the state's expenditure on beaches.



A state investment of **\$44M** in the beach program...

...resulted in an average increase in the **GDP of \$2.4B** per year.

This increased the collection of state revenues by **\$237.9M.**

Member Water Projects: local government water project assistance to supplement state spending for water infrastructure needs.

Florida Resilient Coastline Initiative: assist local governments with storm resiliency, sea level rise planning, coastal resilience projects, and coral reef health.

TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund: revenues from the documentary stamp taxes comprise the Sadowski Trust Funds, the main source of funding for State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP), State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL), and other affordable housing programs.

Job Growth Grant Fund: provides infrastructure and workforce development training that are both highly beneficial to local counties.

Visit Florida: the state's marketing and tourism agency, and its operations makes a tangible impact on the tourism industry at all levels including local.



Every **\$1 invested** in
VISIT FLORIDA yields a
\$2.15 ROI
to Florida's taxpayers.

Visitors save every
Florida household
\$1,512/year
on state & local taxes.



Every **81**
visitors

= **one**
Florida job.



In 2017, out-of-state
visitors added
\$85.9 billion
to Florida's economy.

That's more than the
entire GDP of 12 states.



Small County Outreach Program (SCOP): transportation projects in rural areas of opportunity (RAOs) to repair or rehabilitate local roads and bridges.

Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP): critical state funding assisting small county governments in resurfacing and reconstructing county roads in small counties with a population under 75,000.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Library Grants and Library Cooperatives: funding for local libraries, helping to maintain community educational facilities.

Cultural, Museum, and Historic Preservation Grants and Initiatives: sourced from the Department of State to supporting cultural initiatives and historical sites with a direct local impact.

Fiscally-Constrained Counties: aid fiscally-constrained counties with funding to offset ad valorem tax revenue losses due to certain statewide amendments, such as increases in homestead exemptions, as defined by F.S. 218.67(1).

Emergency Distributions: funds provided to counties experiencing a fiscal emergency as defined by F.S. 218.65 to maintain operations and services.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

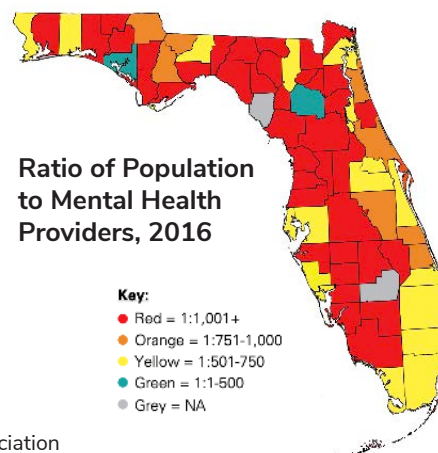
Shared County/State Juvenile Detention: cost-sharing agreement to pay for juvenile detention services shared between counties and the state.

Community Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services: general funds used by local governments to treat individuals with ongoing substance abuse and/or mental health disorders.

Florida remains **44th in the nation** on mental health access to care, with **750 patients for every mental health provider** compared to the **National average - 541.**

61.7% of adults with Any Mental Illness (AMI) in Florida did not receive treatment.
National average – 55.8%

Source: Mental Health America, Florida Behavioral Health Association



Community Action Treatment (CAT) Teams: appropriations provide for the operation of teams to provide important community-based services for youth aged 11 to 21 with mental health and substance diagnoses.

Public Safety, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Local Matching Grant Program: directly supports county programs that serve adults or youth who are in behavioral crisis and at risk of entering the criminal justice system in efforts to increase diversion and reduce recidivism.

Crime Labs: maintain locally run crime laboratories and continue criminal investigations run by local governments.

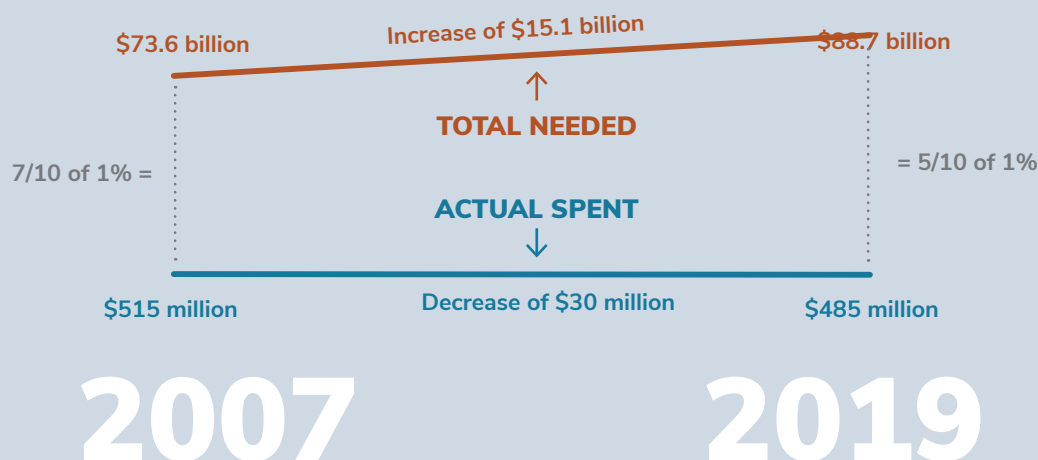
Homeless Programs Challenge Grants: awarded by the Department of Children & Families to mitigate chronic homelessness.

INCREASE INVESTMENT IN WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY PROJECTS

Water quality and water supply issues are among the most challenging issues facing Florida. All levels of government must adopt and enforce policies that proactively address the various sources of nutrient pollution as well as plan to sustainably meet the water supply needs of a growing population. In short, clean and abundant water is paramount to preserving our way of life.

- Increase water quality funding**

To reduce nutrient pollution in Florida's impaired water bodies, the State must increase funding for water quality improvement projects. These projects must be comprehensive in nature recognizing that multiple sources, rather than a single source, contribute to nutrient loading, including, but not limited to, wastewater and septic systems, industrial, agricultural, fertilizer, and residential water use.



- State match for county funding**

The State should match a county's investment of local funds to restore impaired springs, estuaries, lagoons and other waterbodies.

Drinking water infrastructure improvements next 20 years	\$16.5 billion
Wastewater infrastructure by 2020	\$18.4 billion
Flood Control projects by 2025	\$2.8 billion
Annual numeric nutrient criteria rule compliance	\$50-\$149.8 million
Next 20 years of Everglades Restoration (CERP)	\$11.3 billion
TOTAL	\$49 billion over next 20 years



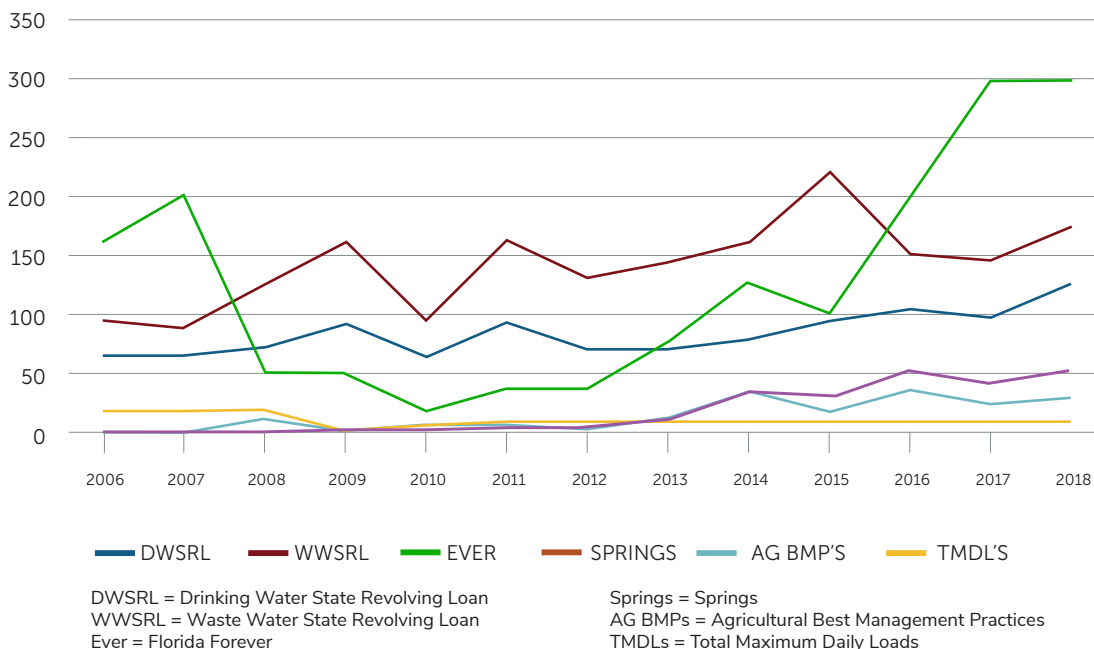
- Allow for more flexibility from possible local funding sources**
 Restrictions on funding sources should be removed, allowing counties to use any and all available funding for local and regional water supply development and water quality projects.
- Maximize use of reclaimed water**
 Incentivizing infrastructure investment for the reliable and safe distribution of reclaimed water would decrease the ever-increasing demand on Florida's limited water supply. Reclaimed water that is economically, technically and environmentally feasible can be used for reuse service areas and prioritized irrigation and other nonpotable uses.

Background:

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.

Significant investment is needed in coming years to upgrade and replace aging water infrastructure, restore impaired waterbodies, and develop alternative water supplies to meet the needs of a growing population. Additionally, securing funding for local water projects can be a frustrating process for local officials as state legislative leadership changes and priorities shift; thus, a long-term or multi-year water plan at the state level is needed to ensure that appropriate investments are being made in the state's water infrastructure.

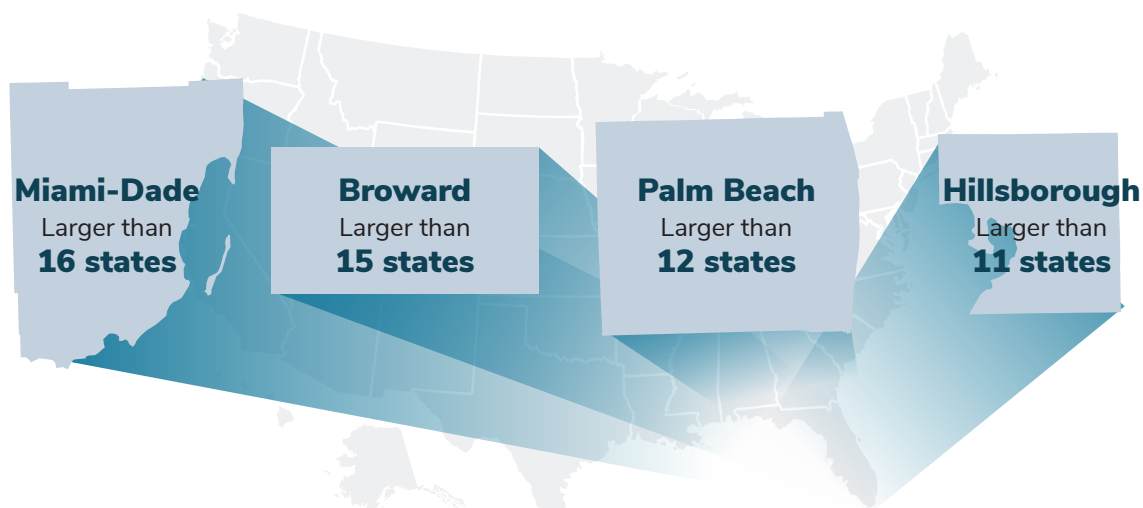
STATE PROGRAMMATIC FUNDING



STOP STATE OVERREACH



As Florida's population continues to grow and change, it is important that our communities continue to reflect local values. This is best accomplished by empowering local voters and their representatives and not by one-size-fits-all regulations from Tallahassee.

In the past year alone, measures have passed that take away local residents' ability to have a say in such basic questions as whether trees should be cut down or whether the public has beach access. State officials have considered measures that would have prevented local communities from enforcing regulations on vacation rentals, pet sales, plastic straws and nondiscrimination protections in the workplace. For the past few years, efforts have been made to require all local government actions to be specifically authorized by the Legislature. This would swell the ranks of Tallahassee bureaucracies, forcing citizens to navigate a network of approvals and appeals to tackle mundane administrative matters and tangling governments, businesses, and taxpayers in a technocratic web.



Localism preserves the rights of our communities:

The attack on home rule threatens to undermine the rights of Floridians to have an accessible and efficient government that reflects their values. Tallahassee regulations are bad for communities and business.

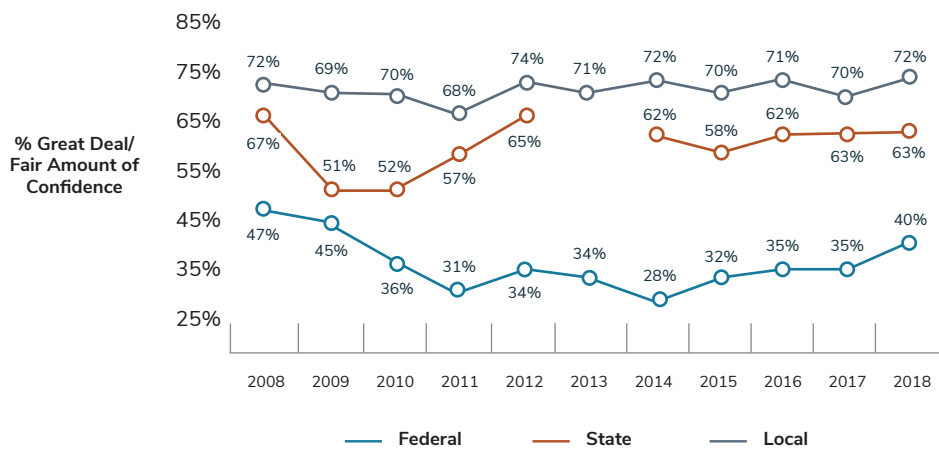
PASSED PREEMPTIONS	PROPOSED PREEMPTIONS
 Tree Trimming	 Vacation Rentals
 Beach Access	 Pet Sales
 Autonomous Vehicles	 Tobacco Products
 Small Cell	 Plastic Straws
 Scooters	 Over-the Counter (OTC) Proprietary Drugs and Cosmetics (Sunscreen)
 Plastic bags/Styrofoam	 Nondiscriminatory Protections
	 Workplace Protection (Living wage and wage theft)



- **Localism allows business to be accessible and nimble**

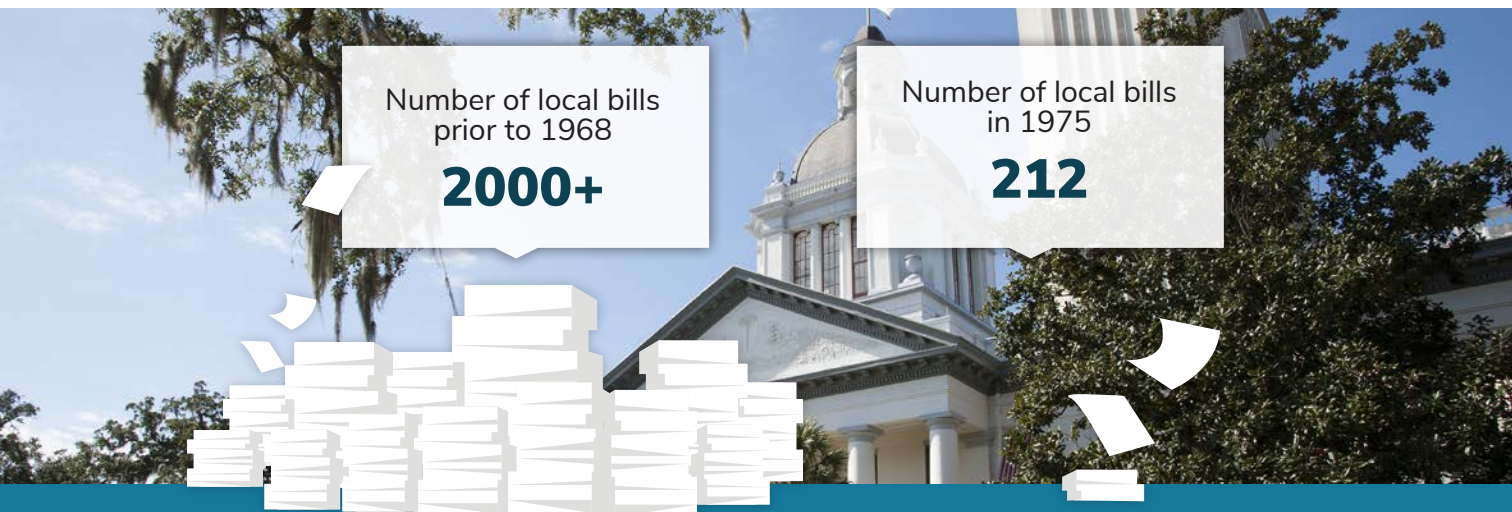
Businesses should not be forced to navigate the state legislative process for minor matters that are easily addressed at the local level. This is particularly problematic for small businesses, which may lack the resources to pursue matters legislatively. Local governments are the most accessible venue to resolve business concerns because they are closest to the people and most familiar with their communities. Tallahassee is not equipped to address every problem in every community.

GALLUP POLLING DATA SHOWING THE MOST CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT



- **Localism allows for regulatory certainty**

Florida's statutes and case law has evolved under the home rule system. Upending that body of law will have far-reaching, unintended consequences. Business are conservative by nature, and economic uncertainty discourages investment and innovation. Even specific preemptions often have unintended consequences and frequently result in litigation. When Tallahassee picks the winners, Floridians lose.



SMART ECONOMIES MAKE SMART COMMUNITIES

Safe communities are created with dependable basic services. Communities are more likely to see economic prosperity when the quality of life encourages businesses and individuals to flourish. Maintaining and enhancing the standards that Floridians expect and deserve will require more innovative cooperation between public and private sectors. Therefore, counties need flexible tools to develop economic strategies that target local strengths, enhance and expand employment opportunities and maintain adequate infrastructure.

- **Drop the red tape**

Tax reform measures that simplify administration and provide an economic boost to Florida's taxpayers are needed to reduce overhead and improve efficiencies. Yet any changes must also consider and minimize the collective and cumulative negative impact on local revenues, including state shared and local discretionary revenue sources that are critical to local governments in providing community services.

In a state of 21 million people, local governments are best situated to quickly and effectively respond to the needs of the community. Over the past several years, efforts have been made to hamstring local governments ability to allocate local revenues and have added costly and ineffective bureaucracy to local budget processes. Local voters have expressed a clear preference for local control over their local tax dollars and for local government expenditures to be accountable to their constituents.

Many of Florida's local government revenue sources are in need of modernization or restructuring to provide fairness, effectiveness, and efficiency.

- **Sales Tax Competitiveness**

In 2018, the United States Supreme Court authorized states to impose sales tax on out-of-state vendors. In reliance on that decision, the District of Columbia and 43 of the 45 states with a sales tax have laws in place that allow them to capture sales tax revenue from remote sales. The remaining two states -Florida and Missouri - have already proposed bills. This means that currently, Florida's retailers are at a competitive disadvantage in the District of Columbia and 42 states because Florida's retailers are paying those state and local sales taxes, while vendors from those states are not paying sales tax in Florida. Passing legislation to allow this ensures sales tax fairness for local retailers.

The state estimates the value of the out-of-state collections to be \$702 million per year recurring in state and local revenues.¹

\$758 million

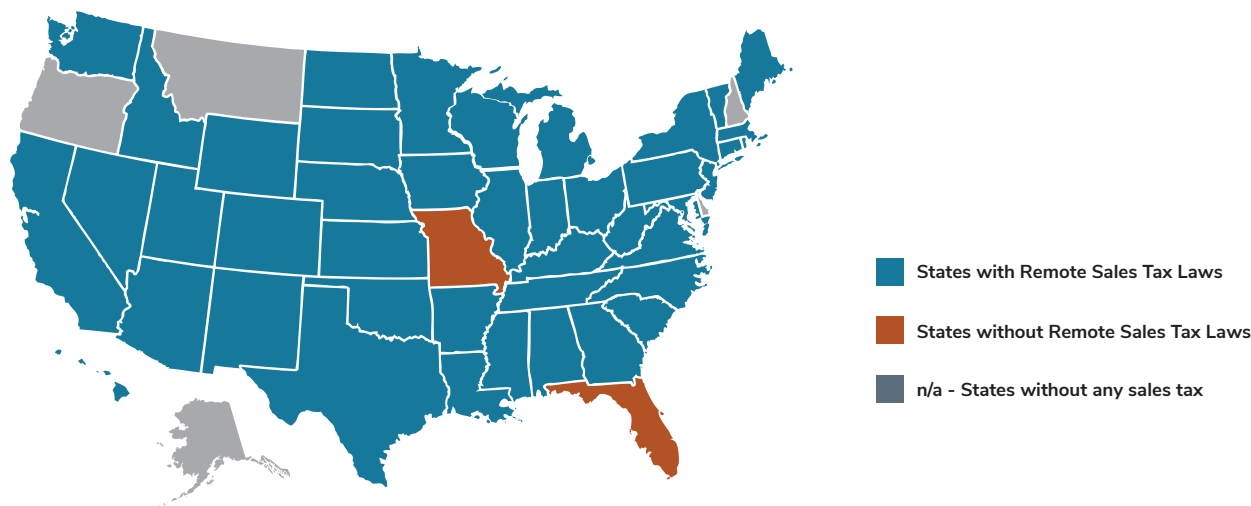
estimate of potential revenue gain from online sales

Potential revenue boost up to **1.7%**

Benefit to local government and brick-and-mortar stores



REMOTE SALES TAX LAWS AMONG U.S. STATES



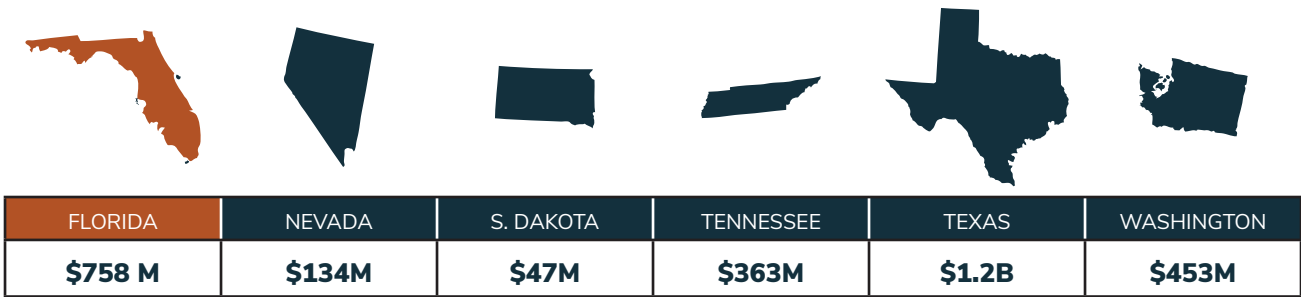
Background:

Revenue Boost Expected

The revenue implications are likely to play a greater role in states that don't have an income tax and, as a result, rely more on their sales tax to fund their budget.

Sales taxes account for more than half of all revenues in six states, according to Fitch Ratings. Among those six states, featured in the table below, they could see anywhere from a 1.1 to 1.7 percent revenue boost:

POTENTIAL REVENUE GAIN IN SELECT STATES

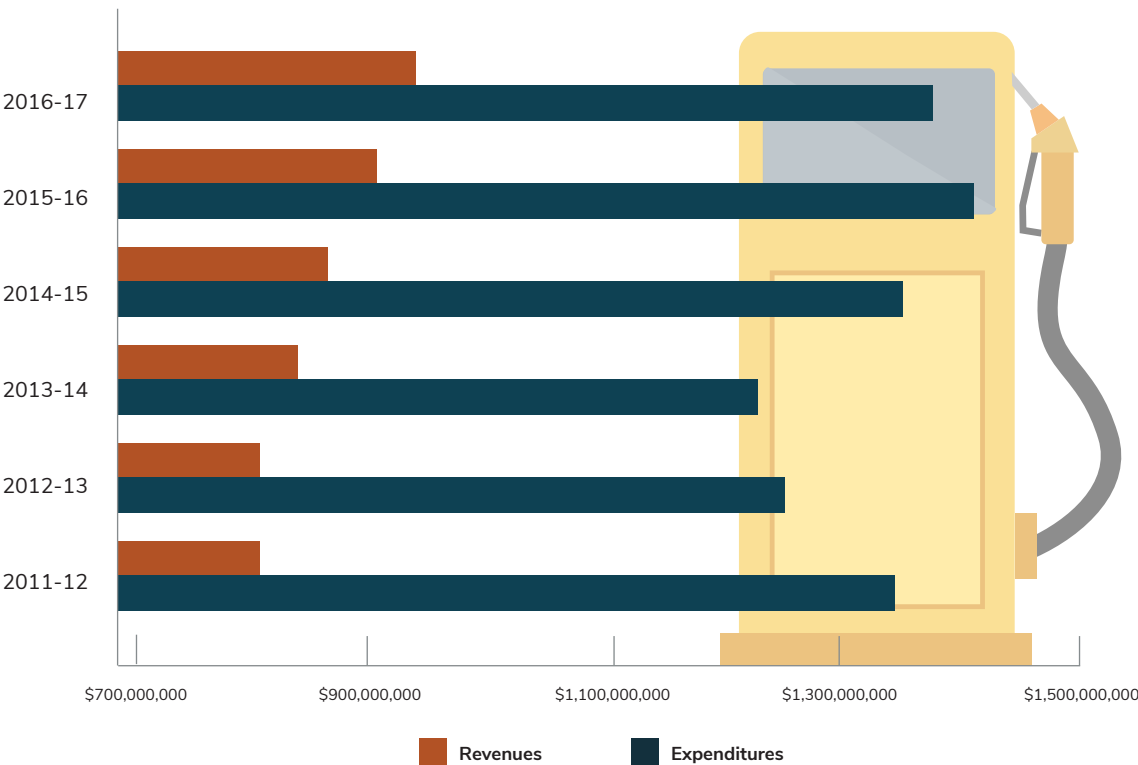


- Flexibility in local government revenues

Fuel tax revenue should be reformed to make sure the revenue source can dynamically adjust to technological improvements such as fuel efficiency and electric vehicles. Revenues from the local government Fuel Tax have not kept pace with needed infrastructure or inflation and should be indexed to the Consumer Price Index, similar to the state fuel tax.

Counties that have imposed the small county surtax are not statutorily prevented from levying other discretionary sales taxes, even with the approval of local voters; and the local government infrastructure sales tax, and important option to fund defined local projects should be modified to allow its use for certain operational purposes. The changes would provide local revenue sources much needed flexibility and local leaders to better address the needs of their communities.

LOCAL FUEL TAX REVENUE VS ROAD EXPENDITURES



Communications Services Tax (CST)

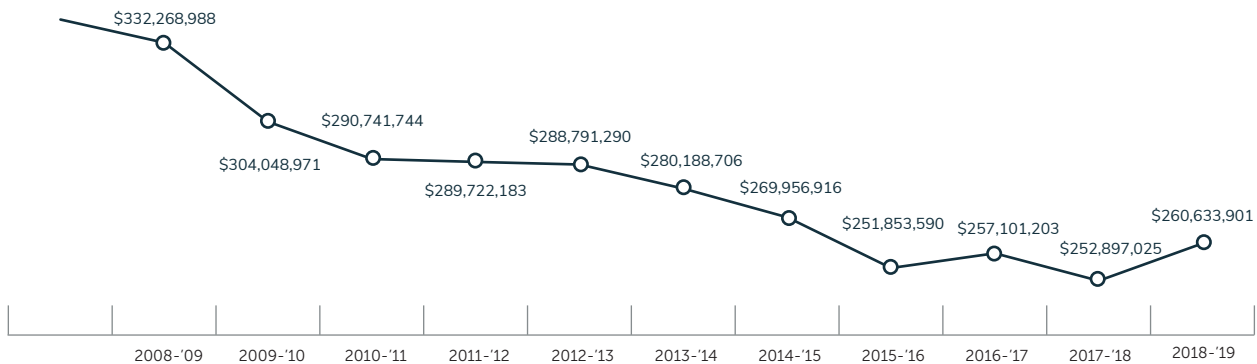
The CST is an important source of revenue for both state and local governments; legislative action is needed to improve certain facets of the revenue stream to ensure long-term viability as technology continues to change. The tax is applied to telecommunications services including voice, data, audio, video, or any other information or signals transmitted by any medium. Services subject to the tax include local and long-distance telephone service, video streaming, direct-to-home satellite, mobile communications, pager and beeper, facsimiles, telex, telegram, and teletype.

The final form of this modernization effort may take one of several forms, but the resulting structure should reform the CST in a manner that is:

- (1) revenue neutral;
- (2) simplifies administration and collection of the tax;
- (3) provides for a broad and equitable tax base;
- (4) provides for enhanced stability and reliability;
- (5) provides the opportunity for market-based application.



COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TAX: DISTRIBUTIONS TO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS



Source: <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/local-government/data/revenues-expenditures/stwidedfiscal.cfm>

Local Tax Paid to County Governments after Administrative Fees, Discretionary Sales Surtax, Credits, and Other Adjustments. Local Fiscal Years Ended September 30, 2002 - 2018; Accounting Code 315.000; Communications Services Taxes (Chapter 202, F.S.); All counties plus Jacksonville per fiscal year



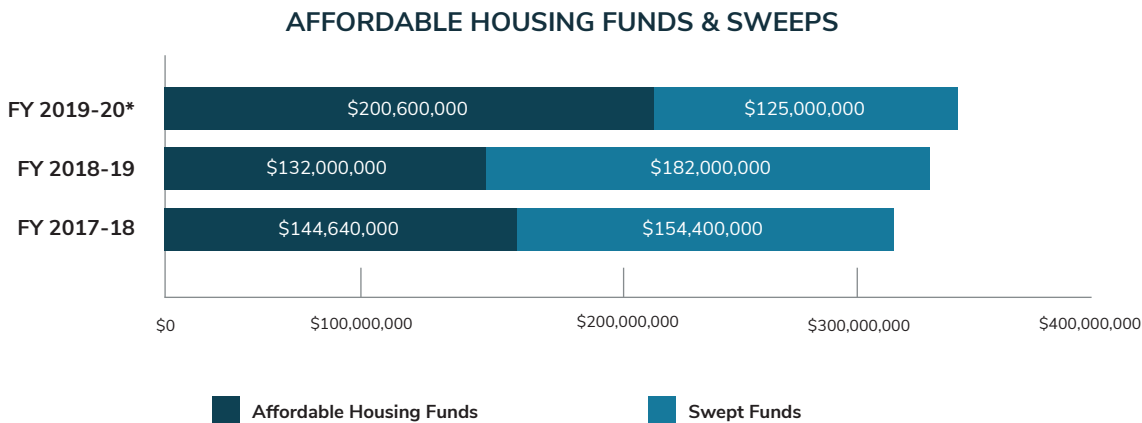
PROTECT THE SADOWSKI HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Affordable housing is a continual obstacle for Floridians. As it stands, a full-time hourly worker making minimum wage, \$8.46, would need to work 108 hours a week to afford a modest two-bedroom rental. Meanwhile, the average housing wage, or the hourly wage when full time workers spend no more than 30% of income on housing expenses, for Florida is \$22.86 an hour.

By comparison 67% of Floridian jobs make less than \$20 an hour. Currently, the rent affordable for one person at the minimum wage is \$440 a month, while fair market rent for a modest two bedroom is \$1,189. Advocates from all corners of Florida including the Florida Realtors, Homebuilders, Chamber of Commerce, Legal Services, and Conference of Catholic Bishops have joined together to form the Sadowski Coalition to advocate for struggling Floridians.

Key Message Point:

- The Florida Association of Counties supports appropriating the full amount of dedicated documentary tax revenues from the Sadowski housing trust funds to fund state and local affordable housing programs, and opposes the Legislature transferring unappropriated funds from the housing trust funds to general revenue or other uses. If fully appropriated, the Sadowski Coalition projects 30,000 new jobs would be created with an over \$4.4 billion economic impact.



*\$115 million of appropriated funds in FY 2019/20 went to Hurricane Recovery



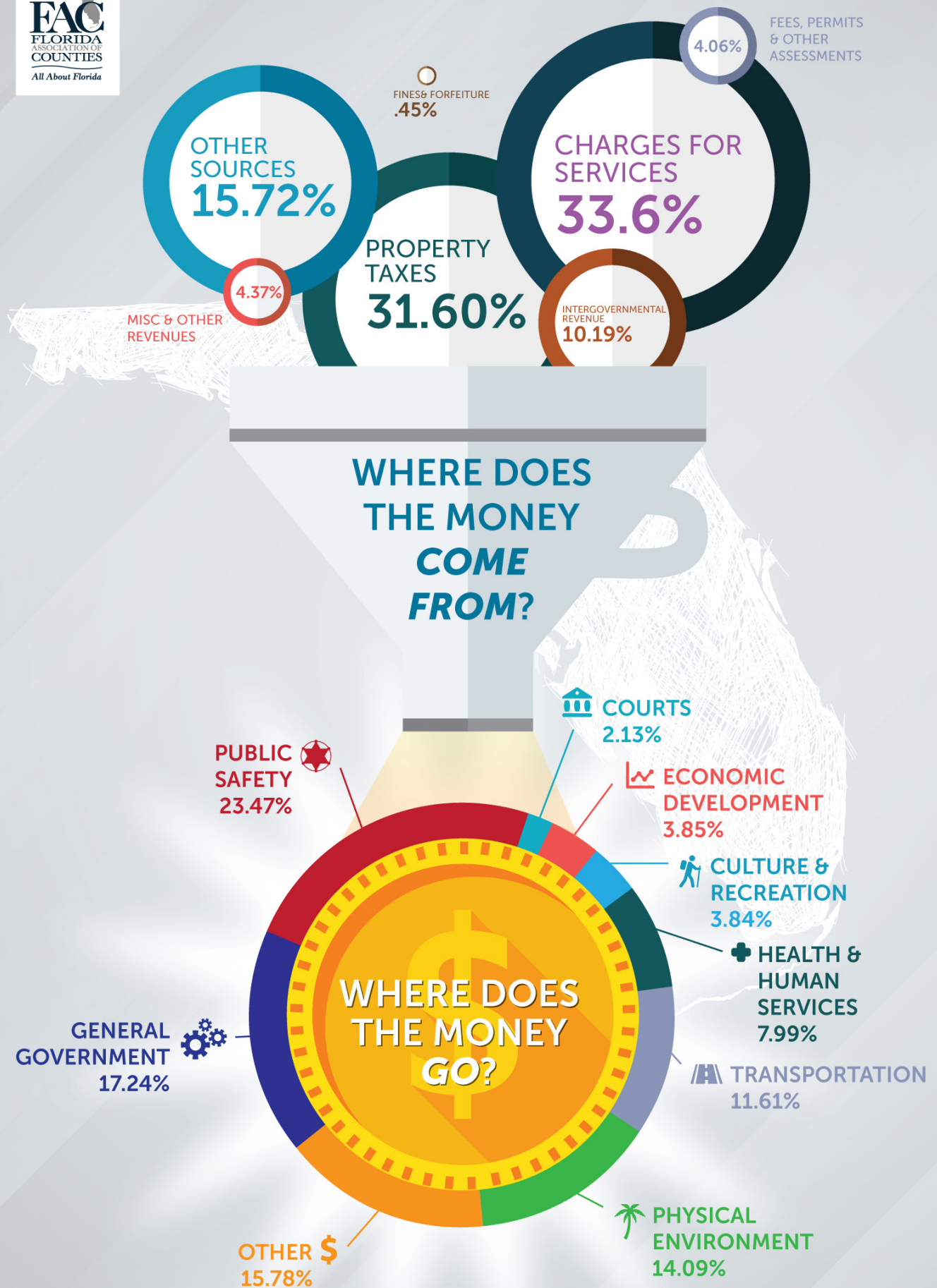


While Florida law provides for a dedicated funding source for affordable housing programs to ease this burden, the Legislature routinely raids these trust funds when building the annual state budget. For the 2020-21 Fiscal Year, there is a projected \$352 million of available Sadowski funds. The Legislature has swept funds – partially or totally – from the housing trust funds every year since the 2008-09 fiscal year into the General Revenue fund for various unrelated projects. The 2020-21 Legislative Session is projected to have over \$350 million in available funds.

Background:

Enacted in 1992, the William E. Sadowski Affordable Housing Act provides a dedicated revenue source for the State and Local Housing Trust Funds. The programs are funded through the state's documentary tax on real estate transactions. Seventy percent of fund proceeds go into the Local Government Housing Trust Fund for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program, which allocates funds to local governments (counties and larger cities) for housing programs that produce and preserve affordable homeownership and multifamily housing for very low, low and moderate-income families. Thirty percent of fund proceeds go to the State Housing Trust Fund for programs such as the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program.



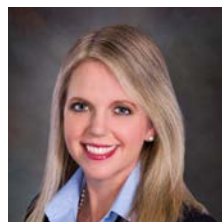




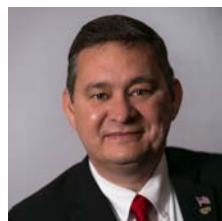
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FLORIDA'S
SMALL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLICANS AIN'T
WHAT THEY USED
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~~HOME
RULE~~

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**BIG
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COUNTY
COMMISSION

