

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2019 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

2020 ADOPTED POLICY PROGRAM

LOCALS
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FLORIDA
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES
All About Florida

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2019 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

2020 FEDERAL/STATE ACTION
STATEMENTS

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2020 FEDERAL ACTION STATEMENTS

FED-PP-1: NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP) REAUTHORIZATION

Urge Congress to 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.

Urge Congress to OPPOSE any reauthorization efforts that are detrimental to policy holders, local governments, and the integrity of the program.

FED-PP-2: WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT (WRDA)

Urge Congress to SUPPORT bi-annual passage of the Water Resources Development Act that authorizes U.S. Army 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.

Urge Congress to SUPPORT restoration of congressionally directed spending.

FED-PP-3: DISASTER RECOVERY

Urge Congress to 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.

Urge Congress to SUPPORT assistance for Hurricane Michael recovery, and efforts that will expedite the funding guidelines required for the CDBG-DR program.

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

FED-PP-4: OFFSHORE DRILLING

Urge Congress to 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. SUPPORT 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.

Urge Congress to OPPOSE any legislation that moves the ban to an earlier date.

FED-PP-5: FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS

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

- Corps of Engineers funds – Everglades restoration, port & inlet construction & maintenance & 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

FED-PP-6: VETERANS HOMELESSNESS

Urge Congress to **SUPPORT** legislation requiring the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide case management support to local housing authorities under the VA-supported housing program.

FED-PP-7: INFRASTRUCTURE

Urge Congress to 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.

FED-PP-8: FEMA FLOOD MAPPING – RISK RATING 2.0

Urge Congress to SUPPORT counties and recommend that FEMA delay its implementation of its new Risk Rating 2.0 flood mapping initiative.

FED-PP-9: HEALTH CARE FOR NON-CONVICTED PERSONS

Urge Congress to SUPPORT the reinstatement of federal health care benefits, including those benefits awarded to veterans, for non-convicted justice involved individuals.

FED-PP-10: DIGITAL DIVIDE

Urge Congress to SUPPORT increasing public funding for construction of broadband infrastructure;

Urge Congress to SUPPORT improving service mapping accurately by requiring more granular data from service providers, allowing crowd sourced data to be used to inform the map, and creating an appeal process to challenge demonstrable inaccuracies.

FED-PP-11: NON-DOMESTIC SAND SOURCES

Urge Congress to SUPPORT enabling the Secretary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allow counties to acquire sand by purchase, exchange or otherwise from non-domestic sources for the purpose of beach renourishment.

FED-PP-12: UPPER KISSIMMEE BASIN WATER STORAGE PROJECTS

Urge Congress to SUPPORT the inclusion of funding in the Water Resources Development ACT (WRDA) for studies and implementation of water storage projects within the Upper Kissimmee Basin to reduce harmful discharges, enhance central Florida water supply, and to mitigate negative economic impacts on communities surrounding Lake Okeechobee.

2020 COMMUNITY, HEALTH & SAFETY ACTION STATEMENTS

CHS-PP-1: REGULATION OF SMOKING ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

SUPPORT the creation of an exemption to the state's smoking preemption law to grant local governments the power to prohibit smoking/vaping on playgrounds under their ownership to protect the public health of children.

CHS-PP-2: COUNTY MEDICAID COST SHARE GROWTH

SUPPORT efforts to prevent increases in Medicaid costs and request that 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.

CHS-PP-3: COPCN – ALS NON-TRANSPORT SERVICES

SUPPORT legislation creating consistency and stability, while maintaining County authority, in the local COPCN authorization process for ALS Non-Transport Services.

CHS-PP-4: COPCN – INMATE HEALTHCARE COSTS

SUPPORT legislation or special funding that addresses inmate medical costs when the inmate is without the means to pay for costs and does not have insurance or other assets that can be recovered.

2020 FINANCE, TAX & ADMINISTRATION ACTION STATEMENTS

FTA-PP-1: FUEL TAX INDEXING

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

FTA-PP-2: SALES TAX COMPETITIVENESS

SUPPORT legislation applying Florida's sale and use tax laws to online/e-commerce sales from out-of-state retailers to ensure competitiveness for Florida's in-state retailers.

FTA-PP-3: SMALL COUNTY SURTAX

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.

FTA-PP-4: RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

SUPPORT modifying Rural Development Grant program to reduce the program match requirement to 25% and increase the allocation of grant funds from \$150,000 to \$250,000 for each of the three Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAO) designated by the Governor's Executive Order.

FTA-PP-5: QUALIFIED TARGET INDUSTRY TAX REFUND PROGRAM

FAC SUPPORTS the reauthorization of the Qualified Targeted Industries Tax Refund, which is scheduled to sunset in June 2020, for another 10 years.

FTA-PP-6: VISIT FLORIDA FUNDING

FAC SUPPORTS the reauthorization and full annual funding of VISIT FLORIDA.

FTA-PP-7: COMMISSIONER TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

SUPPORT For purposes of travel reimbursement, clarify the official headquarters of a county commissioner may be a branch office, and not exclusively the county seat as interpreted by Attorney General Opinion 83-37 on June 16, 1983.

FTA-PP-8: PUBLIC RECORDS – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SUPPORT a public records exemption for information obtained by a local government in the course of providing emergency management services.

FTA-PP-9: PUBLIC RECORDS – COUNTY PERSONNEL

SUPPORT legislation granting public records exemption to counties allowing the protection of security personnel and senior county leadership (county administration offices and county attorney offices).

FTA-PP-10: PUBLIC RECORDS – DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

SUPPORT a statement of finding from the legislature that this exemption is necessary to encourage the resolution of complaints of discrimination and the effectiveness and efficiency of the conciliation process.

FTA-PP-11: SHERIFF BUDGET AMENDMENT PROCESS

SUPPORT legislation to unambiguously clarify that sheriffs must follow the statutory requirements for budget amendments to transfer funds at the object code level and higher.

**2020 GROWTH MANAGEMENT, AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTION STATEMENTS**

GATE-PP-1: RECYCLING CONTAMINATION

SUPPORT legislation related to recycling contamination that allows counties to address the contamination of recyclable material in contracts for the collection, transportation, and processing of residential recyclable material, that includes language taking into account market availability when defining contaminated materials and that does not include statutorily defined contamination percentage thresholds or penalties on local governments.

GATE-PP-2: AFFIRMATION OF CUSTOMARY USE

SUPPORT amending section 163.035(3), F.S., to eliminate the judicial determination requirements set forth in sec. 163.035(3)(b) while maintaining the local government public hearing process established in sec. 163.035(3)(a).

GATE-PP-3: RENTAL CAR SURCHARGE

Support amending section 212.0606, F.S., (Rental Car Surcharge), to ensure that peer-to-peer car rental companies that are facilitating rentals in the state collect and remit the rental car surcharge.

2020 WATER POLICY ACTION STATEMENTS

WPC-PP-1: WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT AND LONG-TERM FUNDING

SUPPORT legislation intended to assess and regularly report the financial need to address Florida's water infrastructure relating to water supply including conservation, the protection of water quality, stormwater, flood control and environmental resource protection and restoration. SUPPORT legislation that promotes the identification of potential sources of funding sufficient to address the documented need and establishes a predictable and consistent funding program. SUPPORT the development of priority and science-based grant programs for the implementation of projects identified by local governments, the water management districts and state agencies.



2020 FEDERAL/STATE ACTION STATEMENTS

WPC-PP-2: SEPTIC-TO-SEWER

SUPPORT dedicated state funding for septic-to-sewer conversions to reduce nutrient pollution.

WPC-PP-3: BIOSOLIDS

SUPPORT establishing a pilot project program for funding new state of the art wastewater technologies to improve recovery and afford more efficient use of human wastewater biosolids.



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2020 (FLORIDA) NACo ADOPTED
RESOLUTIONS

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1. PLATFORM CHANGE TO SECTION III. RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE, SUBSECTION B. TRANSPORTATION

SPONSOR: Melissa McKinlay, Palm Beach

ADOPTED LANGUAGE: Additionally, many counties have to close bridges when they become unsafe and cannot afford to rebuild them. The quality of roads and bridges is declining in many rural areas due to lack of funding. In particular, rural counties are increasingly in need of federal assistance for costly repairs and upgrades to farm-to-market roads – rural roads that primarily serve to transport agricultural products from a farm or ranch to the marketplace. Federal funding for rural roads, bridges, local transit service, and air service needs to increase substantially.

2. RESOLUTION ON PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF SOBER HOME RESIDENTS

SPONSOR: Melissa McKinlay, Palm Beach

ADOPTED POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports further U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) clarification on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Fair Housing Act (FHA) to allow local governments to enact reasonable regulations to protect the health and safety of sober home residents, and the residents of the surrounding communities.

NACo also supports federal legislation to establish patient protection and best practices for sober homes.

3. RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT LEGAL MIGRATION TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL ECONOMIES AND WORKFORCE

SPONSOR: Bill Truex, Charlotte

ADOPTED POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the administration to enact legislative and regulatory proposals that provide improved and efficient legal avenues for immigrants to enter the United States and contribute to the workforce and local economies and maintain the area standard industry wages for the local marketplace.

4. RESOLUTION ON STREAMLINING STATE LICENSING PROCEDURES FOR MILITARY SPOUSES

SPONSOR: Kathryn Starkey, Pasco

ADOPTED POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Department of Defense to implement the provisions of Public Law 115-91 to fully reimburse military spouses for costs they incur in transferring professional licenses and certifications from state to state. Further, counties should do all that they can to support the U.S. Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Labor and the Military Spouse Employment Partnership in encouraging states

to streamline the process for granting reciprocity for military spouses who must relocate from state to state in support of our men and women in uniform as they provide for the security of our nation.

5. RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR LOCAL EFFORTS TO ADDRESS COASTAL WATER LEVEL CHANGES

SPONSORS: Sally Heyman, Miami-Dade; Harvey Ruvin, Miami-Dade Clerk

ADOPTED POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide appropriate financial assistance and support to local governments for coastal water level changes and increased storm surge related initiatives and projects that aim to develop adaptive solutions to these potentially devastating events.

6. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AFFORDABLE BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROJECTS

SPONSORS: Sally Heyman, Miami-Dade; Harvey Ruvin, Miami-Dade Clerk

ADOPTED POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports enabling the Secretary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allow counties to acquire sand by purchase, exchange or otherwise from non-domestic sources for the purpose of beach renourishment.

7. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESEARCH INTO HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

SPONSOR: Doug Smith, Martin County

ADOPTED POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the renewal of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act and encourages the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to collaborate with other federal agencies to identify nutrient reduction strategies and scalable Harmful Algal Bloom mitigation processes.

8. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT

SPONSOR: Doug Smith, Martin; Marty Cassini, Broward

ADOPTED POLICY: NACo supports reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2000. Additionally, NACo urges Congress to authorize and appropriate additional annual funding dedicated to improving the health of the nation's coral reefs.

9. RESOLUTION URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SUSPEND, INSTEAD OF TERMINATE, MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

SPONSOR: Sally Heyman, Miami-Dade

ADOPTED POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass legislation that: a) amends federal law to prohibit states from terminating eligibility for individuals who are inmates of public institutions or residents of Institutes for Mental Disease (IMF) based solely on their status as inmates or residents; and b) requires states to establish a process under which an inmate or resident of an Institute for Mental Disease (IMD), who continues to meet all applicable eligibility requirements, is placed in a suspended status so that the state does not claim federal financial participation (FFP) for services the individual receives, but the person remains on the state's rolls as being eligible for Medicaid; and c) once release or discharge from the facility is anticipated, require states to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that an eligible individual is placed in payment status so that he or she can begin receiving Medicaid-covered services immediately upon leaving the facility.

10. RESOLUTION TO MAINTAIN LOCAL CONTROL AND PUBLIC SAFETY PRIORITIES UNDER FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAWS

SPONSOR: Bill Truex, Charlotte

ADOPTED POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the autonomy of counties in decisions related to the allocation of local law enforcement resources and setting of public safety priorities under federal immigration laws.

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