



2020

FAC LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



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2020 LEGISLATIVE ACTION PLAN



2020 FINANCE, TAX & ADMINISTRATION ACTION STATEMENTS

FUEL TAX INDEXING

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

SALES TAX COMPETITIVENESS

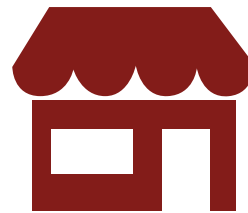
SUPPORT legislation applying Florida's sale and use tax laws to online/e-commerce sales from out-of-state retailers to ensure competitiveness for Florida's in-state retailers.



\$758 MILLION

ESTIMATE OF POTENTIAL
REVENUE GAIN FROM
ONLINE SALES

POTENTIAL REVENUE
BOOST UP TO
1.7% BENEFIT
TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES
AND BUSINESSES



Fitch Ratings

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.

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.

QUALIFIED TARGET INDUSTRY TAX REFUND PROGRAM

The Florida Association of Counties SUPPORTS the reauthorization of the Qualified Targeted Industries Tax Refund for another 10 years. The program is scheduled to sunset in June 2020.

VISIT FLORIDA FUNDING

The Florida Association of Counties SUPPORTS the reauthorization and full annual funding of VISIT FLORIDA.

COMMISSIONER TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

For purposes of travel reimbursement, clarify that 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.

PUBLIC RECORDS – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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

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).

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.

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 COMMUNITY, HEALTH & SAFETY ACTION STATEMENTS

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.

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.

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.

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 GROWTH MANAGEMENT, AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION STATEMENTS

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.

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).

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

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.

SEPTIC-TO-SEWER

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

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.

2020 FEDERAL ACTION STATEMENTS

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.

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.

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.

SIGNIFICANT FLORIDA CDBG- DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING

\$448 MILLION
2018 HURRICANE MICHAEL

\$117.9 MILLION
2016 HURRICANE MATTHEW

\$98.9 MILLION
2003 HURRICANE ERIKA

\$633.5 MILLION
2018 MITIGATION

\$103.6 MILLION
2008 HURRICANE IKE

\$64.6 MILLION
1992 HURRICANE ANDREW

\$773.6 MILLION
2017 HURRICANE IRMA

\$179.3 MILLION
2005 HURRICANE WILMA, ETC.

*National Association of Counties / U.S.
Department of Housing and Urban Development*

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.

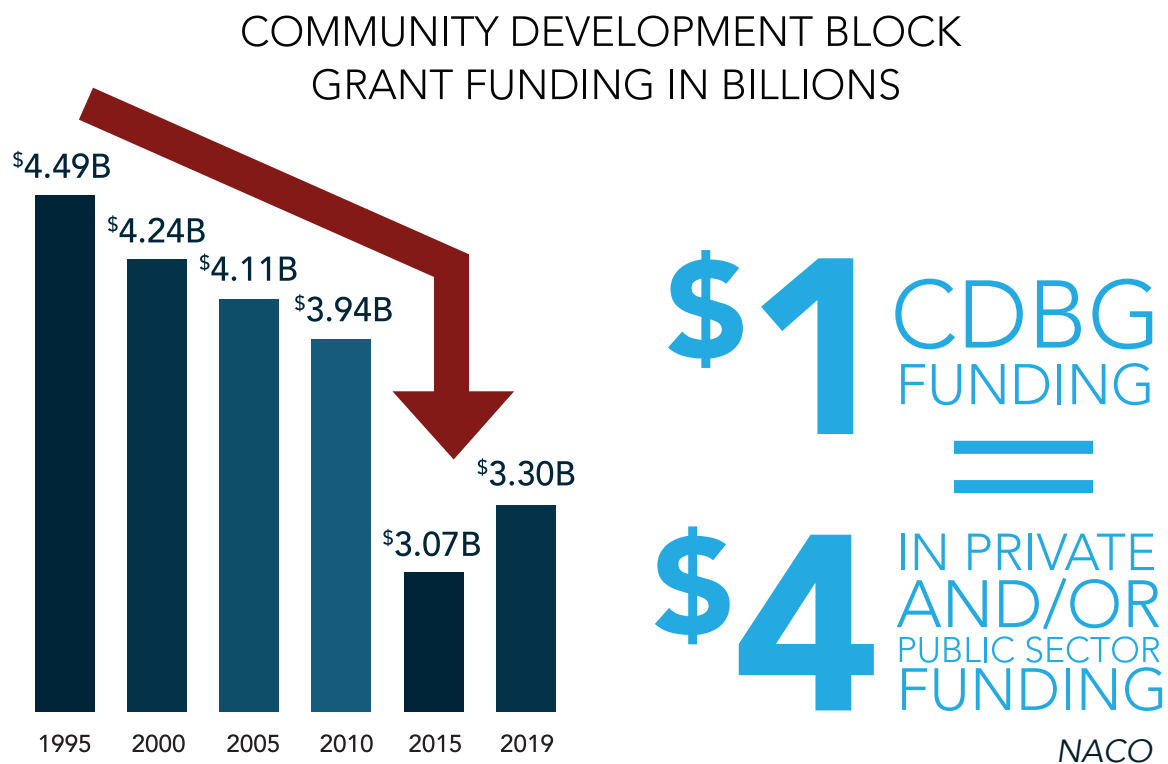
Urge Congress to OPPOSE any legislation that moves the ban to an earlier date.

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



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 GUIDING PRINCIPLES



COMMUNITY, HEALTH & SAFETY



Chair
Sandra Murman
Hillsborough County



Vice Chair
Michael Udine
Broward County

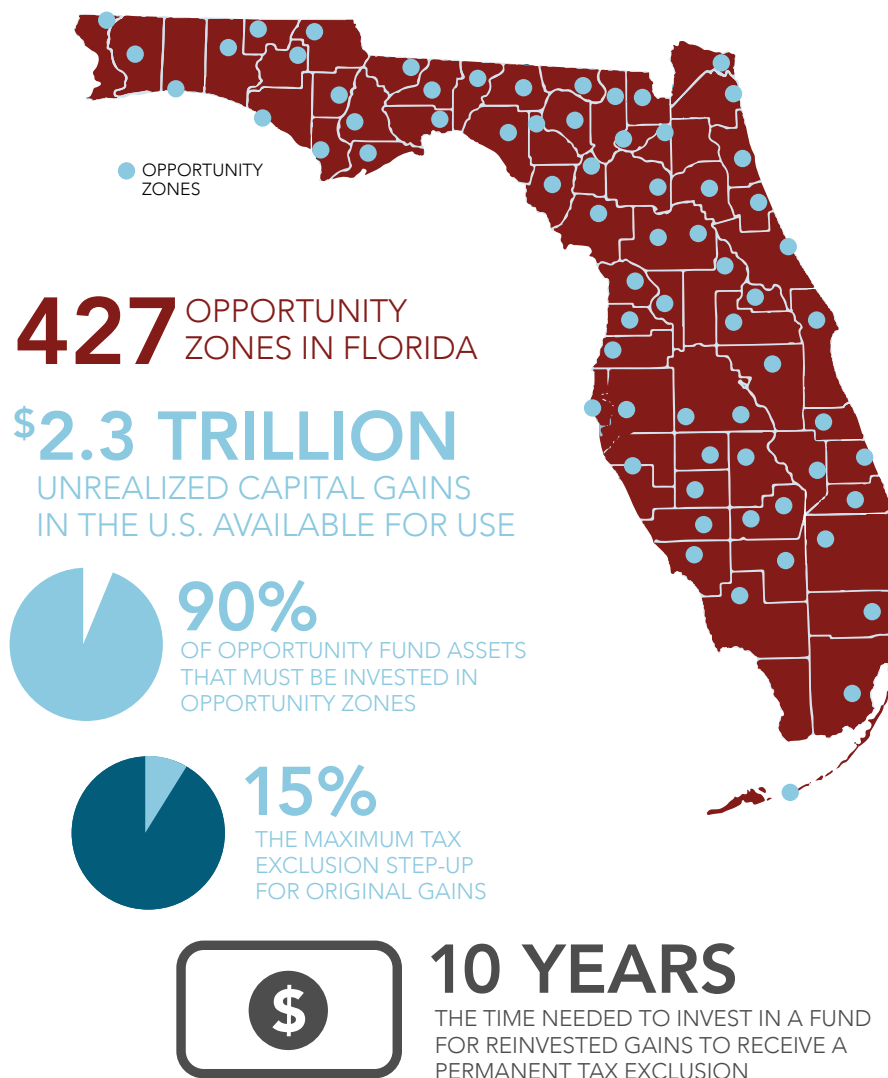
Community, Health and Human Services Policy

County officials recognize the importance of adequately providing for quality health and human services to protect and assist citizens in need. As a critical link in the federal/state/county human services partnership, counties must be included in formulating and implementing policies that protect the health, safety, and welfare of all the citizens of the state.

1. The Florida Association of Counties supports allowing for flexibility in the delivery of health and human services within communities to achieve the desired level of services based on local needs and priorities.
2. The Florida Association of Counties supports expanding health care access and believe that efforts to refine and enhance state and local programs that provide access to affordable health care are essential.
3. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that increase access to acute care behavioral health services for individuals and families.
4. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that increase supportive housing, jail diversion, and employment and education initiatives for people with mental health, substance abuse issues, behavioral health issues and/or disabilities.
5. The Florida Association of Counties supports diverting, medically assisting, or treating the mentally ill outside of the criminal justice process through alternative programs, such as Crisis Intervention Teams.
6. The Florida Association of Counties supports Medicaid reform initiatives to ensure that persons with substance abuse and mental health treatment needs are appropriately served.
7. The Florida Association of Counties supports the implementation of discharge protocols and/or procedures for hospitals, correctional facilities, and mental health facilities when releasing homeless persons.

8. The Florida Association of Counties supports the development of policies that would allow local governments to work with the state and federal government to serve target populations: the chronically homeless, veterans, and families and children, with emphasis on children aging out of the foster care system.
9. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that promote continued coordination with the state's Council on Homelessness, specifically as it recommends policies and practices in support of the Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness.
10. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that lessen fragmentation, inefficient operation, and costly duplication of transportation disadvantaged services.
11. The Florida Association of Counties supports the implementation of guidance and regulations of Opportunity Zones tax benefits that prevent abuse, encourage developments that provide public benefits in low-income areas within the identifiable zone, and protect local governments and stakeholders.

OPPORTUNITY ZONES



Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Community, Health and Human Services Funding

While most health and human service programs and the laws that govern these programs are established by federal and state governments, many of these services are being provided through community-based services at the local level. Given the varying capacity and funding capabilities of counties, adequate federal and state funding is needed to ensure uniformity in the human services continuum.

12. The Florida Association of Counties supports, when feasible, directing existing funding from institutional care to community-based care programs.
13. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased funding for core and crisis mental health services, including beds, statewide.
14. The Florida Association of Counties supports life-saving interventions, including medication-assisted treatment, residential treatment, twelve-step recovery and detoxification programs, and diversions from the criminal justice system.
15. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased funding of the Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program with recurring dollars in a trust fund.
16. The Florida Association of Counties supports sustainable matching state funds to counties that have received both planning and implementation Reinvestment Grant funds.
17. The Florida Association of Counties supports a system for distributing Low Income Pool dollars that ensures Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) - donor counties are able to direct the federal matching dollars generated by their local IGT contributions to best meet the health care needs of their constituents, rather than having those dollars redistributed throughout the state.
18. The Florida Association of Counties supports adequate funding for the Community Care for the Elderly Program, which provides cost efficient diversion from nursing home placement for impaired elders.
19. The Florida Association of Counties supports funding Graduate Medical Education programs to meet the healthcare needs of the state and its local communities, with an emphasis on programs that provide for specialties in need, as well as the development of physicians to practice in medically underserved areas.
20. The Florida Association of Counties supports funding for the Florida Healthy Start and Healthy Families program.
21. The Florida Association of Counties opposes policies that further shift state Medicaid costs to counties.
22. The Florida Association of Counties supports the continued evaluation of the county-state Medicaid cost-share arrangement, taking into consideration the impacts of state policies designed to contain growth in Medicaid costs, including statewide Medicaid managed care and diagnosis related group reimbursement for hospitals.

23. The Florida Association of Counties supports increasing state general revenue funding for county health departments (CHDs), and opposes any state reductions to the CHD Trust Funds.
24. The Florida Association of Counties supports maintaining a coordinated system of CHDs that is centrally housed within the Department of Health (DOH).
25. The Florida Association of Counties supports preserving the ability of CHDs to provide primary care and direct patient care services, particularly in communities without adequate substitutes or alternative providers for these services.
26. The Florida Association of Counties supports a dedicated state funding source for homeless programs.
27. The Florida Association of Counties supports the continuation of the Medically Needy program.
28. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that allocate state funds to hire Veterans Services Officers in counties in order to increase services and federal benefits for Florida veterans.
29. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that protect the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) trust fund, as well as dedicated state funding for the TD program, including funding to address unmet TD needs in rural areas.
30. The Florida Association of Counties supports continuing enhanced state funding for cultural historic initiatives.

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Providing for public safety is one of the core functions of county governments. Counties provide for safety through support of first-responder services from sheriffs' offices, ambulance services, fire and rescue, and emergency management centers that protect the public during natural or man-made disasters, terrorism, emergencies, and public health threats.

31. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that maintain and enhance established trauma care funding, including incentives for the development of new trauma centers.
32. The Florida Association of Counties opposes policies that shift the state's financial responsibility for the trauma system to counties or divert trauma care funding for purposes other than those intended by the existing legislation.
33. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that protect the ability of counties to provide for coordinated, countywide systems of emergency medical services, and not limit the ability of ambulance and other emergency medical transportation providers to be reimbursed for their services.

34. The Florida Association of Counties opposes sentencing of state inmates to county jails, but supports counties' ability to contract with the Department of Corrections for housing state inmates.
35. The Florida Association of Counties supports funding for capital improvements to county courthouses and other court-related facilities, including jails.
36. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies designed to prevent human trafficking, protect victims, prosecute human traffickers, and create partnerships across all levels of government, the private sector, and state agencies to provide training opportunities for local government employees and their agents to recognize the signs of human trafficking including government inspectors, law enforcement, criminal justice, health care, transportation and public transit, educational partners, and employees working with vulnerable populations.
37. The Florida Association of Counties opposes policies that would shift funds or impede counties from building and maintaining an interoperable radio communication system as authorized by statute.
38. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased funding for locally-operated crime analysis laboratories.
39. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies and funding targeted at enhancing the quality of volunteer firefighting services in rural and unincorporated communities.
40. The Florida Association of Counties supports the provision of state matching funds for all disaster-related / emergency management projects deemed eligible and approved by FEMA including, but not limited to, backup generators for facilities for elders.
41. The Florida Association of Counties supports continued state funding for county EOCs to ensure each is able to meet the minimum structural survivability and operational space criteria established by the state and federal government.
42. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies and funding that provide enhanced training and education opportunities for County Emergency Management employees.
43. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies preserving counties' ability to provide risk assessment pretrial release services that prevent new offenses and ensures appearance as obligated.
44. The Florida Association of Counties opposes policies limiting the discretion of the first appearance judges.
45. The Florida Association of Counties opposes policies that restrict pretrial services to only indigent defendants.

Criminal Justice System

Florida's counties also play a critical role in state's criminal justice system, providing prevention, pre-trial, and reintegration services, juvenile programs, victims' assistance, and jail funding throughout the state. Success of such programs hinges on a comprehensive and coordinated approach across local agencies, jurisdictions, and with state and federal partners. When determining appropriate programming and funding, Florida's counties work to encourage improved outcomes for system participants and communities while also seeking cost reductions and efficiencies. Public safety and criminal justice services continue to have increased funding needs, however, as counties and their public safety partners face new and evolving threats to the safety and welfare of their communities and counties must be empowered to adequately address funding of necessary services. Furthermore, considering the interconnected nature of many of these threats, increased federal and state funding is essential to ensure that effective public safety systems are provided throughout Florida.

46. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that reduce county jail expenses, including juvenile and adult diversion programs.
47. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that provide Medicaid eligibility for persons incarcerated in county jails while waiting disposition of their cases and to ensure that existing Medicaid benefits are not terminated during incarceration.
48. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies and initiatives which reduce juvenile detention through prevention, civil citation, treatment, and rehabilitation services.
49. The Florida Association of Counties supports state investments in juvenile facilities to improve the conditions of secure confinement for detained youth without such costs being shifted to the counties.
50. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that ensure that adequate safety, supervision, and facility maintenance is provided at juvenile residential assessment centers and secure detention facilities.
51. The Florida Association of Counties supports state funding of Juvenile Assessment Centers throughout Florida to strive to achieve equal treatment of youth offenders.
52. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that increase judicial oversight and authority for charging and sentencing juvenile defendants as adults without creating additional county service requirements.

FINANCE, TAX & ADMINISTRATION



Chair
Mack Bernard
Palm Beach



Vice Chair
Terry Burroughs
Okeechobee

Taxation and Funding of Local Government

County governments have the responsibility to provide not only core public services, but also to provide the infrastructure and services that form the foundation of local and state economies. Adequate revenue must be raised to fund these local needs, while also providing for services and programs that are mandated by the state. If counties are to succeed in meeting their responsibilities, an adequate and fair local tax policy that is commensurate with the many responsibilities of modern county government must be developed. The mechanisms for financing county services should be able to adapt to emerging technology, changing economic circumstances, and should be structured to address the ever-increasing demands on county government service delivery.

1. The Florida Association of Counties is dedicated to protecting the integrity, functionality and fairness of local ad valorem taxing authority, as well as that of the other locally available revenue sources.
2. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that consider impacts to state revenues shared with counties for the provision of local services and is opposed to permanent modifications to state shared revenue sources or related funding formulas that would significantly impact the counties' ability to continue to fund local services.
3. The Florida Association of Counties supports tax reform measures that simplify administration and provide an economic boost to Florida's taxpayers while at the same time considering and minimizing the collective and cumulative negative impact on local revenues, including state shared and local discretionary revenue sources that are critical to local governments.
4. The Florida Association of Counties supports measures that enhance the effectiveness of existing local revenue sources to meet current and future public service demands.

5. The Florida Association of Counties supports the comprehensive Payment In Lieu of Taxes programs that offset the impact of lands acquired by Federal, State, or other tax-exempt entities. PILT programs should be funded in a fashion, so as not to diminish the fiscal capacity of small counties. Additionally, the Florida Association of Counties supports the adjustment of PILT payments to accommodate the increased value and/or the valued use of the property by the purchasing entity.
6. The Florida Association of Counties recognizes the unique fiscal challenges of Florida's rural counties and state-designated fiscally constrained counties. The Association is dedicated to preserving established programs that provide critical resources for essential programs and infrastructure needs of these counties.

Economic Development

Economic prosperity depends on communities with dependable basic services, but also where 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 the 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.

7. The Florida Association of Counties supports measures that empower local governments and provides resources to work with community partners towards the creation of quality jobs, more vibrant Florida communities, as well as an enhanced level of national and global competitiveness.
8. The Florida Association of Counties supports legislation and appropriation that enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of the state and local government partnership in economic development through the greater use of targeted strategic investments in infrastructure and programmatic enhancements designed to induce sustainable economic activity resulting in a consistent positive return on investment for both state and local governments.
9. The Florida Association of Counties supports state and local policies, programs, and funding mechanisms that not only preserve, but enhance as well, the Florida tourism and film industries.
10. The Florida Association of Counties supports enhancing programs to increase funding for rural infrastructure, job growth, and workforce development policies and efforts to reduce the digital divide and expand internet access to underserved areas through industry partnerships and collaboration with local stakeholders.
11. The Florida Association of Counties supports enhancing the ability for Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAOs) to advance local rural economic development initiatives through allocation of additional resources.

Administration

The power to administer county government can be found in the State Constitution and the Florida Statutes. However, the system of shared governance between the state and counties, and its political subdivisions, is critical to the successful administration of local services in the most efficient and effective manner. Decisions regarding statewide administrative policy must accurately reflect the ability of the state and counties to utilize resources in an optimal manner to provide and produce essential public services.

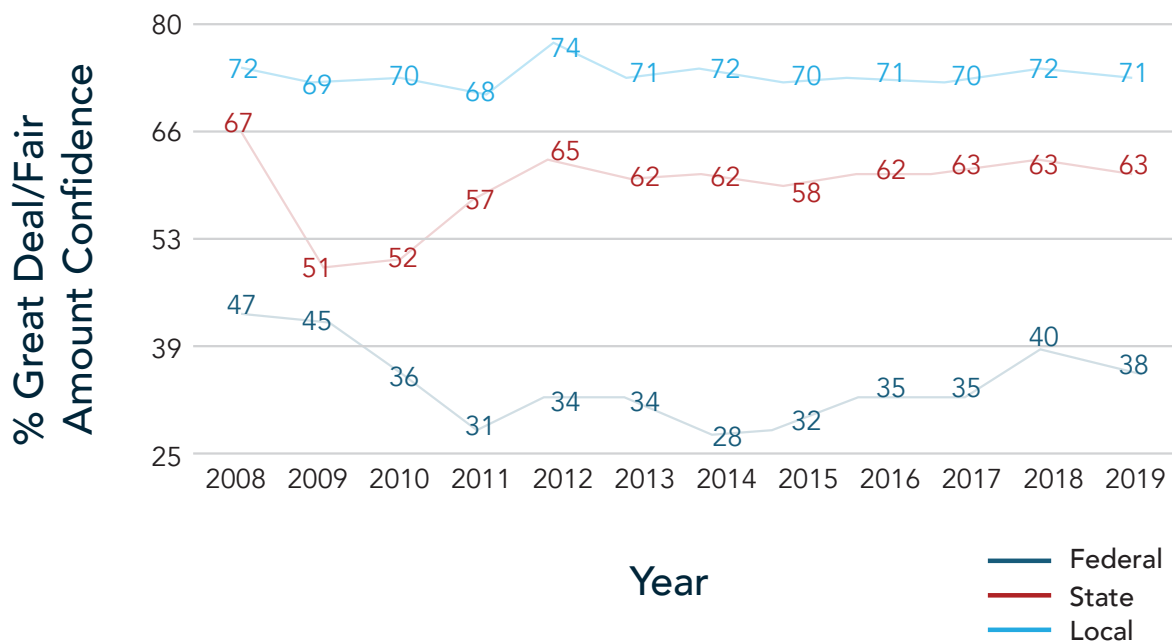
12. The Florida Association of Counties supports that policies related to retirement, workers' compensation and other administrative systems be based on sound and accurate data analyzed with consideration for state and local fiscal impact, fairness and accessibility for state and local employees, as well as, predictability and stability relative to market forces for the long-term effective management of state and local financial plans.
13. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that enable local governments to comply with public notice and legal advertisements requirements through the application of various available mediums of technology to achieve an ideal balance between fiscal efficiency and public effectiveness.
14. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies which allow for competitive and efficient procurement procedures to streamline the development process for county projects.

Accountability and Transparency

The foundation of a strong democracy is a public that is educated and informed about the decisions of its government. Accessible and accountable county governments are more responsive to the needs of their citizens and result in more engaged and satisfied constituents. Counties work to uphold the trust of their voters and taxpayers by maintaining open and accessible meetings and records; providing timely, informative, and accurate public information; and adhering to the highest standards of administrative and fiscal transparency.

15. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that promote ethical standards for public officials that are fiscally reasonable, consistent throughout all levels of government, and that do not inhibit the efficient and effective administration of local services
16. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that promote access to public records in a manner that is not frivolous; that upholds fiscal responsibility; that does not prevent the efficient and effective administration of local services; and allows for exemptions to protect the safety and security of individuals providing or receiving critical public services.
17. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that promote the provision of accurate and accessible administrative and fiscal public information in a manner that is fiscally responsible, publicly comprehensible, technologically efficient, and that does not constrain the effective administration of local services.
18. The Florida Association of Counties is dedicated to preserving, when at all possible, the link between the programs and services provided by counties with the decisions related to the funding for these programs and services, in an effort to maximize the manner and source of accountability of public officials to the citizenry.

CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT



¹ <https://news.gallup.com/poll/164672/confidence-three-branches-govt-state-local.aspx>

Intergovernmental Relations

Florida's elected county commissioners are ultimately answerable to their voters for the provision of programs and services and associated funding decisions. Since Florida's citizens conferred home rule power to counties with the ratification of the 1968 Constitution. County officials have been dedicated to the preservation of democratic principles, specifically that the government closest to the people is the appropriate authority to serve the needs and requirements of the community. County governments reflect the communities that they serve and, particularly in a state as large and diverse as Florida, the needs and values of these communities vary widely between counties.

19. The Florida Association of Counties is dedicated to maintaining the integrity of county home rule power which allows counties to develop and implement community-based solutions to local problems, without State limitations or mandates.
20. The Florida Association of Counties opposes any state or federal unfunded mandates and preemptions that ultimately limit the ability of local elected officials to make fiscal and public policy decisions for the citizens to whom they are accountable.
21. The Florida Association of Counties support the establishment of an agreed upon course of action whereby state and county elected officials deliberatively evaluate the appropriate funding and delivery of intergovernmental service responsibilities between counties and the state.
22. The Florida Association of Counties recognizes that the statewide regulation of certain sectors may not be inconsistent with the principles of self-governance, to the extent that the state regulations do not hamper the counties' ability to regulate and control county facilities and to maintain minimal safety, aesthetic, and environmental standards.
23. The Florida Association of Counties opposes the dilution of decision-making ability of local county commissioners/councilmembers with regard to the funding of the local duties of other constitutionally proscribed county officers.
24. The Florida Association of Counties supports the provision of adequate state funding for constitutionally proscribed county officers that are required to perform duties on behalf of the state.
25. The Florida Association of Counties opposes the use of local revenue sources to fund the state's judicial responsibilities.



Chair
Heather Carruthers
Monroe



Vice Chair
Doug Smith
Martin

WATER POLICY

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.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. The Florida Association of Counties supports the establishment of legislative and budget policies that better recognize the return on investment in Green Infrastructure funding projects in response to nuisance flooding, water quality degradation, extreme weather, sea level rise, and climate change.
8. The Florida Association of Counties supports the economically, technically and environmentally feasible use of reclaimed water.
9. The Florida Association of Counties supports state legislation to prohibit new well stimulation activities, including hydraulic fracturing (fracking).
10. The Florida Association of Counties opposes efforts to increase offshore drilling activities.
11. The Florida Association of Counties supports state funding to end the ocean outfalls in south Florida by the legislature’s deadline of 2025.
12. The Florida Association of Counties supports prioritizing the reduction of the land application of human wastewater biosolids.
13. The Florida Association of Counties supports continued funding for research and mitigation for harmful algal blooms (HABs), including blue green algae, and red tide.
14. The Florida Association of Counties supports crediting new activities and regional projects and simplifying the process for existing activities to obtain nutrient removal credits towards a Basin Management Action Plans (BMAP).
15. The Florida Association of Counties supports repealing or modifying the preemption on local fertilizer ordinances in sec. 576.181, F.S.
16. The Florida Association of Counties supports developing strategies and prioritizing funding for regional efforts to protect Florida Estuaries and supports development of special state designation to estuaries and their watersheds in getting funding for water quality and resiliency projects.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT, AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION, & ENVIRONMENT



Chair
Peter O'Bryan
Indian River



Vice Chair
Audrey Edmonson
Miami-Dade

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.

1. The Florida Association of Counties supports comprehensive policies that reduce a county's risk to the impacts of coastal and inland flooding.
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.
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.
4. The Florida Association of Counties supports retaining the full amount of dedicated documentary tax revenues to fund state and local affordable housing programs.
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.

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.
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.
8. The Florida Association of Counties supports broad county authority to regulate the location and number of medical marijuana facilities within county boundaries.

Transportation

The Florida Association of Counties 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.

9. The Florida Association of Counties supports funding for all modes of the state and local transportation infrastructure network.
10. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies and funding that encourage and facilitate more efficient and effective use of regional transportation solutions.
11. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased critical state funding for the Small County Road Assistance program (SCRAP).
12. The Florida Association of Counties supports continuing enhanced increased state funding for the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP).
13. 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.
14. 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.

15. The Florida Association of Counties supports the allocation of matching funds to county governments to purchase environmentally sensitive and endangered lands.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. The Florida Association of Counties supports state designation of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Conservation Area.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. The Florida Association of Counties supports the modification of the 75% Recycling Goal by 2020 in Section 403.7032, Florida Statutes.
25. The Florida Association of Counties supports the creation of a new dedicated and recurring statutory funding source for beach renourishment projects.

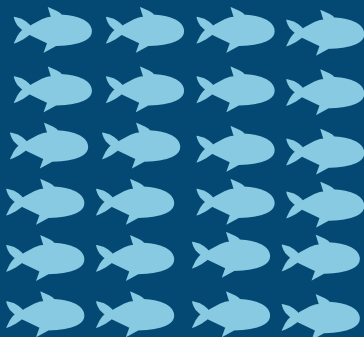
FLORIDA RESILIENT COASTLINES PROGRAM COASTAL FUNDING

\$4.5 MILLION

TOTAL FUNDING THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2019-20

\$3.3 MILLION

FROM FLORIDA'S GOVERNOR
AND LEGISLATURE



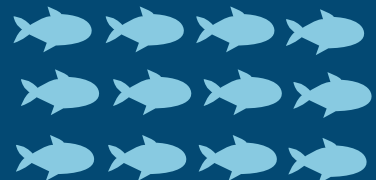
\$300K

FUNDING THROUGH
FLORIDA COASTAL
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM FROM
NOAA COASTAL ZONE
MANAGEMENT ACT



\$800K

309 ADAPTATION
ACTION INITIATIVE
STRATEGY



*Florida Department of Environmental Protection,
Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection*

2019 FLORIDA / NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS





Chair
Kathryn Starkey
Pasco



Vice Chair
Heather Post
Volusia

2019 FLORIDA NACO ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

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.

FAC PUBLIC POLICY



Virginia "Ginger" Delegal
Executive Director
Florida Association of Counties



Eric Poole
Executive Director
Institute for County Government
Federal Coordinator



Davin J. Suggs
Director of Public Policy



Tiffany Henderson
Senior Public Policy Coordinator



Susan Alford
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Tonnelle S. Graham
Associate Director



Shane Roerk
Policy Analyst

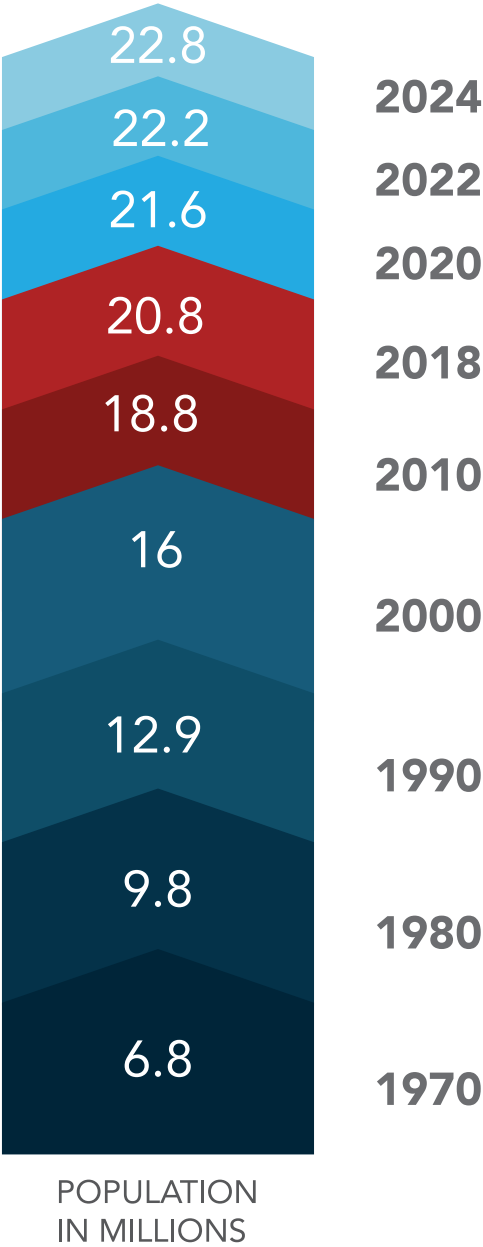


Jeff Scala
Policy Analyst

Providing Florida’s counties with the resources they need
to make sure every community is accounted for.

U.S. CENSUS 2020

POPULATION
OF FLORIDA
1970–2024





All About Florida

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