



2025 Legislative Action Plan

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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Letter from the President

On behalf of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC), I am pleased to present our 2025 Legislative Action Plan. This document reflects the collective priorities and positions of Florida's counties, developed through input from local elected officials, staff, and stakeholders across the state. It serves as a comprehensive guide to the issues we will focus on during the 2025 legislative session.

As we approach the upcoming legislative session, our goal remains clear: to advocate for policies that empower our counties to meet the unique needs of our communities and to preserve the principles of local control and decision-making. Florida's counties are at the forefront of providing essential services, managing growth, and addressing the challenges that face our residents daily. Our legislative platform outlines the critical issues that will enable us to do so effectively.

The 2025 Legislative Action Plan covers a broad range of topics, including but not limited to, local government funding, infrastructure, public safety, environmental stewardship, and health care. We will work tirelessly to ensure that the voice of local government is heard and that our ability to serve our constituents is not hindered by burdensome mandates or inadequate resources.

As always, the strength of our efforts relies on the unity and participation of all Florida counties. I encourage you to engage with our legislative team, share your insights, and stay informed as we work toward achieving the goals set forth in this platform. Together, we will continue to advocate for policies that benefit all Floridians.

Sincerely,



Terry Burroughs
Okeechobee County





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Policy Development Process

The Florida Association of Counties has a deliberative, consensus-built policy development process. The goal is to solicit and develop policy statements on legislative issues affecting county government. Through participation in legislative policy committees, county officials identify, discuss, and ultimately vote on issues to be in FAC's Legislative Action Plan. Each policy committee has one presidentially-appointed Chair and Vice Chair as well as a number of volunteer Policy Leaders.

The FAC Legislative Action Plan is divided into two parts:

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

General policy principles of statewide importance that are relevant over several years at a time and over several individual policy issues. These statements exist automatically from year to year unless they are modified at the Legislative Conference's Closing Session by the membership.

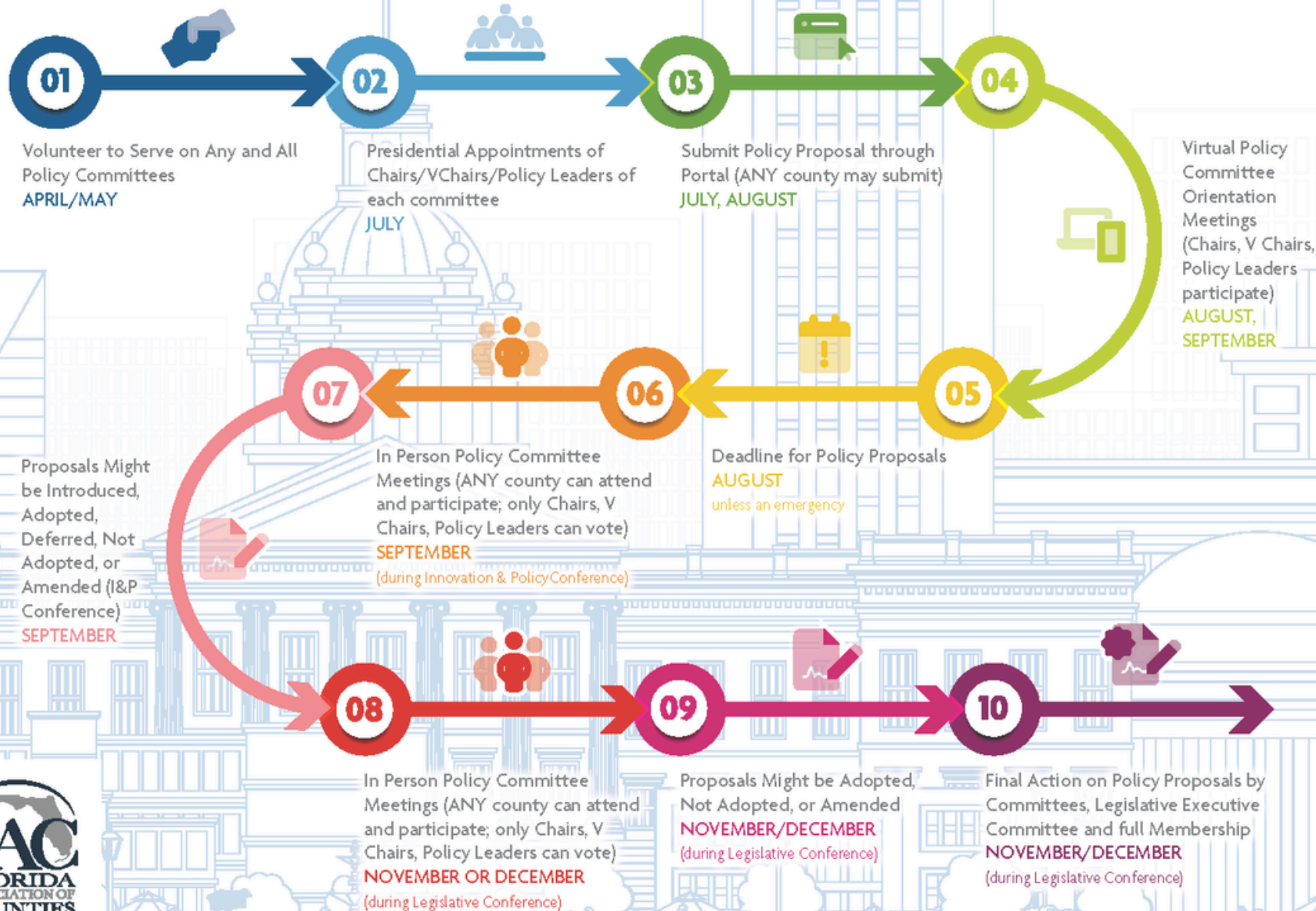
POLICY PROPOSALS

Single-purpose statements addressing a specific issue or piece of legislation. Policies must address an issue of statewide, regional, or significant and widespread impact and cannot promote individual county or project appropriations.

Scan the QR code to access the FAC Guiding Principles



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES POLICY PROCESS



Agriculture & Rural Affairs

Adopted

SMALL COUNTY SURTAX

SUPPORT legislation that allows fiscally constrained counties to place a referendum on the ballot for voters to determine whether or not that County can levy the Small County Surtax at a combined rate up to 2% in combination with the levy of the Local Government Infrastructure Surtax.

RURAL EXPANSION TOOLKIT REAUTHORIZATION

SUPPORT re-establishing the Rural Expansion Toolkit to provide marketing, training, consulting services, and site preparedness grants to assist Rural Areas of Opportunity in expanding their economic development efforts.

SMALL COUNTY ROAD PROGRAMS

SUPPORT increased funding for small county road programs specifically the Small County Road Assistance Program, the Small County Outreach Program, and the Farm to Market component of the Small County Outreach Program.

Adoption of ARA Guiding Principles



Chair
RUSSELL MELENDY
Hardee



Vice Chair
RICKY JONES
Franklin

Community & Urban Affairs

Adopted

LOCAL OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING

SUPPORT legislation repealing Chapter 2021-214, Laws of Florida, including all the created or amended statutory provisions presently in effect, such as s. 163.211, F.S., to allow counties to retain the authority to operate programs requiring the licensure, certification, or registration of local general contractors and specialty contractors, and other occupations as determined by each county's governing body by ordinance or resolution. In the alternative,

SUPPORT legislation amending s. 163.211(2)(a), F.S., to remove the expiration date of local government occupational licensing requirements and programs existing on or before the effective date of Chapter 2021-214, Laws of Florida, including the job scopes identified in s. 489.117(4)(a), F. S., and others that were locally licensed prior to the effective date Chapter 2021-214, Laws of Florida, to ensure the health, safety and welfare of county residents and businesses.

SUPPORT legislation amending s. 489.117(4)(a)2., F.S., to clarify the exemption provided to counties in areas of critical state concern.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS

SUPPORT amending Florida law relating to county and municipal code enforcement to restore the authority allowing a code inspector to act on a complaint submitted anonymously before the passage of Chapter 2021-167, Laws of Florida.



Chair
KEN CORNELL
Alachua



Vice Chair
STEVE GELLER
Broward

Community & Urban Affairs

SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES (5G) REPEAL

REPEAL state law preemption of local government regulation of small wireless facilities, also referred to as 5G equipment, and restore local authority to regulate 5G towers.

BUILDING INSPECTION FUNDS CARRYFORWARD

SUPPORT legislation amending Section 553.80(7)(a), Florida Statutes, regarding building inspection funds, which have severely limited a local government's ability to ensure they carry forward enough funds to cover pending inspections.

EXTRA-JURISDICTIONAL MUNICIPAL UTILITY SERVICES

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

Adoption of CUA Guiding Principles



Federal

Adopted

WRDA BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROJECTS

SUPPORTS amending the next (2024) Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) [22 U.S.C. § 2213(d)(1)(2021) (codifying Section 103(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986)] to clarify Army Corps of Engineers' (ACOE) policy is consistent with the law concerning the provision of land, easements, rights-of-way, relocation, and dredged material disposal areas by a Non-federal project sponsor (e.g., county) and ensure the Corps' policy fulfills the goals of storm damage reduction projects in Florida.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP) REFORM

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

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

WATER (Water Resources Development Act)

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.

SUPPORT restoration of congressionally directed spending.



Chair
KATHRYN STARKEY
Pasco



Vice Chair
RENE GARCIA
Miami-Dade

Federal

UPPER KISSIMMEE BASIN WATER STORAGE PROJECTS

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.

SUPPORT including the following language in the next WRDA bill: The Secretary is authorized to conduct a feasibility study for the following - Expanding the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Program, to the fullest extent of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP), to include the Upper Kissimmee Basin and the headwaters of the Kissimmee River at the Shingle Creek tributary.

DISASTER RECOVERY & PREPAREDNESS

SUPPORT increased investment in mitigation programs such as the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and other partnerships between local and federal governments to complete mitigation projects and increase resiliency to disasters.

SUPPORT measures that ensure any supplemental disaster recovery assistance appropriated by Congress, including the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR), is expedited to states to be made available to disaster-impacted counties.

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

OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING

SUPPORT keeping Florida's east coast free from off-shore drilling and OPPOSE inclusion of Florida from offshore leasing in the proposed National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

Federal

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS

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:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funds – Everglades’ restoration, port & inlet construction, maintenance, and beach nourishment (USACOE)
- Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG)
- Community Services Block Grant program (CSBG)
- Social Services Block Grant program (SSBG)
- Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)

VETERANS

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.

HEALTH CARE FOR NON-CONVICTED PERSONS

SUPPORT the reinstatement of federal health care benefits for non-convicted justice-involved individuals, including:

- Benefits awarded to veterans.
- Services for patients in an inpatient mental health or substance use disorder treatment facility with more than 16 beds and to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for said services.
- Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for all mental health and psychiatric care services.

Federal

NON-DOMESTIC SAND SOURCES

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.

COVID-19 FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

SUPPORT the continuation and flexibility for state and local governments to assist with critical local response efforts and services from the COVID-19 pandemic through recovery funds.

LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT

SUPPORT legislation expanding the 4% and 9% tax credits of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program to encourage more private development of affordable housing units.

CORAL REEFS

SUPPORT the State of Florida delegation working with the State of Hawaii delegation, and other delegations represented on the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee and NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, to hold a Congressional hearing on the status, trends, and urgent issues facing the U.S.'s coral reefs.

SUPPORT reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2000, and additional recurring funding dedicated to improving the health of the nation's coral reefs. Also, recommend that NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration), in coordination with the states and territories, update the economic value of coral reefs for each region and establish a regular update schedule for these studies.

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS (SECTION 8) PORTABILITY

SUPPORT legislation to reform the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program's mobility feature by eliminating the negative fiscal impact to an initial Public Housing Agency (i.e., the PHA that initially issued the HCV to a family) that results when a voucher family moves to a high-cost area and the receiving PHA bills the initial PHA to administer the voucher instead of absorbing the moving family into its (i.e., the receiving PHA) program.

Federal

OPPORTUNITY ZONES

SUPPORT legislation allowing county governments to select additional eligible census tracts within the limits of their boundaries to be designated as opportunity zones when an existing opportunity zone does not attract investment or is subject to documented insufficient investment.

IMMIGRATION

SUPPORT federal legislation that establishes a secure border, but ensures a reasonable and workable process for individuals who desire to better their economic prosperity to apply to come and work in the US, especially those in the agricultural and hospitality industries.

TRUCK WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

OPPOSE legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight limits beyond those in current federal law due to safety concerns and potential impacts on local roads.

ARPA FUNDING RECOUPMENT

SUPPORT legislation to prohibit the U.S. Department of Treasury from recouping previously awarded funds for projects and services that have been certified as complete for at least three years, which will be 2029.

SUPPORT the implementation of a statute of limitations for the remediation and recoupment of funds directly allocated to Counties under the American Rescue Act.

REAUTHORIZATION OF WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

SUPPORT reauthorization of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the continuation of adequate funding of critical programs that provide resources for the provision of local workforce programs

OPPOSE redefining local workforce development board member participation to increase the percentage of union representation due to the shortfall of union representation in the state.

Federal

SOUTHERN RAIL COMMISSION

SUPPORT the State of Florida becoming a member of the Southern Rail Commission and actively working to secure federal funding for the restoration of passenger rail throughout Florida.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER BENEFIT

SUPPORT legislation expanding the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Public Safety Officers Benefits (PSOB) program to include coverage for public safety officers whose death or disability resulted from cancer diagnosed and sustained "in the line of duty," and to expand the death, disability, and educational benefits available to public safety officers and eligible survivors, as applicable.

Florida Resolutions Adopted in the NACo American County Platform

Community, Economic and Workforce Development

- Proposed Resolution to Support Legal Migration to Strengthen Local Economies and Workforce

Human Services and Education

- Proposed Platform Change to Self Sufficiency Programs, Section D. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Proposed Platform Change to Legal Immigrants, Migrants, Refugees and Undocumented Individuals, Section F. Immigration Enforcement

Federal

Florida Resolutions Adopted in the NACo American County Platform

Telecommunications & Technology

- Proposed Platform Change Under Policies and Practices, Section O. Cybersecurity
- Proposed Resolution in Support of Reappropriating the Affordable Connectivity Program and Reforming the Program for Long-Term Success
- Proposed Resolution Opposing the Ban of Bulk Billing Practices in Multi-Dwelling Units on the Basis of Broadband Affordability and Access

Transportation

- Proposed Platform Change, Wholesale Rewrite of Transportation Platform
- Proposed Resolution Urging Federal Policymakers to Reform Competitive Grant Programs for Transportation to Support Counties of All Sizes
- Resolution Urging Congress and the U.S. Department of Transportation to Expand Opportunities to Account for Inflation in Signed Grant Agreements

Finance, Tax, & Administration

Adopted

FUEL TAX INDEXING

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

ELECTRIC VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES

SUPPORT establishing a system to provide for electric and alternative energy to pay a “fair share” of the cost of operating the road system.

SUPPLEMENTAL DISTRIBUTION FULL FUNDING

SUPPORT creating a separate statutory allocation of a percentage of state sales tax necessary to provide \$2.5 Million for the Supplemental Distribution to achieve full formula funding for those counties eligible to receive funds from the Supplemental Distribution while preserving the current percent of sales tax provided to small counties through the Emergency Distribution.

PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTION—SENIOR COUNTY LEADERSHIP

SUPPORT amending s.119.071, F.S., to grant a public records exemption to allow the protection of the County Administrator/Manager/Coordinator, the County Attorney, and the senior-most security personnel.

FISCALLY CONSTRAINED COUNTIES DISTRIBUTION REVISION

SUPPORT modification of the Fiscally Constrained Distribution in s. 218.67, F.S. to augment the revenue source for the program so that the program will return to historic funding levels and experience future growth while not impacting other local revenue sources.



Chair
JERRY DEMINGS
Orange



Vice Chair
CARL ZALAK
Marion

Finance, Tax, & Administration

SHADE MEETING EXPANSION STAFF PARTICIPATION

SUPPORT legislation amending s. 286.011(8), F.S., to allow designated senior county staff to participate in closed sessions (“shade meetings”) as subject matter experts to provide board members with the technical knowledge necessary to make informed decisions regarding litigation settlement negotiations or strategy sessions relating to litigation expenditures.

CONTINUING CONTRACT THRESHOLDS

SUPPORT modifications to the Competitive Consultant’s Negotiation Act (CCNA) by reducing the restrictions and expanding continuing contract thresholds.

Financial Accountability of PACE Providers

SUPPORT amending s. 163.08, F.S., relating to the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, to provide full financial disclosure of PACE providers to aid local governments in the selection process and limit excessive expenditures.

Adoption & Amendments to FTA Guiding Principles



Health, Safety, & Justice

Adopted

EMERGENCY BRIEFINGS PUBLIC MEETING EXEMPTION

SUPPORT legislation granting an exemption for county elected officials to be able to participate in emergency-related briefings during a declared state of emergency.

INMATE MEDICAL CARE

SUPPORT amending s. 409.9025(1), Florida Statutes, to allow incarcerated individuals to continue to receive medical assistance for any care, services, or supplies received during the course of their incarceration.

911 FEE INCREASE

SUPPORT raising the 911 fee to accommodate increased expenses and expansion of technology to continue providing high quality of service to citizens.

BODY WORN CAMERAS

SUPPORT amending Chapters 162 and 828 Florida Statutes, to incorporate the same statutory language found in Section 943.1718, Florida Statutes, to enable code compliance officer the ability to utilize BWC with the same guidance and protections as law enforcement.

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING INSURANCE

SUPPORT legislation providing insurance coverage for families of firefighters injured during official training exercises.

Adoption of HSJ Guiding Principles



Chair
CHRIS DOUGHERTY
Bradford



Vice Chair
RICK MINOR
Leon

Future Technology

Adopted

LIMITED REVISION TO DEFINITION OF BROADBAND SERVICE

SUPPORT modification of the definition of “communications services offered by governmental entities” within s. 350.81 F.S. to include education, healthcare, non-profit entities, and other county-affiliated entities that support governmental agencies for the public benefit.

BROADBAND BENCHMARK SPEEDS

SUPPORT amending s. 288.9961, F.S. to match state broadband speed benchmarks with Federal Communications Commission broadband service transmission speed standards.

Adoption & Amendments to TECH Guiding Principles



Chair
GREGG WEISS
Palm Beach



Vice Chair
LARRY HARVEY
Putnam

Water & Environmental Sustainability

Adopted

CONVERSION OF PRIVATE WELLS AND SEPTIC TANKS

SUPPORT recurring funding for conversion programs designed to move private wells to potable drinking water and private septic tanks to public wastewater collection systems. SUPPORT greater flexibility for programs that address the costs incurred by residents connecting to sewer and the proper abandonment of septic systems.

TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

SUPPORT state construction, improvement, and designation of additional trails for Floridians to increase accessibility between urban and rural areas.

ALUM TREATMENTS ON SOVEREIGNTY SUBMERGED LANDS

SUPPORT action by the Legislature and Florida Department of Environmental Protection to allow sediment inactivation, such as Alum treatments, as a safe and effective method of reducing phosphorus loading in Florida water bodies, including Sovereignty Submerged Lands.

ONE WATER INITIATIVE

SUPPORT holistic water management policies that seek to enhance integration between different water systems, while maintaining local flexibility.

Adoption & Amendments to WES Guiding Principles



Chair
HOLLY RASCHEIN
Monroe



Vice Chair
BETSY CONDON
Clay

FAC Staff



GINGER DELEGAL
Executive Director



DAVIN SUGGS
Deputy Executive
Director



JEFF SCALA
Deputy Director of
Public Policy



EDDY LABRADOR
Senior Legislative
Counsel



JARED GRIGAS
Associate Director of
Public Policy



COURTNEY MOONEY
Associate Director of
Public Policy



AMIR WARREN
Associate Director of
Public Policy



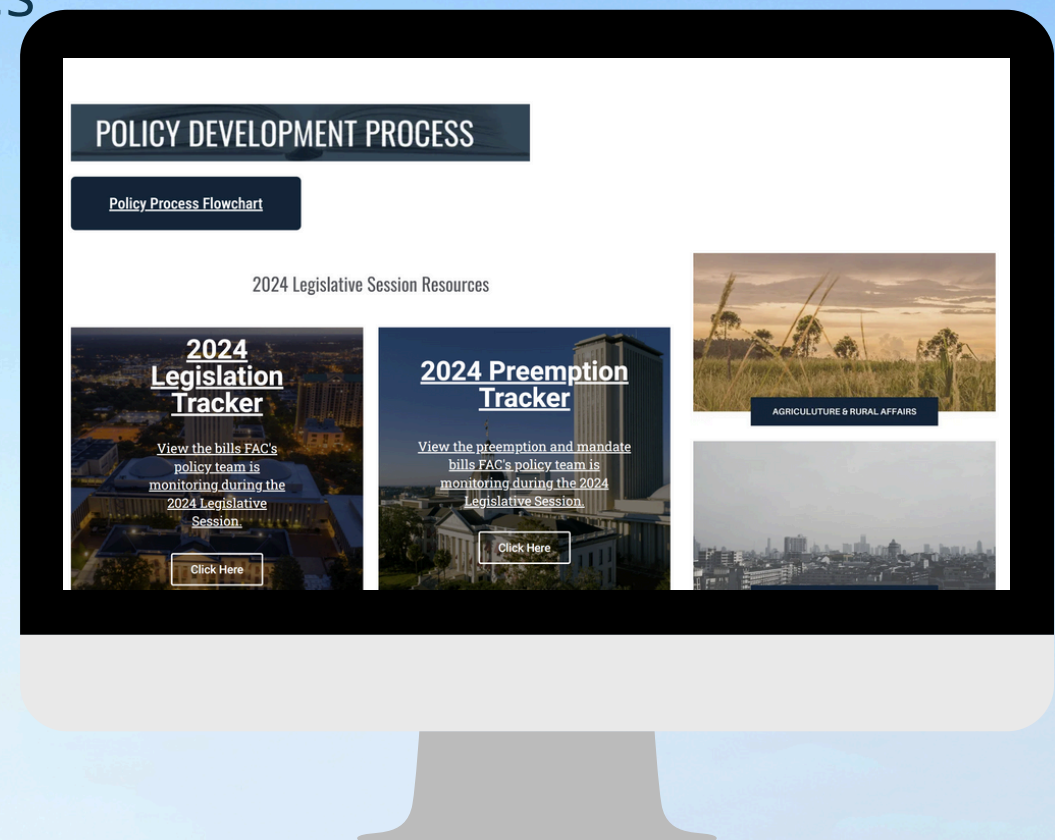
JASON MANN
Public Policy
Coordinator

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100 S Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 922-4300
flcounties.com

