FEDERAL

AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS

Source: Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee Guiding Principles, Federal section, page 2, lines 52–59

A. Farm Bill Reauthorization and Rural Development: County governments' ability to provide services financed by property and other local taxes is closely tied to farm income and rural business activity. Agriculture must therefore remain integral to comprehensive rural development. FAC calls for full and timely reauthorization and adequate funding of federal Farm Bill programs that support agricultural production, rural development, conservation, nutrition, disaster recovery, and that provide the long-term certainty rural communities need.

COMMUNITY & URBAN AFFAIRS

Source: Community & Urban Affairs Committee Guiding Principles, Federal section, pages 4–5, lines 134–145

A. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: Counties are local delivery partners for federal workforce and community development programs. Sustained federal workforce funding helps counties connect residents and employers to local workforce services that support economic opportunity. FAC supports reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and sustained, adequate funding for local workforce services.

B. Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization: Counties carry major infrastructure responsibilities within the national transportation network. Delayed or insufficient federal surface transportation funding can undermine local planning, maintenance, and mobility. FAC supports timely federal surface transportation reauthorization and funding that sustains counties' role in the national transportation network and the infrastructure responsibilities they carry.

FINANCE, TAX, & ADMINISTRATION

Source: Finance, Tax, & Administration Committee Guiding Principles, Federal section, pages 3–4, lines 103–117

A. Grant Administration: Counties are essential partners in implementing federally funded programs. Reliable requirements and funding allow counties and their federal partners to deliver results for residents, while unnecessary administrative burdens or de-obligation of funds previously awarded to counties that acted in good faith can delay services, waste local resources, and weaken federal-local implementation. FAC supports efficient, transparent, and accountable grant administration that respects local decision-making, provides reliable rules and guidance, and protects counties that act in good faith.

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B. Payments in Lieu of Taxes: Land acquired by federal or other tax-exempt entities can reduce a county's revenue base while leaving service responsibilities intact. When payments do not reflect current property values or the acquiring entity's use of the land, counties, especially small counties, absorb costs created by tax-exempt ownership. FAC supports comprehensive and fully funded Payment in Lieu of Taxes programs that protect county fiscal capacity and adjust payments to reflect current property values and the acquiring entity's use of the land.

SAFETY, HEALTH, AND JUSTICE

Source: Safety, Health, and Justice Committee Guiding Principles, Federal section, pages 3–4, lines 106–136

A. Disaster Preparedness, Recovery, and Resilience: Florida's counties rely on strong federal partnerships to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and rebuild after disasters. Delays in reimbursement, uncertain cost shares, complex FEMA processes, insufficient emergency management funding, and unstable property insurance markets can slow recovery and force counties to carry major costs for extended periods. FAC supports strong federal disaster, emergency management, homeland security, and resilience policies, including timely reimbursement of eligible disaster costs, the Stafford Act's local cost share, full funding for the Emergency Management Performance Grant and Urban Area Security Initiative, streamlined FEMA processes, interoperable public safety communications, long term resilience investments, and improved availability and affordability of property insurance.

B. Federal Health Benefits and Continuity of Care: Federal benefit restrictions should not leave counties responsible for the full cost of medical and behavioral health care for people who remain legally presumed innocent or otherwise eligible for coverage. FAC calls for restoring or preserving applicable federal health and veterans' benefits; addressing coverage limitations affecting inpatient mental health and substance use disorder facilities with more than 16 beds; and improving Medicaid reimbursement for behavioral health and psychiatric care. FAC also advocates for federal grants that help counties provide continuity of care, including medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder, as individuals enter and leave county jail custody. These investments reduce treatment disruptions and the heightened risk of overdose following release.

C. Immigration and Local Fiscal Responsibility: Immigration is a federal responsibility that requires clear policy, secure borders, and a workable legal process for individuals seeking to live and work in the United States, including in industries that depend heavily on immigrant labor. FAC calls for federal agencies to lead immigration administration and enforcement and for local participation to occur only with clear guidance, training, and dedicated funding. Counties should receive full federal reimbursement for costs incurred

when detaining, processing, or transporting individuals at the request of federal immigration authorities. Federal enforcement should not become an unfunded local mandate.

WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Source: Water & Environmental Sustainability Committee Guiding Principles, Federal section, page 2, lines 58–72

A. Water Resources and Coastal Protection: Federal water infrastructure, flood protection, beach renourishment, coral reef conservation, and flood insurance programs are critical to Florida's counties. Timely federal action helps counties protect residents, maintain infrastructure, and recover from storms and other water-related threats. FAC supports full federal funding and timely reauthorization of the nation's water resources infrastructure programs, for continued federal investment in beach renourishment and coral reef conservation, and flood insurance reforms that keep coverage affordable and available to Florida property owners.

B. Offshore Oil Drilling: Florida's coastal economy, tourism industry, and natural resources depend on clean, healthy coastlines. Expanded offshore drilling creates environmental and economic risks that are inconsistent with Florida's long-term coastal protection goals. FAC opposes new offshore oil drilling off Florida's coasts and supports maintaining protections that safeguard Florida’s coastal communities, economy and natural resources from those risks.

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