FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
All About Florida

67 Counties. 67 Communities.

ONE FLORIDA

2026 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

December 2-4

Sawgrass Marriott

Ponte Vedra Florida

St. Johns County




FEDERAL

Federal Committee



CHAIR

Kathryn Starkey

Pasco County



VICE-CHAIR

Maria Marino

Palm Beach County



VICE-CHAIR

Raquel Regalado

Miami-Dade County

ROLL CALL



67 Counties. 67 Communities.

FLORIDA
SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION
COOPERATIVE
PURCHASING PROGRAM

FAC BUSINESS SOLUTIONS PARTNER

Reminder

Only members of the committee can make motions and vote.

However, all commissioners and staff can make comments, ask questions, and debate during the discussion of each action item.

The Charge to Review and Restructure FAC's Guiding Principles

PRESIDENT FLOWERS' DIRECTIVE TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE

A full review, front to back

The first comprehensive review and restructuring of the Guiding Principles in many years, announced by President Flowers at the June Annual Conference.

Commissioners leading the work

A Select Committee of county commissioners and staff from across the state, formally appointed by the President.

WHAT GUIDING PRINCIPLES ARE

Enduring policy, not session positions

The long-term foundation that holds while individual positions evolve year to year.

The lens for advocacy

FAC uses to evaluate legislation and communicate county priorities.

FED 02 – Southern Rail Commission

Submitted by Leon County

Proposal

Renew support for Florida joining the Southern Rail Commission (SRC) and securing federal funding to restore passenger rail across Florida.

Key Points

- Joining requires a state law letting the Governor enter the Rapid Rail Transit Compact; 2026's HB 53/SB 1254 would have created s. 351.41, F.S.
- The SRC's New Orleans–Mobile service launched in August 2025 and carried approximately 150,000 trips in its first year, about double the projections.
- Joining places no requirements or costs on counties.

Staff Notes:

- FAC priority in 2025
- Bills passed a House subcommittee in 2025 and 2026 but died in Commerce

FED 03 – Support for a National Infrastructure Bank

Submitted by Alachua County

Proposal

Support federal legislation creating a National Infrastructure Bank, funded mainly by privately held Treasury bonds, to make infrastructure loans to counties.

Key Points

- H.R. 5356 would allow up to $5 trillion in long-term, fixed-rate loans, at rates no lower than Treasury rates or 1.6%, whichever is higher.
- Borrowing is optional; counties that borrow would follow Davis-Bacon wage and Buy America rules, which could raise project costs.
- The bill includes tax breaks, a $100B Treasury commitment and a federal loss guarantee.

Staff Notes:

- H.R. 5356 has seen no action since its September 2025 filing; no Senate version
- NACo adopted a resolution supporting a $5 trillion NIB in July 2025
- Alachua BoCC supports

2026 NACo Resolutions Submitted by Florida Counties & Commissioners

Guest Speaker



JARED GRIGAS

Associate Legislative Director, Community, Economic & Workforce Development

National Association of Counties (NACo)

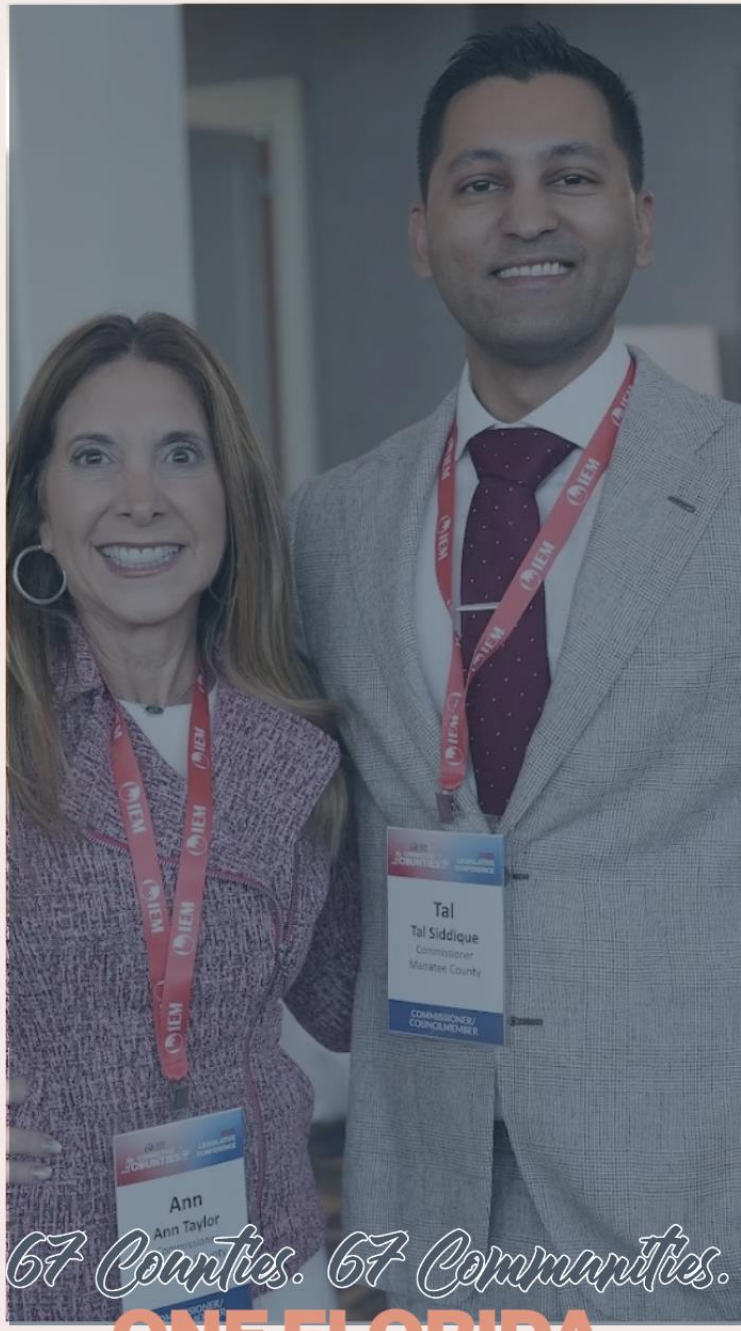
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

FAC WELCOME RECEPTION

5:30 - 6:30 PM

Lagoon Pool / Gator Club

Sponsored by: CONSENSUS COMMUNICATIONS



Closing Breakfast

Friday, December 4 from 8:30 - 10:30 AM

Champions D-E

Be sure to stay for Closing Breakfast for the 2027 calendar reveal and adoption of the 2027 Legislative Action Plan.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

Committee Meeting:

WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

9:30 - 10:30 AM

Champions D-E

Sponsored by: Walmart

