

**CITY OF CAPE CORAL**  
**LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES FOR 2015**

**Legislative Initiatives**

The City of Cape Coral supports legislation that designate resources solely for the unique problems facing pre-platted cities and provides property owners and local governments additional tools including funding with which to address challenges posed by antiquated subdivisions.

The City of Cape Coral will support pension reform that preserves the ability of the employer and the members of a collective bargaining unit to amend local law plans through mutual consent. The City of Cape Coral also supports allowing the modification of all pension benefits payable under the local law and through mutual consent without violating state chapter minimums, providing an analysis proves the state monies are not supporting 100% of the benefits under the system.

The City of Cape Coral will support legislation that addresses water quality and quantity issues that affect local communities, specifically efforts to revitalize and protect Florida's springs, aquifers, surface waters and estuaries.

The City of Cape Coral supports legislation that will mandate local school districts to share capital money with municipal charter schools and the capital funding be distributed in a proportionate manner with municipal charter school authorities ensuring that municipal run public schools have the same access to capital dollars as county schools.

The City of Cape Coral will support legislation that will allow for the collection of F.S. Chapter 175 monies in exchange for providing Fire protection to a Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) through an Inter Local Agreement.

The City of Cape Coral will support legislation that diversifies tourism opportunities by amending F.S. Chapter 599.004 or the adoption of new legislation providing microbreweries and distilleries the option to qualify for directional tourism signage.

The City of Cape Coral will support legislation that supports using State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP) trust fund exclusively for housing.

The City of Cape Coral supports initiatives proposed by the Florida League of Cities.

The City of Cape Coral opposes legislation that creates unfunded mandates, legislation that fails to protect the needs of municipalities, legislation that assaults Home Rule authority or legislation that fails to safeguard the legislative intent and elements initially cited in Florida Statutes, Chapter 163.33 known as the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969.

**Funding Requests**

The City of Cape Coral supports grant funding for the Southwest Florida Military Museum. The museum promotes tourism and is dedicated to honoring our military, preserving and displaying military artifacts and memorabilia while educating the public and future generations about our nation's military heritage.

The City of Cape Coral requests continued support for future FDEP SRF loans. Cape Coral is the third largest municipality by size and approximately half of the City's pre-platted parcels remain to be served by centralized water and sewer services. City Council has approved the expansion of 12 square miles of utility line extensions covering nearly 20,000 parcels. The City is presently in construction in the first of three areas in its Utility Extension Project (UEP) bringing water, sewer and irrigation to approximately 6,000 parcels using FDEP SRF Loans. We are also in the process of design services for the second area. Securing the FDEP Clean Water and Drinking Water loans is key to funding the project. As the City continues to extend utility infrastructure throughout the City we will be applying for future FDEP SRF Loans.