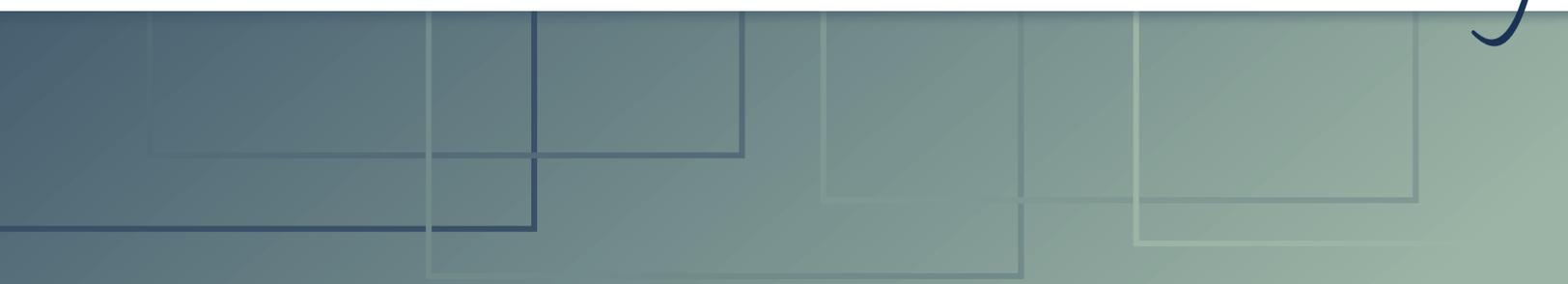


Legislative Session 2018

State of Florida



Lee County



2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

This document represents the Board's state legislative program for the 2018 Session. While these priorities are intended to guide the County's advocacy efforts in Tallahassee, the list is not exhaustive and issues may arise or evolve that will require Board attention.

The most critical issues are not ranked in order of priority. Commissioners, staff and contract lobbyists will pursue all of the legislative policies approved by the Board and place appropriate priority on the issues given the opportunities that arise during the legislative process. As usual, items of emphasis will include maintaining the County's home rule authority and opposing cost shifts or unfunded mandates.

The state legislative session will begin on January 9, 2018 and is scheduled to conclude on March 9th.

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LEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



JOHN MANNING – DISTRICT 1



CECIL L PENDERGRASS – DISTRICT 2



LARRY KIKER – DISTRICT 3



BRIAN HAMMAN – DISTRICT 4



FRANK MANN – DISTRICT 5

2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

PRIORITIES

- A. **Caloosahatchee River and Estuary Protection – SUPPORT** continued, dedicated State funding to complete construction of the C-43 West Reservoir Construction Project, a vital CERP storage project; AND **SUPPORT** funding to complete the C-43 Water Quality Treatment Testing Facility ("BOMA") pilot project on property purchased jointly by Lee County and the South Florida Water Mgt District.
- B. **Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment – SUPPORT** allocating funds for county land conservation and management programs to acquire environmentally sensitive property. Lee County's 20/20 Program will have spent almost \$350 million to acquire approximately 30,000 acres of environmentally sensitive lands for restoration and preservation by the end of 2017.
- C. **Water Quality Funding Requests** – \$1,380,000 in state funding (Lee County match of \$2,020,000)
 - i. Artesian Well Abandonment Project: Plugging wells in compliance with state law intended to help maintain healthy aquifers. (Details for each project are contained in the attachments)
 - ii. L-3 Canal Rehabilitation: This project helps achieve the goals of the Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan and the Caloosahatchee Estuary Basin Management Action Plan.
 - iii. Lakes Park Littoral Zone: Water quality treatment that helps achieve the goals of the Everglades West Coast Basin Management Action Plan.
 - iv. Wild Turkey Strand Preserve Hydrological Restoration: Water quality improvement; increased natural flow; and habitat enhancement.
- D. **Big Carlos Pass Bridge Replacement Funding Request** – \$3,300,000 in state funding for PD&E and Design (Lee County match of \$3,300,000). This bridge serves a corridor that is jointly designated by the Lee and Collier County MPOs as a regional roadway and provides access to critical parts of Lee County's primary tourism related beaches. (See attached description and map)
- E. **Public Safety Infrastructure Funding Request** – \$10,000,000 in state funding (Lee County match of \$10,000,000). Various communications related infrastructure upgrades are needed to improve day-to-day operations as well as to enhance disaster response and recovery.
- F. **Libraries – SUPPORT** funding the State's Library and Information Services FY2018-19 Public Library Construction Grant Program at \$8.5 million. This funding level is required in order to secure \$500,000 grants for both the NFM and Bonita libraries. Lee County will spend approximately \$27 million to construct these new libraries.

2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Lee County Board of County Commissioners advocates for the preservation of local home rule and opposes any legislation, policies or regulations that would impose unfunded responsibilities upon the County.

SUPPORT ISSUES

Affordable Housing -- **SUPPORT** retaining the full amount of dedicated documentary tax revenues to fund state and local affordable housing programs. Based on current state revenue estimates, a full SHIP distribution for Lee County would approach \$x million in FY2017-2018.

Medicaid County Cost Cap – **SUPPORT** establishing a cap on growth in the individual county Medicaid costs under s. 409.915, F.S. to address the anticipated cost shifts that result from the transition to a Medicaid enrollee based cost-sharing system. **OPPOSE** efforts to shift more state Medicaid costs to counties.

Regional Planning Councils – **SUPPORT** legislation to allow counties to opt out from mandatory membership in an RPC by majority vote of the county's governing body.

Communications Services Tax – **SUPPORT** revising current law in a manner that is: 1) *revenue neutral*; 2) simplifies administration and collection of the current tax; 3) provides for a broad and equitable tax base; 4) provides for enhanced stability and reliability as an important revenue source for local government; and 5) provides the opportunity for market-based growth.

Florida Retirement System (FRS) – **SUPPORT** a requirement that all legislation potentially increasing FRS contribution rates be analyzed and evaluated to determine the direct fiscal impact of proposed changes to all local and state government in order to be eligible for consideration.

Fertilizer – **SUPPORT** the County's authority to regulate the use and application of fertilizer to protect water quality.

Septic Tanks – **SUPPORT** the County's authority to regulate use and inspection.

Water Well Construction – **SUPPORT** the County's authority to promulgate and enforce construction standards. The County's unique hydrology and geology requires local knowledge of its aquifers and compatible grout materials in order to prevent inter-aquifer intrusion.

Bob Janes Triage Center – **SUPPORT** continued funding for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Local Matching Grant Program. The services provided by the Bob Janes Triage Center have a proven track record of enhancing public safety and reducing criminal justice expenditures.

Behavioral Health System – **SUPPORT** increased funding for core mental health and substance abuse services as well as ancillary support and diversion programs.

SUPPORT ISSUES (Continued)

Smoking Regulation – **SUPPORT** legislation that repeals the state statutory preemption of smoking regulation by allowing local governments to enact local regulations that exceed state standards. In lieu of a total repeal of the preemption, **SUPPORT** legislation granting to local governments additional authority to restrict smoking on certain outdoor property.

Homelessness – **SUPPORT** developing a formulary/entitlement funding allocation process (rather than competitive) that allows for better long-range planning and coordination with strategic plans. **SUPPORT** creation of a public records exemption for individual identifying information entered into the Homeless Management Information System.

Article V Court Funding – **SUPPORT** eliminating the mandates contained in Section 29.008(4)(a), F.S., that require counties to fund certain court expenditures by 1.5 percent over the prior county fiscal year.

Shift of Prison Inmates to Jails – **OPPOSE** any efforts to shift inmates with less than a year on their sentence at the time of sentencing to jails instead of prisons.

Oil & Gas Laws – **SUPPORT** comprehensive review of oil and gas extraction technologies and related regulations resulting in meaningful oil legislation reform.

County Health Departments – **SUPPORT** increasing state general revenue funding for CHDs and maintaining a coordinated system of CHDs that is centrally housed with the Department of Health.

Beach Renourishment – **SUPPORT** revising statutory criteria for ranking cost-share beach projects in order to better account for economic benefits, storm mitigation and the leveraging of federal funds. **SUPPORT** establishing a dedicated funding source of at least \$50 million per year.

Emergency Medical Services – **OPPOSE** limitations on the ability of county EMS providers to seek reimbursement for out-of-network transports. **SUPPORT** maintaining a countywide regulatory system for EMS through the current Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity process.

Transportation Infrastructure Funding – **SUPPORT** creating a formal mechanism for allocating state funding in a way that emphasizes needs attributable to high economic and population growth while also rewarding jurisdictions that provide matching funds.