



# Martin County Board of County Commissioners

## 2019 Legislative Session Week 1

*March 4, 2019 – March 8, 2019*

### Water Quality

Legislative Session officially started Tuesday, March 5. Governor DeSantis held his [State of the State Address](#). A few highlights that specifically pertain to Martin County were the governor's comments on the environment. "Florida is blessed with some of the nation's finest natural resources. We are the fishing and boating capital of the United States. Our beaches bring millions of tourists to our state each and every year. The state's unique natural environment is central to our economy, our quality of life, and our identity as Floridians. I'm proud to have taken swift and bold action to protect our natural resources and improve Florida's water quality. We are repositioning our water policy to meet the needs of our citizens, by, among other things: expediting key projects like the EAA reservoir and raising the Tamiami Trail; establishing a blue-green algae task force to develop policies to fight algae blooms, fight red tide and improve water quality; and appointing a Chief Science Officer to better harness scientific data and research in service of Florida's most pressing environmental needs. I've requested \$2.5 billion over the next four years for water resources projects and Everglades restoration. This represents a \$1 billion increase compared to the previous four years and will allow us to bring major projects to completion. Given the persistent water problems we have seen over the past several years, now is the time to be bold. Because the people of Florida should have confidence that their interests are being reflected in policy implementation, I asked and received the resignations of all members on the South Florida Water Management District. We needed a fresh start and I'm pleased to report that I've appointed a number of good people to this board."

Both Senator Mayfield and Representative LaMarca's bills titled, "Coastal Management" (SB 446 and HB 325), received hearings in the first week. This marks the second committee HB 325 was voted favorably in and Martin County was present to waive in support of both bills.

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government held a presentation on [Domestic Wastewater Collection and Treatment in Florida](#). This was a comprehensive overview of the utilities in the state of Florida.

HB 973, Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems, passed the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee. This bill transfers the Onsite Sewage Program in the Florida Department of Health to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

### **Home Rule**

The following bills that impact Martin County's home rule have been heard in committees this week:

- HB 3, Preemption of Local Regulations, prohibits local governments from imposing or adopting new regulations on businesses and business entities on or after specified date.
- HB 9, Community Redevelopment Areas (CRAs), passed its first committee stop in the House Local, Federal, and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee. This bill inundates CRAs with additional requirements, terminates specific CRAs and phases all other existing CRAs out by a certain time frame.
- SB 144 and HB 207, Impact Fees, revises the minimum requirements for impact fees adopted by a local government. This bill passed its first committees in the Senate and House.

Legislative Session continues through May 3, 2019.