



MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

ADOPTED: OCTOBER 10, 2017



MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Left to Right: Vice Chairman **Edward Ciampi**, District 5, Commissioner **Ed Fielding**, District 2, Commissioner **Sarah Heard**, District 4, Commissioner **Harold Jenkins**, District 3 and Chairman **Doug Smith**, District 1.



MARTIN COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM: FY 2018

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MARTIN COUNTY STRATEGIC GOALS: FY 2018

REGIONAL ISSUES: Martin County shall work with all governments and across county lines to advocate for projects of regional interest.

BOARD LEGISLATIVE AND PLANNING: Martin County shall review its planning and development efforts to ensure that it maintains quality residential and non-residential uses, protects natural resources, and enhances economic development in a fiscally conservative manner.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROJECT PRIORITIES: Martin County shall maintain its infrastructure in an efficient, cost-effective manner to ensure public facilities serve County residents' needs.

INTERNAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES: Martin County shall continue to refine its internal policies and procedures to ensure that it achieves the highest level of efficiency and accountability for its use of taxpayer monies.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Martin County shall continue efforts to support economic diversification of its local economy.





MARTIN COUNTY’S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The ability to maintain home rule and avoid unfunded mandates are central to Martin County’s federal and state legislative priorities and advocacy needs, as outlined below. These ideals are championed by both Martin County and the Florida Association of Counties (FAC).



Each year Martin County works alongside FAC and for the 2018 State Legislative Session, Martin County **SUPPORTS**, in general, FAC’s legislative policy statements.

HOME RULE

Home rule power is conferred to Florida counties by Article VIII, Section 1(f) and 1(g) of the Florida Constitution (1968), and by section 125.01, Florida Statutes. The Martin County BCC is dedicated to the preservation of this fundamental democratic concept that protects the right of the people to determine and implement a public purpose at the grassroots level.

Martin County supports the efforts of local communities to incorporate in accordance with Chapter 165.041 F.S.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

While some mandates are justified because they achieve agreed upon policy goals, many, if not most mandates are imposed without the consensus of local governments or resources for implementation. Mandates drain the financial lifeblood from county governments and impede the ability to adequately deliver fundamental services required by law.

POLICY STATEMENTS

The Martin County BCC **SUPPORTS** maintaining the integrity of county home rule power, both administrative and fiscal, which allows counties to develop and implement community-based solutions to local problems

The Martin County BCC **OPPOSES** any state or federal actions that limit the ability of local elected officials to make fiscal and public policy decisions for the citizens they represent.

The Martin County BCC **SUPPORTS** the establishment of an agreed upon course of action whereby elected officials deliberatively evaluate the appropriate funding and delivery of intergovernmental service responsibilities between the county and state or federal governments.

The Martin County BCC **SUPPORTS** tax reform measures that simplify administration and provide an economic boost to taxpayers while at the same time considering and minimizing cumulative negative impact on local revenues, including state shared and local discretionary revenue sources that are critical to local governments in providing community services.

IMPACT OF UNFUNDED MANDATES

“Since 2007, Florida’s counties have cut \$3 BILLION from their budgets, putting all counties near 2005 property tax levels.”

Source: Florida Association of Counties





ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES, TOURISM AND THE ECONOMY

The Indian River Lagoon, St. Lucie Estuary and coastal Atlantic Ocean waters have long suffered from altered water flow patterns and degraded water quality. Sustained damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee have contributed to toxic blue-green algae blooms throughout our water system.

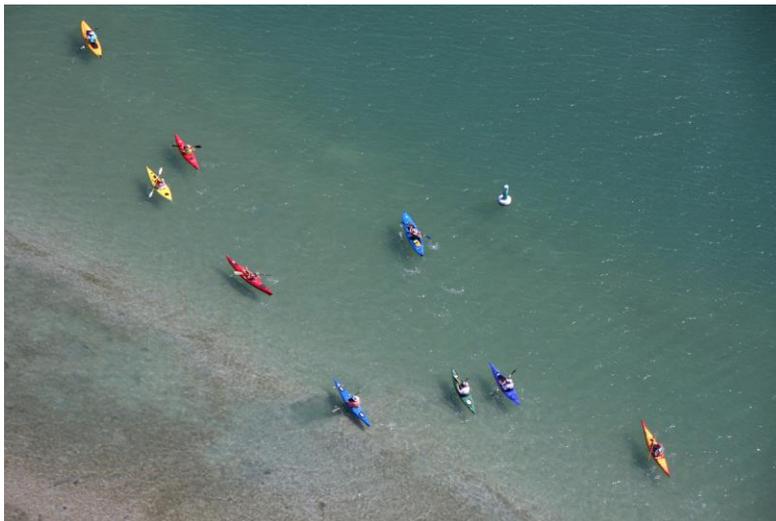
In the summer of 2016 Governor Scott declared a state of emergency in Martin County as we experienced the effects of the algal bloom in the St. Lucie Estuary, Indian River Lagoon and coastal Atlantic Ocean. These blooms were directly related to high-volume freshwater Lake releases that are devastating to both to our economy and our ecosystem.

The algal blooms extended to the Atlantic Ocean and onto our beaches during the 4th of July weekend crippling our local tourism and marine-based economy where **5,130 jobs are supported by travel employment and another 3,371 jobs are supported by marine industries**. The unprecedented damage and health hazards that our community is experiencing requires unprecedented actions to provide relief.

A clean and sustainable water supply is essential to our community and a healthy Everglades and South Florida ecosystem that **supports tens of thousands of jobs and contributes billions of dollars to our economy**.

SUPPORT

The Martin County BCC **SUPPORTS** the legislative priorities of the Florida Association of Destination Marketing Organizations (FADMO).



Recreational kayaking in the Indian River Lagoon.
Photo Credit: Martin County Office of Tourism and Marketing

ECONOMIC IMPACT*

Ranked 8th, the Marine Industry on the Treasure Coast is one of the primary economic drivers in the region

\$432.4 million/year in travel spending

\$33.5 million/year in travel generated tax receipts

5,130 jobs supported by Travel Employment

3,371 jobs supported by Marine Industries

Each of the 59,891 households in Martin County pays \$559.85 less in state and local taxes as a result of tourist spending

**Sources: Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast, Martin County Tourism Office of Tourism & Marketing, Marine Industries Association of Florida*





MARTIN COUNTY'S STATE APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES: FY 2018

GOLDEN GATE SEPTIC TO SEWER CONVERSION: **\$2,000,000**

REQUEST funding of **\$2,000,000** for the Golden Gate Vacuum Sewer System to provide sanitary sewer service to approximately 775 single-family and multi-family residential units.

OLD PALM CITY SEPTIC TO SEWER CONVERSION: **\$2,000,000**

REQUEST funding of **\$2,000,000** for the Old Palm City Vacuum Sewer System to provide sanitary sewer service to approximately 1,078 single-family and multi-family residential units.

EAST FORK CREEK STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA: **\$1,200,000**

REQUEST funding of **\$1,200,000** for the construction of a water quality alternative treatment project The BCC **REQUESTS** that any appropriation identified in the General Appropriations Act.

ST. LUCIE RIVER AND INDIAN RIVER LAGOON ISSUES TEAM: **\$300,000**

REQUEST funding be appropriated as recommended by the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon Issue Team in the FY 2018-19 state budget. Specifically, Martin County requests \$300,000 in funding for Savannas Regional Restoration Project Phase II – South Savannas Water Control Weir.





APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITY: GOLDEN GATE VACUUM SEWER SYSTEM | \$2,000,000

The Golden Gate project entails construction of a vacuum assisted gravity sewer system and associated pumping facility to **provide sanitary sewer service to approximately 775 single family and multi-family parcels** of land in the Golden Gate area of Martin County, Florida.

The Martin County BCC **SUPPORTS** past legislative proposals for a dedicated recurring funding source for septic to sewer conversions in the Indian River Lagoon watershed.

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST: **\$2,000,000**
LOCAL MATCH **\$7,850,000**
TOTAL PROJECT COST: **\$9,850,000**

**Estimated Completion Dates: December 2017(Design), August 2018 (Start Construction), Summer 2019 (Complete Construction)*

BENEFIT

NUTRIENT REDUCTION: The project will enhance water quality in the North Fork of the St. Lucie River by eliminating nutrient loading from septic systems at the rate of 9 lbs per person per year and .89 lbs total phosphorous per month per septic tank as indicated by a Florida Department of Environmental Protection Report.

APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITY: OLD PALM CITY SEWER SYSTEM | \$2,000,000

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST: **\$2,000,000**
LOCAL MATCH: **\$ 15,180,000**
TOTAL PROJECT COST **\$17,180,000**

**Estimated Completion Dates: December 2018 (Design), August 2019 (Start Construction), Summer 2020 (Complete Construction)*

BENEFIT

NUTRIENT REDUCTION: The project will enhance water quality in the South Fork of the St. Lucie River by eliminating nutrient loading from septic systems at the rate of 9 lbs per person per year and .89 lbs total phosphorous per month per septic tank as indicated by a Florida Department of Environmental Protection Report.

SEPTIC TO SEWER LOCAL PROGRESS*

- *Martin County Utilities has **connected 70 on-site package wastewater plants***
- *Since 1990, eliminated **2000 septic tanks***
- *Current projects underway will **eliminate an additional 2500 septic tanks over the next 5 years***
- *The BCC is committed to a science-based approach to the conversion of septic tanks to central sewer systems focusing on problem areas*

**Source: Martin County Ecosystem Division*





APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITY: ST. LUCIE RIVER AND INDIAN RIVER LAGOON ISSUES TEAM

The St. Lucie River and Estuary Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP), adopted May 2013, represents the collaborative effort of **17 different federal, state, local governments and stakeholders** to identify current and planned management actions to achieve these pollutant load reductions. The management actions identified in the BMAP address known sources of pollutants, facilitate investigation of unknown sources, prevent new sources, and address future loads associated with population growth and land use changes in the basin.

The St. Lucie River Issues Team has agreed to focus its efforts on funding projects that align with, and accelerate implementation of, the St. Lucie River and Estuary and/or the Central Indian River Lagoon BMAP(s). It is the Team’s belief that this will assist local governments in planning, budgeting, and executing projects while simultaneously monitoring and/or conducting studies to better understand the water quality dynamics in the watershed.

To date, the Issues Team has received **\$6.7 million** from the Florida Legislature, and an additional \$2 million from the Federal Government. The program has funded over **131 individual projects in Martin and St. Lucie counties** and their municipalities. It is hoped that the momentum of this program continues because our work has just begun.

REQUEST

The Martin County BCC **SUPPORTS** and **REQUESTS** funding be appropriated as recommended by the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon Issue Team in the FY 2018-19 state budget. Specifically, Martin County requests funding for Manatee Pocket SW Prong STA Project, Savannas Regional Restoration Project Phase II – South Savannas Water Control Weir

RANK	SPONSOR	PROJECT	FUNDING REQUEST
1	City of Port St. Lucie	Veterans Memorial Stormwater Quality Retrofit Phase 3	\$619,364
1	City of Port St. Lucie	Harmony Heights Storm Water Improvements – Phase 1 North	\$500,000
2	City of Stuart	Frazier Crescent Drainage Improvements	\$115,000
3	City of Fort Pierce	Regenerative Air Street Sweeper	\$113,623
3	Martin County	Manatee Pocket SW Prong STA Project	\$140,000
4	Martin County	Savannas Regional Restoration Project Phase II – South Savannas Water Control Weir	\$300,000
5	Town of Sewall’s Point	South Sewall’s Point Road – Mandalay & Marguerita Stormwater Improvements	\$826,685
6	City of Port St. Lucie	McCarty Ranch Extension – Area 2	\$450,000
Total Funding Request			\$3,064,672





CORAL REEFS WATER QUALITY | \$1,000,000 RECURRING ANNUAL FUNDING

While the devastating effects from freshwater discharges on estuaries have been documented in Southeast Florida, the impact of these discharges beyond the inlets and the subsequent effects on coral reefs and fisheries resources are not well understood. In Southeast Florida the health of estuaries is strongly linked to the health of coral reefs not only by water flow between these two ecosystems, but also through the movement of many commercially and ecologically important species. Understanding the effects of freshwater discharges and nutrient pollution is critical for developing management strategies that successfully safeguard and restore the economic, recreational, and ecological benefits of our local coral reef ecosystems. This project will combine an innovative, integrated approach with proven operational capacities to assess water quality, freshwater discharges, and their ecological impacts on corals and fish in the northern third of the Florida Reef Tract (off Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin counties).

PERFORMANCE

This project will be conducted over an 18 month time period to allow sufficient lead time for equipment acquisition and installation, 12 months of data collection and final data analysis and report writing.

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

REQUEST funding of **\$1,000,000** in recurring annual funding to characterize offshore water quality and determine impacts of water quality and episodic freshwater stress events on the vulnerable coral reefs and fish communities of Southeast Florida.

BACKGROUND

- **No coordinated offshore monitoring program currently exists** to document the impacts of freshwater and estuarine flows as they exit nine southeast Florida inlets directly onto the coral reefs just offshore
- In tropical coral reef ecosystems, **excess nutrient loads can cause increases in macroalgal growth** and can have deleterious effects on corals, such as elevated rates of deadly coral disease
- Nitrogen, phosphorus, and salinity changes can impact corals directly by lowering fertilization success, and reducing both photosynthesis and calcification rates
- The current El Niño pattern has resulted in extreme rain events that have increased and accelerated the devastating estuarine impacts
- NOAA has declared that **2014-2016 is the 3rd Global Coral Bleaching Event** – with the worst coral bleaching event since 1998 when we functionally **lost between 1/5th of the world’s coral reefs**

PROJECT BREAKDOWN	DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS
Water Quality Analysis	High resolution monthly water quality sampling at 100 sites (inlets and ocean outfalls) throughout the northern Florida Reef Tract
Coral Health Assessment	Purchase, installation, and maintenance of two Land/Ocean Biogeochemical Observatories, 44 offshore salinity and temperature sensors, six acoustic fish stations
Coral Health and Fishery Assessment	Includes laboratory analyses for LOBOs and fish acoustics, data storage and processing, reporting and scientific expertise





GRANT SUPPORT: TIMER POWERS PARK | \$695,000

- Located in Indiantown on 37 acres with the scenic Okeechobee waterway bordering the east side of the park and is listed as part of the **Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail**.
- Timer Powers Park has the only public equestrian arena in Martin County.
- Rodeos have been part of Indiantown's culture since 1947 and used to attract 14,000 to the area in the 1960s.
- The frequently sold out Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and Women's Pro Rodeo Association sanctioned event features bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, tie-down roping, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing and more. In addition to the annual event, riding clubs host monthly speed shows, dressage, etc. in seasonal months.
- This form of economic activity has greatly benefitted small and emerging businesses.

LOCAL COMMITMENT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Right now, Timer Powers Park is limited in its ability to expand and host shows that would allow for the participation of additional vendors and bring increased economic activity to Indiantown. In 2014, the **Martin County Board of County Commissioners allocated \$1.2 M to improve Time Powers Park**, currently under construction.

Improvements will include a covered horse arena, lighting, restroom facilities, and water main extension/connection to potable water for the park and arena equipment. In order to increase the economic activity at and connected to events at the Park additional project components are in need of one-time, non-reoccurring funding for capital expenditures.

REQUEST

The BCC **REQUESTS** funding through the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Agricultural Education and Promotion Facility Program and associated legislative appropriation for the following expenditures: Stable/Barn; Equestrian Wash-Down Facility; Trailer Utility Hook Up (Direct Income Generated Investment); Exterior Lighting; Perimeter Pedestrian Trail; Concrete Slab Around Arena: Sewer Expansion.

Local Match: **\$2.3 Million** | Legislative Appropriation Request: **\$695,000**

INDIANTOWN

- *The **poverty rate is 33 percent higher** in the heart of Indiantown compared to other parts of Martin County**
- *Enterprise Zone Strategic Development Plan (sunset in 2015) was to build community appeal by attracting more visitors to large community events*
- *Timer Powers Park and surrounding area does not have access to central sewer and a sewer extension would increase economic activity and future development of the industrial area at Indiantown Airport that will diversify the overall area's economic development and access to jobs.*

*U.S. Census Bureau





MARTIN COUNTY'S STATE POLICY PRIORITIES: FY 2018

INDIAN RIVER LAGOON-SOUTH / COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN

SUPPORT continued and increased dedicated funding for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and **SUPPORT** long-term funding commitments to finance the completion of the projects on the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) with a priority given to the Indian River Lagoon-South (IRL-S) Project including funding for the C-23/24 and C-25 Reservoirs and STAs, and acquisition of land in the Natural Lands component.

LAND ACQUISITION TRUST FUND (LATF)

SUPPORT the continuation of the Florida Forever land acquisition program and full funding of this nationally recognized program.

ST. LUCIE INLET, COASTAL OCEAN, AND BEACHES

SUPPORT a dedicated annual funding source of a minimum of **\$50 million** from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, the recognized funding source for the beach program, or any other funding sources identified by the legislature for statewide beach nourishment and inlet management projects to replace the historical doc stamp allocation and trust fund.

SUPPORT the revision of statutory criteria for the annual ranking of beach projects for state cost sharing; specifically, criteria that recognize economic benefits and cost-effectiveness, the reduction in storm damage, and the ability to leverage federal dollars.

SUPPORT state funding to further investigate the impacts to coral reef systems of water flowing through Inlet Contributing Areas and out the Inlets and onto the coral reefs.

SUPPORT the interagency and stakeholder strategy team for coral reef management and conservation led by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) and Martin County, and **SUPPORT** the implementation of the local action plan to improve coordination of technical and financial support for conservation and management of coral reefs from Miami-Dade County to the St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County.

LOXAHATCHEE RIVER PRESERVATION INITIATIVE (LRPI)

SUPPORT continued funding of projects identified through the LRPI; a partnership of governmental agencies brought together for the common goal of the restoration and enhancement of the Loxahatchee River.

HIGH-SPEED RAIL

SUPPORT legislative and executive branch advocacy efforts relating to a high-speed rail's impacts on the health, safety and welfare of citizens and the cost burden on local government and encourage consideration of alternative rail corridors.

SEPTIC TO SEWER 50/50 GRANT MATCHING PROGRAM

SUPPORT efforts to provide for a State grant matching program for support of septic to sewer conversions with a priority given to local communities within the Indian River Lagoon Watershed.

SOBER HOMES

SUPPORT the legislative recommendations of the Palm Beach County Sober Homes Task Force to regulate recovery residences in the State of Florida.

ZIKA PREPAREDNESS

SUPPORT increased statewide funding towards Zika preparedness and mosquito abatement activities with high priority given to surveillance, suppression measures, community outreach and supporting laboratory capacity and **SUPPORT** the prioritization of Zika virus and vector mosquito research and the development of effective control tools.





FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: FY 2018

HEALTH & SAFETY

A. CORRECTIONS CONTRABAND ARTICLES – CELL PHONES

SUPPORT legislation that strengthens the safety and security of county detention facility staff and the inmates that they are responsible for by listing portable communication devices as contraband.

B. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NOTIFICATION

SUPPORT legislation that would enhance the accessibility of emergency management notifications via cell/mobile devices.

C. CORRECTIONS FACILITIES- UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (DRONES)

SUPPORT the inclusion of county correctional facilities in the definition of a “critical infrastructure facility” with regard to the federal and state regulation of unmanned aircraft systems.

GROWTH, AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION, & ENVIRONMENTAL

A. BEACHES AND SHORES

SUPPORT the creation of a new dedicated and recurring statutory funding source for beach re-nourishment projects which accurately reflects the increase in participating programs and future beach and inlet project funding needs.

SUPPORT the revision of statutory criteria for the annual ranking of beach projects for state cost sharing; specifically, the inclusion of criteria that prioritizes dune restoration, where feasible, as an investment in beach protection and preservation, and also recognizes economic benefits and cost effectiveness, the reduction in storm damage, and the ability to leverage federal dollars.

B. REAL PROPERTY IN FLOOD ZONES

SUPPORT a statutory change to Section 163.3178, F.S. that clarifies for state and local officials how risk reduction is evaluated in special flood hazard areas (SFHA), as shown on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).

C. MEDICAL MARIJUANA

SUPPORT amending state law to clarify that local governments may specify allowable locations for cultivation and processing facilities through zoning ordinances or land development regulations.

D. OFFSHORE DRILLING

OPPOSE efforts to increase offshore drilling.

E. CONSERVATION AND RECREATION LANDS

SUPPORT dedicated funding for conservation and recreation land acquisition programs, including Florida Forever and the Florida Communities Trust grant programs.

SUPPORT dedicated funding for the acquisition of conservation easements on agricultural lands through the Rural and Family Lands Protection Act.

TAX & ADMINISTRATION

A. COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TAXES

SUPPORT modernizing the Communications Service Tax in a manner that is: revenue neutral and that simplifies administration and collection of the tax; provides for a broad and equitable tax base; provides for enhanced stability and reliability; provides the opportunity for market-based application.





OPPOSE legislation that would revise current law in a manner that significantly reduces current local government related revenues.

B. PUBLIC RECORDS – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SUPPORT legislation offering public records exemptions to counties which benefit the county's ability to provide and administer services to citizens.

C. PUBLIC RECORDS – DISCRIMINATION

SUPPORT legislation offering public records exemptions to counties which benefit the county's ability to provide and administer services to citizens.

D. PUBLIC RECORDS - HOMELESS

SUPPORT legislation offering public records exemptions to counties which benefit the county's ability to provide and administer services to citizens.





MARTIN COUNTY LEGISLATIVE POLICY BACKGROUND INFORMATION

POLICY PRIORITY: INDIAN RIVER LAGOON-SOUTH (IRL-S)

The **Indian River Lagoon-South (IRL-S)** Restoration Project, part of the **Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)** was authorized to address the damaging effects of pollution and unnaturally large fresh water discharges and local basin runoff into our ecologically vital water bodies. The IRL-S Project employs a regional approach to address the Martin and St. Lucie County portions of the Lagoon.

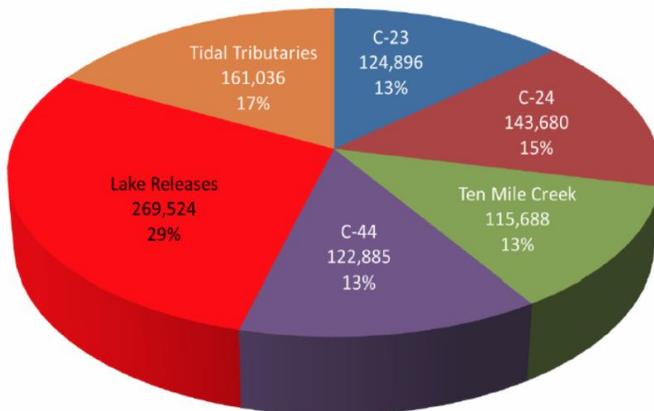
LOCAL COMMITMENT TO COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION

- **100% of the land acquired** for the 12,000-acre \$450 million C-44 project in Martin County was purchased in partnership between Martin County and SFWMD
- Martin County **raised \$75 million** through voter-driven referendum to purchase land necessary to implement IRL-S
- C-44 STA & Pump Station components of IRL-S are currently under construction and **scheduled for completion in 2018**, with reservoir construction scheduled for completion by 2019.

REQUEST

SUPPORT continued dedicated funding for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and **SUPPORT** long-term funding commitments to finance the completion of the projects on the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) with a priority given to the Indian River Lagoon-South (IRL-S) Project including funding for the C-23/24 and C-25 Reservoirs and STAs.

Inflows to St. Lucie River & Estuary: 1995-2015
Average annual inflow in acre feet



BENEFITS OF IRL-S

- *The IRL-S Project will greatly **reduce polluted freshwater discharges** into the St. Lucie River and the Indian River Lagoon.*
- *IRL-S, C-44 Reservoir and STA Construction will **create 4,738 direct and indirect jobs****
- *Through the SFWMD the IRL-S Pump Station Contract will **create 285 new jobs** and the STA Contract **will create 710 new jobs*****
- *C-44 provides **12,000 acres of above ground storage***

*US Army Corps of Engineers Contract 2 Job Creation Calculations
**South Florida Water Management District Job Creation Calculations

DRAFT - SUBJECT TO REVISIONS. Notes: 1. Missing flows for C-23 Basin are estimated from C-24 flows prior to 1996. 2. Missing flows for Ten Mile Creek are estimated from C-24 flows prior to 2000.
3. Flows for Tidal Tributary inflows estimated as 31% of (C23+C24+C44+Ten Mile Creek) inflow.



POLICY PRIORITY: ST. LUCIE INLET, COASTAL OCEAN, AND BEACHES

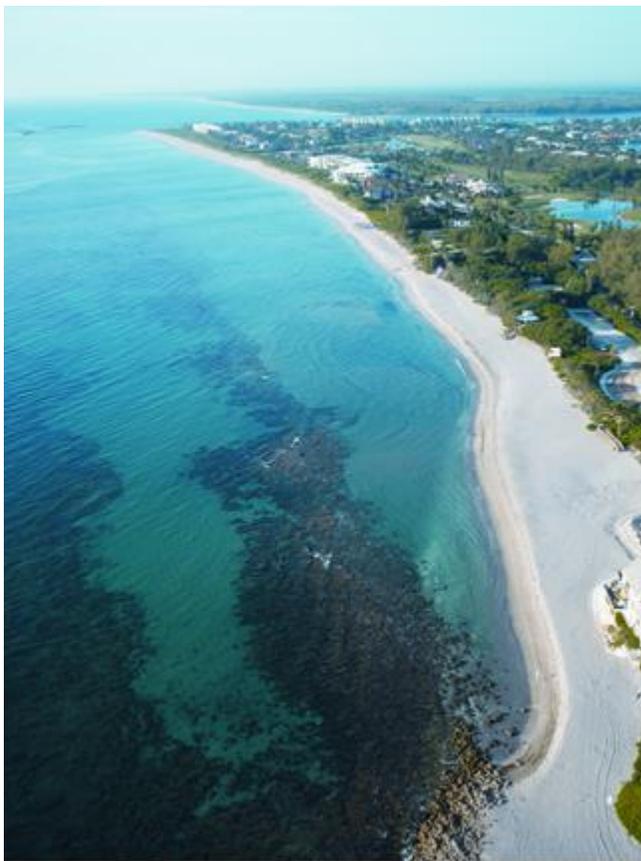
BEACHES AND INLET MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Healthy beaches are critical to maintaining Florida's brand, and if they are not maintained, visitors will travel elsewhere. Healthy beaches result in higher coastal property values, which increase documentary stamp tax revenues, so more money is available to fund the Land Acquisition Trust Fund.

SUPPORT

SUPPORT a dedicated annual funding source of a minimum of **\$50 million** from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, the recognized funding source for the beach program, or any other funding sources identified by the legislature for statewide beach nourishment and inlet management projects to replace the historical doc stamp allocation and trust fund.

SUPPORT the revision of statutory criteria for the annual ranking of beach projects for state cost sharing; specifically, criteria that recognize economic benefits and cost-effectiveness, the reduction in storm damage, and the ability to leverage federal dollars.



Bathtub Beach and Reef, Hutchinson Island, Martin County, FL

BENEFITS OF BEACHES*

- *Pristine **beaches** are the most important feature of Florida's brand, topping the list as our **# 1 tourist attraction**.*
- ***18.6 million visitors** came to Florida in 2013 just because of our beaches.*
- *The **Return on Investment for the beach program** is **5.4***
- *An investment of **\$44M** in the beach program resulted in an average **GDP increase of \$2.4B** per year*
- *Beach program investment increased the state revenues by **\$237.9M***

*Sources: Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) and OPPAGA



POLICY PRIORITY: NORTHERN FLORIDA REEF TRACT

Completed during the 2016 summer, the Our Florida Reefs (OFR) program, a community planning process for southeast Florida’s coral reefs, designed used public involvement to generate grassroots recommendations issued **68 Management Actions** for coral reefs.

The Southeast Florida Intergovernmental Coastal Oceans Task Force (COTF), convened to review management strategies and offer political and agency assistance in the implementation of certain management actions, issued their management recommendation in 2015.

*The Martin County BCC **ADOPTED** the management recommendations of the COTF in May, 2016.*

SUPPORT

SUPPORT the interagency and stakeholder strategy team for coral reef management and conservation led by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) and Martin County, and **SUPPORT** the implementation of the local action plan to improve coordination of technical and financial support for conservation and management of coral reefs from Miami-Dade County to the St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County.

SUPPORT legislative funding to assist Broward and Miami-Dade Counties to decommission existing outfalls that discharge wastewater directly into the Atlantic Ocean.

BENEFIT

Atlantic and Caribbean reefs are among the most threatened ecosystems in the world, and they are declining at alarming rates, including the coral reefs that stretch from the Dry Tortugas in Monroe County to the St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County. In the northern section of the Florida Reef Tract an undocumented coral disease with high mortality rates is spreading rapidly, following ocean currents.

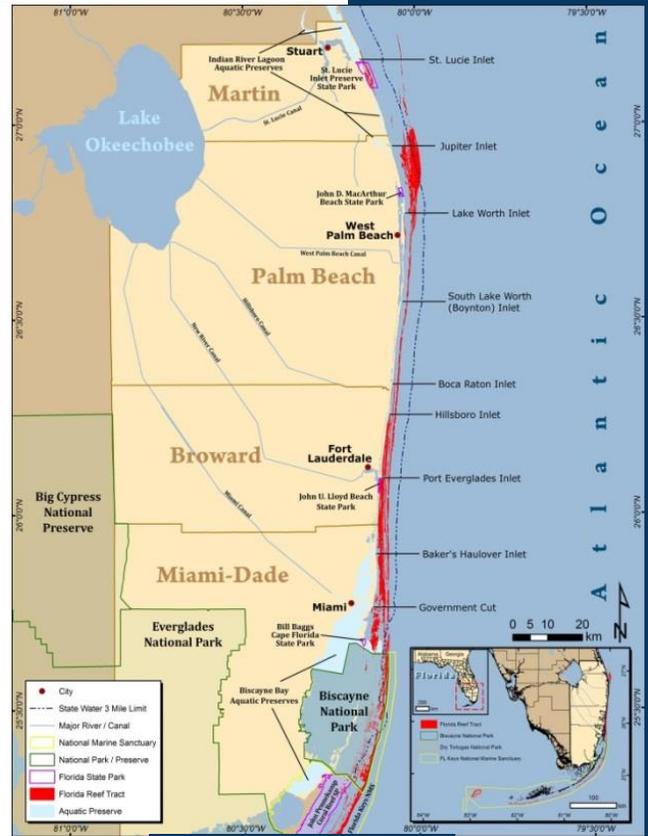
The mainland southeast Florida region, including Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin counties, borders the only portion of the Florida Reef Tract that is not part of any management plan.

Since 2003, the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI) has focused on the northern Florida Reef Tract, providing the first-ever scientific baseline information on these reefs that are extensive and close to shore, exist by intensely urbanized areas, are economically and ecologically valuable, and currently lack coordinated management and enforcement.

Socioeconomic studies in the SEFCRI region were conducted in 2002-2004 and showed that **reefs within the region generate \$3.9B in sales annually**. This study is currently being updated.

These reefs support important and protected species including many species of corals, tropical and game fish, along with leatherback, green and loggerhead sea turtles.

The reefs also reduce wave energy and reduce coastal erosion.



*Map: Brian Walker





POLICY PRIORITY: LAND ACQUISITION TRUST FUND (LATF)

The citizens of the State of Florida overwhelmingly approved **Amendment 1**, the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF) designed to "... acquire, restore, improve and manage conservation lands."

The **Florida Forever** program has not been consistently funded by the Legislature over the past few years, which has set back both state and local government efforts to preserve the natural resources and environmentally sensitive lands within the state.

SUPPORT

The Martin County BCC **SUPPORTS** the continuation of the Florida Forever land acquisition program and full funding of this nationally recognized program, providing local match funding for local land acquisition.

The Martin County BCC **SUPPORTS** funding dedicated to the management of local, joint local-state and state-owned conservation lands that are managed by local governments in the form of a flat fee or a percentage of the management costs.

The Martin County BCC **SUPPORTS** the allocation of matching funds to county governments to purchase environmentally sensitive and endangered lands, and to restore impaired estuaries, lagoons and other waterbodies in accordance with state policy and local needs.

REQUEST

The Martin County BCC **REQUESTS** increased funding for land acquisition and restoration to provide **additional storage north and south of Lake Okeechobee** that will dramatically reduce high volume, damaging freshwater inflows to the Northern Estuaries including the St. Lucie Estuary.



Construction of the C-44 Reservoir IRL-S CERP Project, March 2016
Photo Credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

LAND ACQUISITION

- *In Martin County, **22,867 acres** have been acquired through **Florida Forever***
- ***50,000 acres** of conservation land have been identified in Martin County for purchase through **Florida Forever***
- *Martin County Projects currently on the Florida Forever list include the **Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem**; the **Indian River Lagoon Blue-way** and **Pal-Mar (Martin/Palm Beach)**.*

**Source: Martin County Ecosystem Division*





POLICY PRIORITY: SOBER HOMES

"Sober homes" are halfway houses for people fresh out of addiction programs. They have been a source of controversy in recent years because of lack of regulations and neighbors complaining that they are magnets for drug dealers fishing to get addicts hooked again. State legislators have tried to introduce regulations on how they operate but some of them have been overturned by courts, under the argument that they violate federal disability laws that protect against housing discrimination. Addiction is considered a disability under federal law.

The Sober Homes Task Force created after the 2015 legislative session will recommend that either the Agency for Health Care Administration or the Florida Department of Children and Families oversee the residences, in addition to the Florida Association of Recovery Residences.

SUPPORT

The BCC **SUPPORTS** the recommendations of the Sober Homes Task Force to regulate residential recovery homes in Florida.

NARCAN

Due to the type of Opioids that patients are now taking, which have a significant difference in their chemical makeup, there is a need for an increase in Narcan doses than what emergency services personnel have had to use in years past. Most of the Heroin that is acquired today is combined with a synthetic drug called Fentanyl, which is sometimes up to 10,000 times more powerful than Morphine. This Opioid epidemic is spreading throughout large and small communities alike. With the introduction of Fentanyl, Heroin is much cheaper than before, which has led to an increase in usage and overdosing.

In the past, approximately 0.4 mg of Narcan would be administered to reverse the effects of a traditional Opioid overdose. However, now that patients are ingesting more toxic drugs, it is requiring a significant increase in Narcan to reverse the effects. According to Martin County Fire Rescue, some patients are given up to 10 mg versus the standard 0.4 mg to counteract overdoses.

NARCAN STATISTICS IN MARTIN COUNTY

Between Nov 1, 2013 and Oct 31, 2016 the **number of patients in this category has risen by 81%** and the doses of Narcan administered **has increased by 258%**.¹

- Nov 1 2013 to Oct 31 2014 – 214 patients – 76 doses of Narcan
- Nov 1 2014 to Oct 31 2015 – 252 patients – 106 doses of Narcan
- Nov 1 2015 to Oct 31 2016 – 387 patients – 272 doses of Narcan

SUPPORT

Due to a county-wide increase in synthetic drug and opioid use and an increase in overdoses the Martin County and throughout Florida the BCC **SUPPORTS** an increase in statewide funding for Narcan and appropriations to combat Opioid overdoses.

¹ Statistics provided by Martin County Fire Rescue Department





POLICY PRIORITY: ZIKA PREPAREDNESS

With the unprecedented public health emergency presented by Zika virus, mosquito control provides the first line of defense against the vectors, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*. Without an available vaccine, preparedness actions aimed at increasing surveillance, targeting control measures, and providing outreach to the community are imperative in reducing the spread of Zika throughout Florida. Right now, there are **a total of 783 cases of Zika** in Florida not involving pregnant women, and **135 cases in pregnant women** (as of November 11, 2016).

In Martin County the risk of local transmission is very real given the subtropical climate, history of locally acquired arboviruses (**28 cases of dengue virus in 2013**), and the widespread presence of the vector species (as indicated by population monitoring). Investment in aggressive preventative measures against Zika virus will **help reduce future costs** associated with large scale local transmission. With resistance developing amongst mosquito populations in Florida and few new technologies available for control, additional funding of **\$500,000** to Martin County is paramount to our ability to respond to Zika virus.

SUPPORT

The Martin County BCC **REQUESTS** increased statewide funding towards Zika preparedness and mosquito abatement activities with high priority given to surveillance, suppression measures, community outreach and supporting laboratory capacity.

The Martin County BCC **SUPPORTS** the prioritization of Zika virus and vector mosquito research and the development of effective control tools.

BENEFIT

With vaccine deployment 2-3 years away, vector control is our first line of defense against Zika virus. Florida has 80 different species of mosquitoes, of which two are the primary vectors for Zika virus. These particular species are difficult to control due to their ability to breed in very small amounts of water and their association with urban areas.

Additional resources available for Zika preparedness will allow for mosquito control to increase its presence in urban areas to educate homeowners and reduce breeding habitats. Funding will also provide support for the deployment of novel control strategies and increasing laboratory capacity. **With 156,283 citizens and 79,239 housing units** (2015 estimates) **in Martin County, there are still unmet needs.**

LOCAL COMMITMENT TO ZIKA PREPAREDNESS*

*Martin County Mosquito Control personnel **conducted at least 2,544** domestic mosquito inspections during peak mosquito activity.*

*A contractor team was authorized to **perform an additional 2,002** residential inspections at a total **cost of \$115,628.32.***

Eggs from Martin County are being provided to the Florida Medical Entomology Lab for pesticide resistance testing.

*Martin County has **added additional tools to control domestic** mosquitoes for deployment upon further training and response plan development.*

*Source: Martin County Mosquito Control Department





GROWTH MANAGEMENT

In 1982, Martin County adopted its first Comprehensive Plan in accordance with the Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act of 1975. As the State of Florida refined its requirements for local government planning, the County adopted its Comprehensive Growth Management Plan in 1990. This action updated the 1982 Plan in accordance with the 1985 Growth Management Act via Ordinance 373. Martin County's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan implements and strengthens the County's comprehensive planning process. The purpose of its planning is to protect natural and manmade resources and maintain, through orderly growth and development, the character, stability and quality of life for present and future Martin County residents.

THE MARTIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

The "Pillars of the Plan" have protected and preserved Martin County and reflect long standing community values. They include:

- Four Story Height Limit (predates 1982 Plan)
- Urban Service District (1982 Plan)
- Wetlands Protection (1982 Plan)
- Uplands Protection (1990 Plan)
- Concurrency and Capital Improvement Program (1990 Plan)
- Land Use and Zoning (1982 Plan)

REQUEST

OPPOSE efforts to subvert local control of land use matters counterproductive to the principals of home rule enshrined in Article VIII, Section 1(f) and 1(g) of the Florida Constitution (1968), and in section 125.01, Florida Statutes. The revisions to the Community Planning Act of 2011 were intended to strengthen the local government's ability to address its local issues through its Comprehensive Plan. The BCC requests the state respect home rule and **SUPPORT** Martin County's ability to retain its unique comprehensive plan and environmental regulations.

OPPOSE PREEMPTIONS TO THE REGULATION OF WETLANDS

Legislation proposed (but ultimately defeated) during the 2013 legislative session would have impeded Martin County's home rule authority over the regulation of wetlands. Specifically, the legislation proposed that any independent water control district created before July 1, 2013, and operating pursuant to chapter 298 for which a valid environmental resource permit has been issued pursuant to this part or a federal wetlands permit authorized under s. 404 482 of the federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. s. 1344, has been issued, is exempt from further wetlands regulations imposed pursuant to chapters 125, 163, and 166.

Water control districts operating in Martin County pursuant to Chapter 298 and impacted by this previously proposed change included the Hobe St. Lucie Conservancy District; Troup-Indiantown Water Control District and the Pal-Mar Water Control District in Martin County, encompassing thousands of acres of environmentally sensitive land. For example, the Pal-Mar Water Control District was created by Special Act as a 298 Special District in the 1960's and is located in both Palm Beach and Martin Counties encompassing approximately 23,000 acres. A majority of the lands within the District are in public ownership and no one currently resides within the boundaries. This legislation would have preempted wetlands regulations in Pal-Mar and other water control districts and allow the Special district wide latitude. This change could have resurrected the development potential of the Pal-Mar area and other districts. Regarding Pal-Mar, both Palm Beach and Martin Counties have long maintained that this area is not developable under the land use and zoning regulations and much of the land is in public ownership.

POSITION STATEMENT

OPPOSE any preemption to the BCC's wetland regulations.





THE FLORIDA RECREATION DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FRDAP)

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) administers the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP). This program is a competitive grant program that provides financial assistance through grants to local governments for the acquisition and development of land for public outdoor recreation purposes. FRDAP program has two funding thresholds, the Large Project Fund provides grants of up to \$200,000, and the Small Project Fund provides grants of up to \$50,000

The FRDAP Program assures Floridians have access to recreation, which is proven to alleviate increasing health care costs. According to the Florida Sports Foundation in FY 2011: **Florida's 67 counties and 411 municipalities spent over \$2.6 billion** on improvements to recreational infrastructure.

FRDAP Funding levels:

FY 2016-17: \$0

FY 2015-16: \$5,491,500 for all Small Development Projects

FY 2014-15: \$2,479,820 with proviso to fund municipal projects of \$50,000 or less

FY 2013-14: \$642,000 in total funding

FY 2011-13: No Appropriations

FY 2010-11: \$300,000 total statewide funding with only two applications funded

FY 2008-09: \$24 million and funded 212 projects in 54 counties/cities.

MARTIN COUNTY FRDAP GRANT APPLICATION

Martin County has submitted the following three applications for consideration by the FRDAP program:

LARGE PROJECT FUND: Improvements at **Phipps Park** totaling **\$200,000** (with a \$200,000 match)

LARGE PROJECT FUND: Improvements at **Stuart Beach** totaling **\$200,000** (with a \$200,000 match)

LARGE PROJECT FUND: Phase II **Indian Riverside Park** Boardwalk **\$200,000** (with a \$200,000 match)

SUPPORT

SUPPORT restoring FRDAP funding levels to **\$24 million** to adequately fund the many aging park systems in the State of Florida.





STATE LIBRARY FUNDING

We believe well-funded and aptly operated public libraries positively impact individuals, communities, and the State as a whole by providing free access to reliable information and education. Public libraries educate and support a well-informed population, inspire individuals and business to pursue innovative opportunities, and provide a community with a fundamental space for information and improvement. Local governments receive State support for libraries through three different programs: the State Aid program, the Regional Multi-type Library Cooperative Grant program, and the Public Library Construction Grant program. Continuation of these funding sources will ensure that the State will play an appropriate role in enhancing public library service by matching local library expenditures, enhancing consortia services to area libraries, and providing needed dollars for the construction of new public libraries.

The Martin County Library System currently ranks²

- #2 in Library Visits per Capita
- #3 in Audio Materials per 1,000 Population
- #3 in Public Computer Use per 1,000 Population

REQUEST

Martin County and The Florida Library Association **SUPPORTS** the restoration of the State Aid to Public Libraries program to at least **\$33,400,000**. This level was last appropriated in FY 2001.

SUPPORT funding for the implementation of the *Martin Reads! Grade-Level Reading Community Solutions Action Plan*.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Currently **51% of Floridians have a library card** and they checked out an average of six books per person in 2014. Floridians visited their public library 78.5 million times in person and made 94.8 million virtual visits. A strong fiscal foundation for our public libraries is critical to the state’s economic and educational success. State Aid grant funding assists Floridians with:

- Economic development resources to small businesses and job seekers.
- Accesses to government services, especially e-government – public libraries are the “go to” place when Floridians need to access the Internet and the vast array of services and products online.
- Education and reading – libraries are the safety net that insures school success for students of all ages.

For every \$1.00 invested in public libraries, the return on investment is \$8.32, Gross Regional Product increases by \$10.57, and income (wages) increases by \$22.97. For every \$3,491 spent on public libraries from public funding sources in Florida, one job (in the economy, not just in libraries) is created.

² According to the 2013-1014 Public Services State Ratings for the 31 medium-size Florida libraries





MARTIN COUNTY LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENTS

NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Infrastructure Surtax: **SUPPORT** state legislation to amend sales tax laws that allow local government greater flexibility to utilize local option surtax sources for water infrastructure projects.

Coral Reef Protection: **SUPPORT** state funding to further investigate the impacts to coral reef systems of water flowing through Inlet Contributing Areas and out the Inlets and onto the coral reefs.

Hydraulic Fracturing: **SUPPORT** a statewide ban on horizontal oil drilling, hydraulic fracturing, acid fracturing and well stimulation performed for the purposes of exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the State of Florida.

Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (NEP): **SUPPORT** continued state funding for the Indian River Lagoon NEP, as approved through interlocal agreement.

Comprehensive Water Policy: **SUPPORT** protection of our waterways, water supply and local regulatory authority in any proposed water policies/legislation.

Statewide Stormwater Treatment Rule: **SUPPORT** efforts of the state to re-initiate the development of a statewide stormwater rule. The goal of this rule is to ensure that post-development peak discharges rates, volumes, recharge and pollutant loadings are less than or equal to the pre-development rates, volumes and loadings.

Research: **SUPPORT** state funding for public research in order to gather data needed to better understand and track the health of our waterways.

Lionfish Eradication: **SUPPORT** legislation that would help fund the eradication of lionfish that impact the Indian River Lagoon.

Petroleum Storage Tank Compliance Verification Program: **SUPPORT** the Petroleum Storage Tank Compliance Verification Program at the local program level and maintain the current \$5,900,000 budget level.

Harmful-Algal-Bloom Task Force: **SUPPORT** funding of **\$1,000,000** state-wide with a priority of funds given to the North Everglades Estuaries to promote the responsibilities of the as described in FS. 379.2271.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT & COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT

Community Redevelopment Agency Statutory Authority: **SUPPORT** retaining current language found in Chapter 163, Part III, Florida Statutes, creating mechanisms for cities and counties to negotiate, establish, operate and fund Community Redevelopment Agencies and **OPPOSE** legislation aimed at limiting, dismantling or reducing funding for Community Redevelopment Agencies.

Hobe Sound: **SUPPORT** the incorporation of Hobe Sound, creating the Town of Hobe Sound.

Growth and Development: **SUPPORT** legislation that promotes quality urban development and redevelopment within our cities, especially new statutory and regulatory incentives for projects that involve infill development, job creation and economic development.





TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Small County Dredging Program: The Martin County BCC **SUPPORTS** changes to Florida Statute 311.22 that would allow FDOT to administer the Small County Dredging program identified in to fund dredging projects in counties having a population of fewer than 300,000; to include shallow draft commercial inlets in the options for approved dredging projects and allow the BCC to be the direct grant recipient of the program.

Broadband Infrastructure: The Martin County BCC **SUPPORTS** increased funding and collaborative efforts for broadband infrastructure needs and protect municipal broadband networks.

Historic Preservation: The Martin County BCC **SUPPORTS** funding for Historic Preservation.

Property Insurance: The Martin County BCC **SUPPORTS** legislation to increase accessibility and decrease cost of windstorm and flood insurance.

Multimodal Transportation: **SUPPORT** legislation supporting intra-urban and inter-urban multimodal transportation systems throughout Florida. Examples are: bus and other mass transit, passenger rail, pedestrian, bicycle, complete streets, safe mobility and public private partnerships (P3). We also **SUPPORT** locating rail stations and intermodal centers in or adjacent to urban centers, and legislation that would lessen and/or mitigate the negative effects of freight rail traffic and associated facilities on urban centers and the urban redevelopment process.

FINANCE, TAX & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Tax Reform: **SUPPORT** tax reform measures that simplify administration and provide an economic boost to Florida's taxpayers while at the same time considering and minimizing the collective and cumulative negative impact on local revenues, including state shared and local discretionary revenue sources that are critical to local governments in providing community services.

Economic Development: **SUPPORT** measures that empower local governments and provides resources to work with community partners towards the creation of quality jobs, more vibrant Florida communities, as well as an enhanced level of national and global competitiveness.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT): **SUPPORT** the comprehensive Payment In Lieu of Taxes programs that offset the impact of lands acquired by Federal, State, or other tax-exempt entities. PILT programs should be funded in a fashion, so as not to diminish the fiscal capacity of small counties. **SUPPORT** legislative consideration of adjusting PILT payments to accommodate the increased value and/or the valued use of the property by the purchasing entity.

Derelict Vessel Removal: **SUPPORT** increased assistance to local governments with derelict vessel removal.

Florida Boating Improvement Program: **SUPPORT** increased funding to the Florida Boating Improvement Program.

Implementation of Solar Constitutional Amendment 4: **SUPPORT** legislation that limits the impact of exemptions provided to "utility scale" solar devices or renewable energy source devices that are subject to tangible personal property tax for any project in a county with a population of 175,000 or smaller.

Marine, Agriculture, Knowledge and Information, Bio-Science: **SUPPORT** funding to strengthen and expand the marine, agriculture, knowledge and information, bio-science, and high wage aircraft industry economic sectors, focused upon increasing high paying jobs and a broadened tax base in selected economic sectors.

Foreign Trade Zone: **SUPPORT** Martin County's participation in the transition from a traditional Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) to an Alternative Site Framework for Foreign Trade Zone #135 in partnership with the Port of Palm Beach.

Targeted Businesses Retention: **SUPPORT** legislative changes to the sales factor criteria to allow for the retention of targeted businesses consistent with the Martin County Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption program.

Final Judgment Form for Mortgage Foreclosures: **SUPPORT** modifications in procedure to prevent the foreclosure on taxes in addition to the lien.

Affordable Housing: **SUPPORT** the existing state housing trust funds for affordable housing programs, specifically the local S.H.I.P. programs.





Sanctions for Nuisance Litigation: SUPPPORT sanctions for nuisance litigation that protects citizens from litigation for public participation.

Election Reform: SUPPPORT election reform, specifically requiring uniform qualification standards and restoring runoffs in partisan elections, prohibiting the limiting of primaries by a write-in candidate.

Arts Funding: SUPPPORT increasing funding for the arts.

Cultural Facilities Program: SUPPPORT the Cultural Facilities Program and funding recommendations.

Impact Fees: OPPOSE legislation that diminishes the ability of counties to levy impact fees without provision for an alternative funding source. Support application of existing statutes to remedy any perceived issues in regards to implementation, timing, and application of impact fees.

Property Insurance: SUPPPORT legislation to increase accessibility and decrease cost of windstorm and flood insurance.

Property Tax Reform: SUPPPORT solutions that improve equity and fairness among classes of taxpayers as well as individual taxpayers. Support reasonable limits on the rate of property tax assessment increases. **OPPOSE** any further expansion of the Homestead Exemption.

State Designations: SUPPPORT state designation of the Elliott Museum as Florida’s Baseball Museum.

TABOR (Taxpayer Bill of Rights): Oppose this one-size-fits-all measure that caps state and local government spending and revenue to a defined base amount, adding inflation and population.

Film/Television Entertainment Production Tax Incentives: SUPPPORT legislation that would enhance the current incentives program to support and incentivize local governments to create and maintain a more sustainable and competitive physical and financial environment for attracting film, television, digital and new media related entertainment production in Florida.

Florida Retirement System (FRS): OPPOSE any FRS benefit changes that result in an increase in the FRS county and county employee contribution rates. **SUPPPORT** requiring all legislation that potentially results in an increase in the FRS contribution rate to be analyzed and evaluated to determine the direct fiscal impact of proposed changes to all local and state government to be eligible for consideration.

Public Record and Open Meeting Exemptions for Economic Development: SUPPPORT changes to s.286.0113 and s.288.075, F.S., which would allow the Board of County Commissioners to deliberate in private regarding an economic development proposal and preserve the confidentiality of confidential information in the possession of an economic development agency.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTHCARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

Low/Income Pool/Intergovernmental Transfers: SUPPPORT a system for distributing low income pool dollars that ensures IGT donor counties are able to direct the federal matching dollars generated by their local IGT contributions to best meet the health care needs of their constituents, rather than having those dollars redistributed throughout the state. **For example, in 2014 Martin County put up \$1.6M in intergovernmental transfers, which generated \$2.3M in federal dollars, for the benefit of Martin Health Systems.**

County Share of Cost for Medicaid Services: SUPPPORT continued evaluation of the county-state Medicaid cost-share arrangement, taking into consideration the impacts of state policies designed to contain growth in Medicaid costs, including statewide Medicaid managed care and diagnosis related group reimbursement for hospitals. Additionally, consider possible alternatives to the current arrangement, including but not limited to:

- Alternative financing mechanisms;
- Targeted local investment of the statutory county Medicaid contribution;
- Allocation of state funds to reduce the cost-shift created by the implementation of an enrollment-based formula; and
- Elimination of the unfunded mandate.





Smoking Regulation: **SUPPORT** legislation restoring county authority to regulate smoking on county-owned outdoor property. **OPPOSE** efforts to preempt local regulation of tobacco products and other nicotine dispensing devices.

Healthy Start and Healthy Families: **SUPPORT** a continuation of funding for the Florida Healthy Start and Healthy Families program. **Specifically, support the reinstatement of funding at \$5 million (local request) for Healthy Families.** In addition, support the Healthy Start program provides screenings and other services to qualifying pregnant women, infants, and children up to age three. Thirty-one Healthy Start Coalitions and two county health departments cover these services in all Florida counties.

County Health Departments: **SUPPORT** increasing state general revenue funding for CHDs, and **OPPOSE** any state reductions to the CHD Trust Funds. **SUPPORT** restoring funding reductions in operating support for CHDs. **SUPPORT** maintaining a coordinated system of CHDs that is centrally housed within the Department of Health (DOH). **SUPPORT** preserving the ability of CHDs to provide primary care and direct patient care services, particularly in communities without adequate substitutes or alternative providers for these services.

Trauma Care: **SUPPORT** legislation to fund the State-mandated Trauma Care System. **OPPOSE** any legislation that would mandate counties to fund a State Trauma Care System.

Community Care for the Elderly: **SUPPORT** restoration and expansion of state funding for the Community Care for the Elderly Program, which provides cost efficient diversion from nursing home placement for impaired elders.

Graduate Medical Education (GME): **SUPPORT** efforts to fund GME programs to meet the healthcare needs of the state and its local communities, with a particular emphasis on programs that provide for specialties in need as well as the development of physicians practice in medically underserved areas.

Medical Marijuana: **SUPPORT** the ability, by statute, for counties to establish a local office of Marijuana Policy to manage the current Medical Marijuana and anticipated Recreational Marijuana climate.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Behavioral Health Services: **SUPPORT** increased funding for core mental health and substance abuse services and **SUPPORT** efforts to increase supportive housing, employment and education initiatives for people with behavioral health issues and/or disabilities.

Baker Act/Marchman Act: **SUPPORT** appropriate funding for crisis mental health and substance abuse beds statewide. **SUPPORT** coordinated efforts to increase access to acute care behavioral health services for individuals and families. **SUPPORT** the establishment of accountability for community mental health/substance abuse providers based upon performance.

Florida Statute 916.111: **SUPPORT** Mental Health Counselors; Licensed Social Workers and Licensed Marriage and Family counselors to be able to become certified and perform assessments of mental competence to proceed (in court) and/or to be found not guilty by reason of insanity, a measure that could provide cost-savings and more effective service provision, and reduce the burden on scarce jail resources.

Recovery Residences: **SUPPORT** legislation defining and establishing minimum regulatory standards for recovery residence facilities, while also allowing more stringent local regulation.

Mentally Ill and Substance Abuse: **SUPPORT** recurring funding for mentally ill and substance abuse support. **SUPPORT** sustainable matching state funds to counties that have received both planning and implementation Reinvestment Grant funds. **SUPPORT** diverting, medically assisting, or treating mentally ill persons outside of the criminal justice system through alternative community programs.

Behavioral Health System: **SUPPORT** appropriate funding for core mental health and substance abuse services. **SUPPORT** continued efforts to work through Medicaid reform initiatives to ensure that persons with substance abuse and mental health treatment needs are appropriately served. **SUPPORT** efforts to increase supportive housing, employment and education initiatives for people with behavioral health issues and/or disabilities.





Telemedicine: Support increased use of telemedicine for mental and physical health. **Support** national licensure and/or certification of medical and behavioral health providers.

HOMELESSNESS

Dedicated Homeless Funding: SUPPORT developing a dedicated state funding source for homeless programs and **SUPPORT** legislation that streamlines current state statutes relating to homelessness and associated programs, including the appropriations process. **SUPPORT** to employers who hire individuals involved in specialty courts.

Discharge Protocols: SUPPORT the implementation of discharge protocols and/or procedures for hospitals, correctional facilities, and mental health facilities when releasing homeless persons.

Target Populations: SUPPORT the development of strategies that would allow local governments to work with the state and federal government to serve target populations: the chronically homeless, veterans, and families and children, with particular emphasis on children aging out of the foster care system.

Council on Homelessness: SUPPORT continued coordination with the state's Council on Homelessness, specifically as it recommends policies and practices in support of the Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. **SUPPORT** efforts to extend tax credits to businesses that employ the homeless.

Public Records Exemption: SUPPORT creation of a public records exemption for individual identifying information entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

PUBLIC SAFETY

IMPACTS TO COUNTY JAILS

Privatization of State Correctional Facilities: OPPOSE privatization of the State's Correctional Facilities.

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.

Small County Courthouse Funding: SUPPORT continued state general revenue funding for capital improvements to county courthouses and other court-related facilities, including jails, located in rural counties.

Inmate Medical Costs: SUPPORT legislation that reduces jail expenses by setting a reimbursement amount paid by counties to medical providers for health care services for inmates and arrestees at no higher than the established Medicare rate plus 10%, the same rate as currently charged to the Department of Corrections, unless there is an existing contract in place or a business practice providing a lower rate.

SUPPORT continued efforts to obtain Medicaid eligibility for persons incarcerated in county jails while waiting disposition of their cases and to ensure that existing Medicaid benefits are not terminated during incarceration.

JUVENILE JUSTICE





Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation: SUPPORT initiatives which reduce juvenile detention through prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services and **SUPPORT** county diversion programs and juvenile civil citations.

Juvenile Detention Facilities: SUPPORT the legislature appropriating state funds to the Department of Juvenile Justice to upgrade, renovate, or reconstruct detention centers across Florida that are in a state of disrepair and **SUPPORT** state investments in juvenile facilities to improve the conditions of secure confinement for detained youth. without such costs being shifted to the counties.

Juvenile Direct File: SUPPORT legislation that increases judicial oversight and authority for charging and sentencing juvenile defendants as adults without creating additional county service requirements.

GENERAL PUBLIC SAFETY

Human Trafficking: SUPPORT legislation and programs designed to prevent trafficking, protect victims, prosecute traffickers, and create partnerships across all levels of government, the private sector, and state agencies to provide training opportunities for local government employees and their agents to recognize the signs of trafficking including government inspectors, law enforcement, criminal justice, health care, transportation and public transit, educational partners, and employees working with vulnerable populations.

Firearm Preemption: SUPPORT legislation empowering local law enforcement to prosecute individuals who dangerously discharge firearms.

Synthetic Drugs: SUPPORT expanding the controlled substance schedule to include new iterations of synthetic formulas that mimic the effects of illegal drugs and prohibiting certain types of packaging and marketing of any products claiming to mimic the effects of illegal drugs.

Fall Prevention Pilot Program: SUPPORT the creation of a pilot program in partnership with the Surgeon General and Florida Department of Health to test new ideas, including utilizing Fire Rescue's new fall prevention efforts, and serve as a model community for the State of Florida.

Highway Safety: SUPPORT legislation that protects vulnerable users of public road ways.

