

*Cartero absent* *Sad*

**NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA**  
**MANASOTA LEAGUE OF CITIES**  
**Town of Longboat Key Commission Chamber**  
**501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, FL**  
**August 2, 2019 9:30 A.M.**

**Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**  
President Carter

**Public to be Heard**

1. Public Input

At each meeting, time is set aside for the public to comment.

**Unfinished Business**

2. Discussion Re: MSLC 2020 Legislative Priorities – President Carter *w/changes*
3. Participation in FLC FAST Fly-in to Washington, D.C., October 22-23, 2019 – President Carter *Shaw & Carson - Brim Pat*
4. Approval of 2020 Meeting Schedule – President Carter
5. Request to change MSLC meeting dates for September 12 and November 14, 2019 – Vice President Kihm *8* *reserving member*

**Member Comments**

6. Member Comments

At each meeting, time is set aside for members to bring up topics of importance.

**Meeting Schedule**

7. Next scheduled meeting: September 12, 2019

**Adjournment**

*Disc CD w/ Edward Jones? Budget*  
*approved CD*  
*Pat - approved*  
*Shaw*

*FDP - Flo Foener*  
*Live aboard*

Notice: Membership consists of elected officials from each member municipality and it is possible more than one elected official from each entity could be attending.

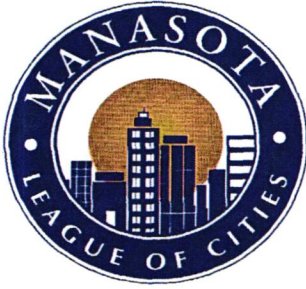
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, F.S. persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Town Clerk's office at 941-316-1999 forty-eight (48) hours in advance of this proceeding. If you are hearing impaired, please call 941-316-8719.



**August 2, 2019**

**Agenda Item 1  
Time Set Aside for Public Comment**

**No Material  
Provided For  
The Item**



# Manasota League of Cities, Inc.

*Anna Maria • Bradenton • Bradenton Beach • Holmes Beach  
Longboat Key • North Port • Palmetto • Sarasota • Venice*

## **"WE LIVE LOCAL"**

### **2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**MANASOTA LEAGUE OF CITIES WILL SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN AND PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF FLORIDA CITIZENS TO GOVERN THEMSELVES UNDER MUNICIPAL HOME RULE POWERS CONFERRED BY THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION.**

#### **WATER QUALITY AND PRESERVATION OF FLORIDA FOREVER**

SUPPORT legislation that provides a recurring funding source for programs and projects for water quality preservation and enhancement. SUPPORT fully funding Florida Forever for protection of Florida's environmental health.

#### **SHORT-TERM RENTALS**

SUPPORT legislation that repeals the state preemption of the regulation of short-term rental properties to allow local governments to regulate such properties to protect the health and welfare of residents, visitors and businesses. SUPPORT changes to existing State law relating to short-term rentals that permit grandfathered local governments to modify existing short-term rental regulations.

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE**

OPPOSE legislation that restricts or eliminates municipal revenues generated under the Communication Services Tax and the Local Business Tax. SUPPORT preservation of the Communication Services Tax and Local Business Tax.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

SUPPORT continued funding of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) at the federal level and create a funding source at the State level for economic development projects in municipalities.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES AND SOBER HOMES**

SUPPORT legislation that plans and adequately funds basic mental health facilities and programs in Florida including additional psychiatric beds and managed extended care for recovery upon release. SUPPORT legislation that defines and establishes minimum regulatory standards for Sober Home facilities and allows for stringent local regulation of the facilities.

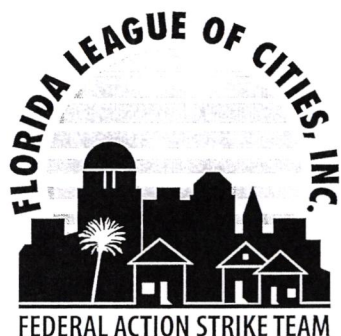
#### **PUBLIC PENSIONS**

SUPPORT the codification of the Florida Department of Retirement's interpretation of minimum benefits under Florida Statutes Chapter 175 and 185 Firefighter and Police Officers' municipal pension plans that was issued in 2012 and that provides local governments with flexibility in the use of insurance premium tax revenues.

#### **TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX**

SUPPORT legislation to expand usage of collected tourist (bed) taxes for both public safety services and infrastructure maintenance, repair, and replacement in municipalities where substantial portions of a county's tourist taxes are collected by changing the population size requirement of the counties eligible from 225,000 to 400,000.





# Plan to Attend the **FAST Fly-in** to Washington, D.C.

**October 22-23, 2019**

**T**he **Federal Action Strike Team (FAST) Fly-in** is a federal advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. During the Fly-in, attendees will meet with members of Florida's congressional delegation to discuss key federal issues that affect municipalities.

The first scheduled event in Washington is a federal briefing at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, October 22, at the National League of Cities office.

## **HOTEL INFORMATION**

Phoenix Park Hotel  
520 N. Capitol Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Phone: (202) 638-6900

## **ROOM BLOCK**

Attendees may make reservations at the Phoenix Park Hotel by calling (855) 371-6824 with the group code **23084** to receive a reduced rate of \$279/night. The deadline to make a hotel reservation in the room block is **September 19**.

## **TO SIGN UP**

If you would like to attend the FAST Fly-In, please register using the following link: <https://conta.cc/2JYgY2> by **September 27** so we can coordinate meetings with your member of Congress. If you have any questions, contact Allison Payne at (850) 701-3602 or [apayne@flcities.com](mailto:apayne@flcities.com).



February 2019 FAST Fly-in attendees.

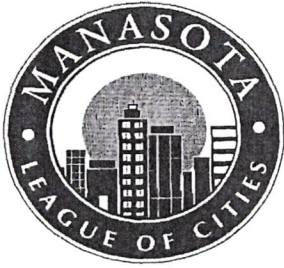


February 2019 FAST Fly-in attendees with Senator Marco Rubio.



February 2019 FAST Fly-in attendees with Congressman Darren Soto.





# ManaSota League of Cities, Inc.

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Longboat Key • North Port • Palmetto • Sarasota • Venice

## Item 4. Meeting Schedule for 2020

The Board is asked to consider a meeting schedule for 2020.

By-Laws of ManaSota League of Cities state:

*"SECTION 1. Regular Meetings. The MSLC will hold regular meetings a minimum of six (6) times per year. Reasonable notice of such meetings shall be provided to Board Members of the MSLC not less than three (3) business days."*

Historically, meetings are held at 9:30 a.m. in the months of January, March, May, July, September and November on the second Thursday of the month.

The Board, when considering a meeting schedule a couple of years ago, discussed holding January meetings on a date that would not conflict with a once-a-year event wherein Dr. Henry Fishkind provides a yearly economic forecast. A date of January 9 will not conflict with the Dr. Fishkind presentation on January 23, 2020.

## PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE CALENDAR YEAR 2020

Presently, meetings are held in the Town of Longboat Key Commission Chamber, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, at 9:30 a.m. Meeting dates and times may be changed at the discretion of the Board, and Special Meetings may be called by the President or at the request of at least two Board members.

January 9, 2020

March 12, 2020 *NLE Conf. P.C. 3/10+11)*

May 14, 2020

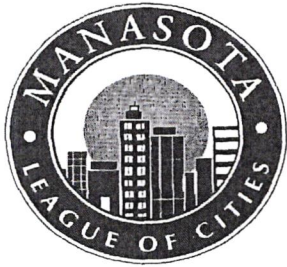
July 9, 2020

September 10, 2020

November 12, 2020

*Kilmer/Chapman ✓*

*OK*



## ManaSota League of Cities, Inc.

Anna Maria • Bradenton • Bradenton Beach • Holmes Beach  
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Item No. 5. Request to change meeting dates for September and November 2019

A request was received from ManaSota League of Cities' (MSLC) Vice President Jim Kihm inquiring whether the Board would consider changing the dates of the Thursday, September 12, 2019, and Thursday, November 14, 2019, meetings.

The request below was received from Vice President Kihm:

*"I was recently updating my calendar for my wife's cancer treatments and realized that they conflict with upcoming MSLC meetings scheduled on those same days for the balance of the year. Since she is participating in a clinical trial, we must follow the schedule the sponsor sets, which does not allow for flexibility. She is scheduled for treatments every three weeks and it's important that I am with her. The good news is she seems to be responding to the new treatment with only minor side effects.*

*I realize that it is a lot to ask, and that others would be affected, but was wondering if it would be possible to schedule our league meetings on either the 1st or 3rd Thursdays, so that I may continue to participate.*

*Thank you for your kind understanding."*

If the Board decides in favor of changing the aforementioned meeting dates, below are suggested dates based on availability of Longboat Key chambers and meeting dates of member municipalities for the months of September and November. Only one date will accommodate a Thursday due to room availability and member Commission/Council meetings.

~~Wednesday, September 4~~  
~~Wednesday, September 18~~  
Thursday, September 26

~~Wednesday, November 6~~  
Friday, November 8  
Friday, November 22

*schedule*

Gail Loeffler  
Administrative Coordinator

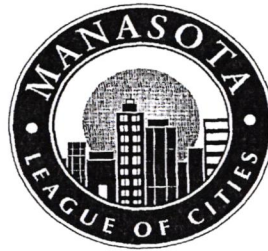




**August 2, 2019**

**Agenda Item 6.  
Time Set Aside for Member Comments**

**No Material  
Provided For  
The Item**



**August 2, 2019**

**Agenda Item 7.**

**Next Scheduled Meeting Date**

**September 12, 2019**





## **CITY OF HOLMES BEACH 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

### **VACATION RENTALS**

The City of Holmes Beach OPPOSES further limitations on local governmental authority to regulate Vacation Rentals. The City SUPPORTS legislation that repeals the state preemption of the regulation of short-term rental properties to allow local governments to regulate such properties to protect the health and welfare of residents, visitors and businesses. SUPPORT changes to existing State law relating to short-term rentals that permit grandfathered local governments to modify existing short-term rental regulations.

### **WATER AND AIR QUALITY**

The City of Holmes Beach SUPPORTS legislation that provides a recurring funding source for programs and projects to mitigate the negative environmental and economic impact of Red Tides and other Harmful Algae Blooms threatening our beaches and bayside canals.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE**

The City of Holmes Beach OPPOSES legislative efforts that modifies, restricts or eliminates the authority of municipalities to levy or collect local business tax. The City SUPPORTS allowing municipalities to continue to collect business taxes, which allows the City to monitor our business mix and offerings in our community.

### **TOURIST DEVELOPMENT REVENUE ALLOCATION**

The City of Holmes Beach SUPPORTS legislation to expand usage of collected tourist (bed) taxes for both public safety services and infrastructure maintenance, repair, and replacement in municipalities where substantial portions of a county's tourist taxes are collected by changing the population size requirement of the counties eligible from 225,000 to 400,000.

The City of Holmes Beach  
2020 Legislative Priorities  
(Details)

**VACATION RENTALS**

The City of Holmes Beach adopted an ordinance more than two (2) years ago which ensures properties are registered and inspected for life safety issues and building code compliance. Our focus is to make sure people who choose our City as a destination are safe and secure in their choice to spend quality time in Holmes Beach.

Although short term (vacation rentals) are required to be licensed by DBPR, the agency does not inspect these properties as a condition for licensure. The only time properties are inspected by DBPR is the result of a complaint – the state agency is reactionary. The City of Holmes Beach, under its Vacation Rental Ordinance provisions is proactive. In a very real sense the City assists the State of Florida in its willingness to warrant vacation rental housing stock as safe.

Our safety and compliance-driven vacation rental program is working in Holmes Beach. Please reject efforts to restrict our abilities to locally respond to the needs of our community.

**WATER AND AIR QUALITY**

The City of Holmes Beach is a coastal community that provides miles of beach and bay front for the enjoyment of all who visit or live here. Our waters must be free of pollutants that harm the ecosystem and inhibit grass flats and coastal incubators of marine life.

If we are to continue to be a destination for travelers, the State must assist Holmes Beach wherever and whenever it can in becoming community partners in protecting wetlands, conservation areas like Holmes Beach's Grassy Point Preserve, which is a natural habitat for wildlife; our Gulf beaches and bay front waters.

Please consider funding and other resources for coastal communities that face Red Tide, polluted storm water run-off, and the destruction of natural wildlife habitats

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE**

Revenues collected in this form assist in providing tourist-driven businesses in our coastal community with public services (police/fire/public works) critical to business -- hence, critical to the economic growth of the State.

Business tax revenue allows the City to operate efficiently without reduction of services to citizens and visitors.

We ask that you allow municipalities to continue to collect business taxes which allows the City to monitor our business mix and offerings in our community.

**TOURIST DEVELOPMENT REVENUE ALLOCATION**

The City of Holmes Beach retains a resident population not to exceed 4,000 in number. On weekends and holidays, and seasonal periods during peak beach weather our numbers swell to upwards of 30,000 people on any given day. We need oversight from police to ensure the safety of our residents and visitors. We need funding for repair of roads, maintenance of beaches and beach accesses.



We also need funding from our tourist tax dollars to mitigate the negative effects of Red Tide on our beaches and in our bayside canals. Business and vacation rentals absorbed the effects of last year's bloom and lost revenue. Our beaches and canals must be cleaned regularly which adds to labor and material costs for our coastal community

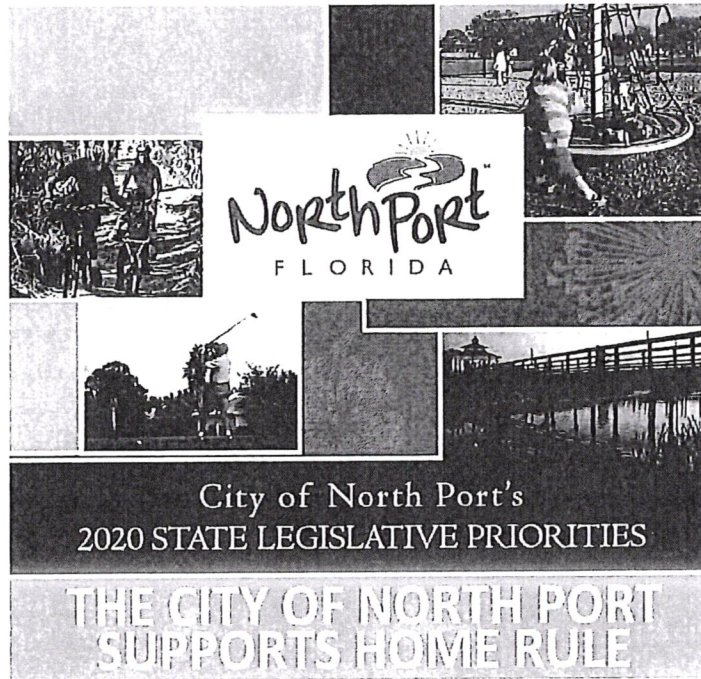
The City of Holmes Beach is in Manatee County. A substantial portion of bed tax comes from coastal communities. We support legislation that changes the population size requirement of counties eligible for public safety services and infrastructure maintenance and repair from 225,000 to 400,000.



## **Town of Longboat Key 2020 Legislative Priorities**

1. Support legislation that recognizes and addresses the need for planning for sea level rise concerns.
2. Support a State-wide unified approach to improve water quality with an emphasis on the elimination of red tide blooms and improved coordination on monitoring and research efforts.
3. Oppose legislation that pre-empts local governments' home rule authority, including legislation relating to local impact fees.
4. Advance funding for implementation of immediate and long-term recommendations identified in the Barrier Island Traffic Study to address significant seasonal traffic issues.
5. Support legislation to protect Evacuation Routes. Proposed transportation projects should protect or enhance timely evacuations, particularly for the State's barrier island residents.
6. Support State funding for beach nourishment.
7. Support changes to existing State law relating to vacation rentals that permit grandfathered local governments to modify existing short-term vacation rental regulations.
8. Support the maintenance of local business tax, communications services tax, and tax-exempt municipal bonds.
9. Support legislation that provides opportunities for increased and alternative revenue sources for municipal transportation infrastructure projects.
10. Support legislation to expand usage of collected tourist (bed) taxes for both public safety services and infrastructure maintenance, repair, and replacement in municipalities where substantial portions of a county's tourist taxes are collected.
11. Support the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government (OPPAGA) conducting an independent evaluation of the unique impacts (financial, practical and efficiency) of being in two counties.





### North Port Facts:

Largest city in population and landmass in Sarasota County

North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota Metropolitan Statistical Area

104.1-square-miles with a portion of U.S. 41 and Interstate 75

More than 70,000 residents, median age 44, and more than 12,000 children

More than 80 miles of freshwater canals, from which it draws its drinking water during certain parts of the year

Home to the Myakka State Forest; North Port is the only city in the state with an entire state forest within its boundaries

More than 800 miles of local roads

Two high schools, three middle schools, six elementary schools

#### North Port City Commission

Mayor Chris Hanks

Vice Mayor Debbie McDowell

Commissioner Vanessa Carusone

Commissioner Pete Emrich

Commissioner Jill Luke

#### For More Information, Contact:

City of North Port • 4970 City Hall Blvd.

North Port, FL 34286

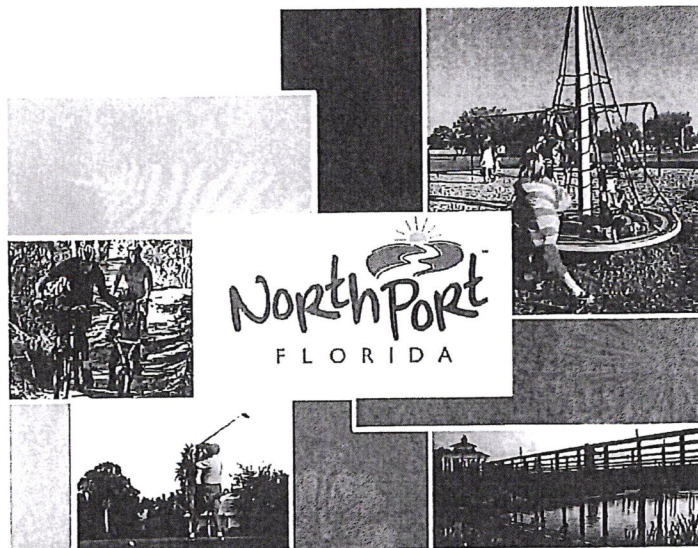
(941) 429-7000 • [CityofNorthPort.com](http://CityofNorthPort.com)



## 2020 Federal Legislative Priorities

### THE CITY OF NORTH PORT SUPPORTS HOME RULE

- The City of North Port **SUPPORTS** an effort to receive faster reimbursement from FEMA after disasters, and include mitigation costs of sheltering people from across the region.
- The City of North Port **SUPPORTS** changing the classification of medical marijuana to be a legal substance.
  - The City of North Port **SUPPORTS** criminal reform.
- The City of North Port **SUPPORTS** building infrastructure including but not limited to:
  - Widening of local roads that function as evacuation routes
  - Water quality
  - Health care services
  - New I-75 interchanges
- The City of North Port **SUPPORTS** assisting our local veterans.
  - Health care
  - Mental health
  - Affordable housing
  - Suicide prevention
- The City of North Port **SUPPORTS** internet access for all.



City of North Port's  
2020 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**THE CITY OF NORTH PORT  
SUPPORTS HOME RULE**

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forest within its boundaries

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elementary schools

**North Port City Commission**  
Mayor Chris Hanks  
Vice Mayor Debbie McDowell  
Commissioner Vanessa Carusone  
Commissioner Pete Emrich  
Commissioner Jill Luke

**For More Information, Contact:**  
City of North Port • 4970 City Hall Blvd.  
North Port, FL 34286  
(941) 429-7000 • CityofNorthPort.com





## 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### MAJOR PRIORITIES

#### Home Rule

- Support broad exercise of home rule powers granted to municipalities under the Florida Constitution and support consistency in the Legislature with the provisions of Section 166.021, Florida Statutes

#### Affordable/Attainable/Workforce Housing (added to Major Priorities)

- Support allocating the full amount of dedicated documentary tax revenues for state and local affordable housing programs
- Support investing in affordable housing to create jobs in home repair, hardening homes, retrofitting and constructing affordable rental units, and lowering energy costs to make housing more affordable
- Oppose reducing and/or reallocating the Sadowski Housing Trust Funds
- Support increasing funding for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and HOME partnership programs
- Support increasing Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Disaster Relief (DR) funds for hurricane-damaged structures

#### Funding for Homelessness Programs/Mental Health Initiatives/Sober Homes

- Support State funding for local homelessness programs, housing for the homeless and the aid groups and statewide agencies that oversee them
- Support the expansion of Miami Dade's Homeless and Domestic Violence Tax for all counties and municipalities as it pertains to authorization and uses in Section 212.0306, Florida Statutes
- Support legislation that adequately funds mental health facilities and programs in Florida including additional psychiatric beds
- Support legislation that allows for more stringent local regulations of sober home facilities and establishes minimum regulatory standards for these facilities
- Support a public records exemption for "individual identifying information" contained in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Support legislation to ban "conversion therapy" on minors by state-licensed mental health practitioners

#### Transportation Funding

- Support transportation funding for alternative means of transportation including bus rapid transit, trolleys, lite rail, water taxis and other forms of multi-modal transportation in addition to roads
- Support legislation that preserves local control of transportation planning, provides equitable transportation funding among municipalities and counties, and provides opportunities for additional revenue options for municipal transportation infrastructure projects
- Support funding for the extension of **The Legacy Trail** through public/private partnerships and/or Florida Department of Transportation and the Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network
- Support transportation funding allocated directly to affected municipalities for storm mitigation (e.g., evacuation routes, debris removal, and damages caused by storm debris affecting ingress/egress of state roads), in coordination and collaboration with the comprehensive planning goals of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

#### Water Quality (added to Major Priorities)

- Support legislation providing a recurring funding source for programs and projects for water quality preservation and enhancement

## OTHER IMPORTANT PRIORITIES

### Beaches and Tourism

- Support protecting and maintaining bays and beaches to sustain environmental quality and economic prosperity for the State's tourism and fishing industries
- Oppose near-shore oil drilling

### Communications Services Tax and Local Business Tax Protection (moved from Major)

- Support legislation that protects general revenues collected from the communications services tax and the local business tax

### Economic Development

- Support legislation that promotes industry and commerce to strengthen and diversify Florida's economy
- Support legislation that creates jobs through transportation and infrastructure projects, tourism, hospitality, alternative energy, industry and commerce and health care services
- Support continued funding of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) at the federal level and create a funding source at the State level for economic development projects in municipalities
- Support clarification of the intent of Section 163.387, Florida Statutes, Redevelopment Trust Fund, Section (2)(a) such that the number of payments to be appropriated into the redevelopment trust fund must be equal to the number of years of the Community Redevelopment Area
- Support the creation of a Commission on Social Equity at the State level
- Support the nationwide "Ban the Box" Initiative for public and private employers to consider a job candidate's qualifications first and delay the background check inquiry until later in the hiring process

### Climate and Energy

- Support a long and short-term Florida Energy Policy with greenhouse reduction and renewable energy targets
- Support protections and incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency, including ensuring net metering policies are not reduced or eliminated
- Support solar legislation that allows municipal governments to utilize solar energy systems to help defray municipal energy costs
- Support legislation that assists local governments to mitigate and adapt to sea level rise, changing precipitation patterns, increasing storm severity, and increasing extreme heat days

### Fiscal

- Oppose legislation that modifies, restricts or eliminates the authority of municipalities to levy, collect and/or expend the local business tax
- Support legislation that authorizes municipalities to provide public notice by means other than newspaper
- Support legislation repealing SB 176 passed in the 2011 session relative to Affordable Housing
- Support legislation to expand usage of collected tourist (bed) taxes for both public safety services and infrastructure maintenance, repair, and replacement in municipalities where substantial portions of a county's tourist taxes are collected by changing the population size requirement of the counties eligible from 225,000 to 400,000

### Medical Marijuana

- Support legislation which allows local counties and municipalities to establish zoning criteria for medical marijuana treatment centers (dispensaries), specifically as it relates to separation requirements from other dispensing centers, proximity to neighborhoods, schools, childcare facilities and hospitals, parking requirements, hours of operation, setback requirements, etc.



#### **Public Safety and Traffic Enforcement**

- Support legislation which addresses and clarifies antiquated public records laws as it relates to retention of audio and video from police officer body worn cameras and defines privacy or clarifies where there is no expectation of privacy
- Support legislation banning the manufacture, possession, distribution, purchase and sale of synthetic drugs, including herbal incense, bath salts, synthetic marijuana, and/or any cannabinoids
- Support legislation to correct any infirmities found by the Supreme Court of Florida in Section 316.3045, Florida Statutes – Operation of radios or other mechanical sound making devices or instruments in vehicles
- Support continued funding for COPS (Community Oriented Police Services) and Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Programs
- Support legislation providing that owners of stolen property recovered from pawn shops do not have to pay to retrieve their property and support penalties for pawn shops not performing their due diligence when receiving property
- Support legislation restricting the access of guns and weapons to minors, mentally unstable individuals, and those individuals who, by law, are restricted from access to or possession of any type of weapon

#### **Red Light Cameras (moved from Major)**

- Support local municipalities' ability to regulate the use of red light cameras

#### **Ride-for-Hire Services**

- Support legislation that defines and establishes uniform safety and insurance standards for transportation network companies and their drivers and that preserves Home Rule authority over such services

#### **Right of Way Protection**

- Oppose legislation which strips a local municipalities' ability to regulate the placement of potentially unsafe wireless communications equipment on city property within city rights-of-ways

#### **Stand Your Ground**

- Support legislation that provides additional clarification to Florida's Stand Your Ground law. The Florida Legislature passed CS/CS/HB 89 – Threatened Use of Force - legislation effective June 20, 2014 that modified the Stand Your Ground law to clarify certain provisions

#### **Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP)**

- Support legislation extending the anti-SLAPP provisions to include "neighborhood associations."

#### **Sunshine/Public Records Laws Reform**

- Support legislation to amend the Government-in-the-Sunshine Laws to specify or define what constitutes a "meeting" that is subject to the Sunshine Law and to add legislative exemptions that facilitate more effective governmental decision-making while meeting constitutional requirements
- Support legislation to create a Public Records Counsel at the State level to enforce Florida's Government-in-the-Sunshine Laws



## Federal Issues

- Support funding for Brownfield clean-up at the Marian Anderson site
- Support preservation of Beach Renourishment Funding and programs
- Oppose any proposal to limit the value of the tax-exemption for municipal bonds
- Support passage of the Marketplace Fairness Act H.R.684
- Support funding for a Downtown circulator
- Support funding for U.S. 41 North Trail Multi-modal improvements
- Support funding for improvements at intersection of Honore Avenue and 17<sup>th</sup> Street
- Support Long-term funding for the federal Highway Trust Fund

DRAFT

**Propose clarification to Sections 101.161 and 166.031, Florida Statutes.**  
**Local Referenda Measures.**

There are a number of contradictory District Court of Appeals' opinions as it relates to the interpretation and interplay of Sections 101.161 and 166.031, Florida Statutes. Additionally, the holdings are confusing as to the responsibility and role of local governments in processing citizen-lead referenda.

Recently, the City of Bradenton Beach was faced with the below referenda. Two individuals, one a resident and the other not, acquired less than 100 signatures to get their measures on the ballot. They did this in person and by mailing out inflammatory materials to individuals and soliciting the signatures through political rhetoric. Moreover the petitions containing the signatures were inconsistent in that they contained differing proposed ballot language.

Finding that the measures all exceeded the word limitations allowed in Section 101.161(1)<sup>1</sup>, and that all four of the Petitions were misleading, ambiguous, and did not give "the voter fair notice of the decision he [or she] must make." Equally troubling was the pervasive editorial comments and political rhetoric throughout the Petitions<sup>2</sup>. The two individuals argued that as a political action committee, it has no obligation to prepare any titles or summaries and that this must be the responsibility of the City. Ultimately the circuit court, via Judge Arend, agreed. The problem with this demand is that the City is forced to try to interpret what is in the

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Section 101.161(1), Florida Statutes: "The ballot summary of the amendment or other public measure shall be an explanatory statement, not exceeding 75 words in length, of the chief purpose of the measure...The ballot title shall consist of a caption, not exceeding 15 words in length, by which the measure is commonly referred to or spoken of."

Petition 1: The title is 33 words long and the summary is 56 words long.

Petition 2: The title 45 words long and the summary is 100 words long.

Petition 3: The title is 75 words long and the summary is 89 words long.

Petition 4: The title is 61 words long and the summary is 64 words long.

<sup>2</sup> Samples of Editorial Comment and Political Rhetoric found include:

"Cronyism in this city must be stopped."

"Clearly we want to have democratic elections within our city with multiple candidates running for office."

"During our last election a member of the commission lost his seat in the election and was then appointed to take a vacancy opened up by the mayor's election to the commission. Clearly cronyism!"

"Our homes are on lots that are entirely too small to build large homes"

"Currently none of the heads of any department are managed by a qualified and experienced business manager."

"The mayor has been stripped of any effective oversight powers."

"The City runs without any real management and financial oversight."

"Bradenton Beach needs fewer cars, not more cars."

mind of the individual. Faulty interpretation will only lead to litigation. Further, the referenda process is costly. There is a significant amount of legal time, the cost of a special election, the cost of advertising and the recent requirement to translate the measures into Spanish.

We would strongly encourage a clarification to the above two Statutes. While minor technicalities can be addressed by local governments, substantive issues of political rhetoric, ambiguous language, regulations that "hide the ball" by failing to disclose material ramifications cannot and should not be forced upon the local government to rehabilitate the measures. Specifically, a governing body cannot "read the mind" of every member in the community who avails themselves of the referendum process, and would in fact, lend to absurd results. The daunting burden of comprehensively redacting and rewriting the petitions in a manner that would meet the unspoken and unwritten intent of the petitioners would likely create a legal challenge where the petitioners would claim that the local government misrepresented their proposals.

#### **THE FOUR BALLOT INITIATIVES:**

##### **Parking Garage Petition:**

"BALLOT TITLE: Amendment 1 2018 to the City of Bradenton Beach Charter Should the charter of Bradenton Beach be amended to prohibit the building of any multi-level parking garage(s) within the City of Bradenton Beach?"

"BALLOT SUMMARY: A multi-level parking garage will only bring more cars and congestion to Bradenton Beach. A multi-level parking garage would be substantially out of the residential character of our city. Left and right hand turns leading to any multi-level parking garage would cause further outrageous backups on Gulf drive. Bradenton Beach needs fewer cars, not more cars."

##### **<sup>1</sup> Elimination of Appointments Petition:**

"BALLOT TITLE: Amendment 2 2018 to the City of Bradenton Beach Charter Should the charter of Bradenton Beach be amended to require all commission vacancies on the city commission to be filled by a city election? Vacancies will not be filled by appointment by the City Commission."

"BALLOT SUMMARY: Cronyism in this city must be stopped. Clearly we want to have democratic elections within our city with multiple candidates running for office. We currently have 3 commissioners who were either appointed or ran unopposed. 70% of our commissioners have been appointed in the last 10 years. We no longer have wards in this city so we should have more individuals willing to help our community. During our last election a member of the commission lost his seat in the election and was then appointed to take a vacancy opened up by the mayor's election to the commission. Clearly cronyism!"



<sup>1</sup> No Development in Setbacks Petition:

"BALLOT TITLE: Amendment 3 2018 to the City of Bradenton Beach Charter. Should the charter of Bradenton Beach be amended to prevent the construction of anything, including but not limited to, stairs or a/c platforms within the setbacks in all zoning districts? The exceptions would be fences, utilities services and one driveway. All storm water attenuation shall be within the building setbacks. Side yard setbacks shall run from the front property line to the rear property line."

"BALLOT SUMMARY: Our homes are on lots that are entirely too small to build large homes. Allowing swimming pools, decks, stairs and a/c units to be built within setback only creates more compacted subdivisions and noise transmission. Properly designed homes and good site planning should allow all homes to be built without causing issues with their neighbors and allow for reasonable daylight planes. Additionally with the coming of the rising tides we must be more responsible for storm water retention which must be done in the setback areas of our lots."

<sup>1</sup> City Manager Petition:

"BALLOT TITLE: Amendment 4 2018 to the City of Bradenton Beach Charter Should the Charter of the City of Bradenton Beach be amended to require that a full time certified public manager be hired as an employee, and shall act as the Chief Executive Officer of the city? All employees, agents and the city attorney shall work at the pleasure of the CEO."

"BALLOT SUMMARY: Currently none of the heads of any department are managed by a qualified and experienced business manager. Currently, there is no administrative or responsible head of the City. The mayor has been stripped of any effective oversight powers. The City runs without any real management and financial oversight. The City needs full time professional management which cannot be provided by part time elected officials."

**Propose modifications to Chapter 327, Fla. Stat.**  
**Provide protections to responsible boat owners, the environment,**  
**and welfare of the community.**

There is an epidemic in any waterfront community with vessels that are in extreme disrepair, derelict, or cannot operate under their own power. A recent trend is to solicit vessels in nearly defunct condition, as a bareboat charter, which more or less, becomes a cheap rental to live in on the water. This begets more unsavory vessels parking their boat and using it as a liveaboard that the local government authorities cannot effectively regulate. To further complicate the matter, this boating environment has spurred on the creation of "floating platforms" made from anything and everything that can be tied together to float. It is not uncommon to see individuals anchoring over the Seagrass beds, dumping human waste into the waterways, drug paraphernalia, and other criminal activity. Additionally, the City of Bradenton Beach has experienced a number of these vessels breaking lose and running into its City Pier and accouterments thereto.

Efforts to manage this behavior by Bradenton Beach have been largely unsuccessful. Once going through the citation process, the results from the county court are at best, \$90 fines. This does nothing to protect water dependent structures, the environment, other responsible boaters, or deter criminal behavior.



# City of North Port

## Office of the City Manager

4970 City Hall Boulevard  
North Port, Florida 34286

[www.cityofnorthport.com](http://www.cityofnorthport.com)

(941)429-7077

Fax: (941) 429-7079

July 10, 2019

Ms. Gail Loeffler  
Administrative Coordinator  
ManaSota League of Cities  
Town of Longboat Key  
501 Bay Isles Road  
Longboat Key, FL 34228

Re: 2020 City of North Port State and Federal Legislative Priorities

Dear Ms. Loeffler,

As requested, attached please find the City of North Port's State and Federal 2020 Legislative Priorities, in draft form. The list of priorities will be finalized and adopted at our July 23, 2019 Commission Meeting.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Lear, CPA, CGMA  
City Manager

PDL/srt





## 2020 State Legislative Priorities

### Home Rule

**The City of North Port seeks to strengthen and protect the fundamental concept of local self-government, and will oppose legislative efforts to impede the constitutional right of Florida citizens to govern themselves under the Municipal Home Rule Act.**

### Infrastructure

The City of North Port supports:

- Internet access for all
- Providing funding for septic to sewer projects
- Widening the southern portion of River Road for improved disaster evacuation
- Providing funding for the expansion of water and sewer utilities for economic development projects.
- Development of additional interchanges
- Local roads

### Environmental

The City of North Port supports:

- Securing direct state funding for aquifer storage and recovery systems and storm water mitigation programs
- Enhancing the Myakkahatchee Creek area which includes the environmental park and greenway
- Obtaining financial assistance related to the protection, enhancement, and preservation of Warm Mineral Springs and its historic significance

### Public Safety and Wellness

The City of North Port supports:

- More local control for hospital special districts
- Efforts to increase funding and programs for suicide prevention and mental health programs
- Pursuing options for affordable housing
- Continuing to search for solutions for homelessness
- Resources that help promote child safety
- Continue the fight against substance abuse
- Criminal reform

2019-05

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., URGING  
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO CLARIFY THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR MUNICIPAL WEBSITES TO BE IN  
COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.**

**WHEREAS**, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law in 1990 and requires public entities to make their programs, services and activities accessible to individuals with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to provide increased transparency and resources for their residents, cities are providing more information on their municipal websites; and

**WHEREAS**, over the last two years, there has been a steady increase in legal claims challenging business and public entity websites as not being in compliance with the ADA; and

**WHEREAS**, because of these legal claims, cities are faced with a difficult decision of scaling back information posted on their websites or face liability exposure; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Justice initiated and then halted rulemaking to clarify website accessibility standards, which contributed to the rising ADA legal claims.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges President Donald Trump and Congress to direct the Department of Justice to establish a clear standard to make government websites ADA compliant and decrease the costly litigation cities and other stakeholders are facing.

**Section 2.** A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the U.S. attorney general, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

**Section 3.** This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2019.

---

Leo E. Longworth, President  
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Commissioner, City of Bartow

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Sittig, Executive Director  
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Submitted by: FLC Staff





## **CITY OF HOLMES BEACH 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

### **VACATION RENTALS**

The City of Holmes Beach OPPOSES further limitations on local governmental authority to regulate Vacation Rentals. The City SUPPORTS legislation that repeals the state preemption of the regulation of short-term rental properties to allow local governments to regulate such properties to protect the health and welfare of residents, visitors and businesses. SUPPORT changes to existing State law relating to short-term rentals that permit grandfathered local governments to modify existing short-term rental regulations.

### **WATER AND AIR QUALITY**

The City of Holmes Beach SUPPORTS legislation that provides a recurring funding source for programs and projects to mitigate the negative environmental and economic impact of Red Tides and other Harmful Algae Blooms threatening our beaches and bayside canals.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE**

The City of Holmes Beach OPPOSES legislative efforts that modifies, restricts or eliminates the authority of municipalities to levy or collect local business tax. The City SUPPORTS allowing municipalities to continue to collect business taxes, which allows the City to monitor our business mix and offerings in our community.

### **TOURIST DEVELOPMENT REVENUE ALLOCATION**

The City of Holmes Beach SUPPORTS legislation to expand usage of collected tourist (bed) taxes for both public safety services and infrastructure maintenance, repair, and replacement in municipalities where substantial portions of a county's tourist taxes are collected by changing the population size requirement of the counties eligible from 225,000 to 400,000.

The City of Holmes Beach  
2020 Legislative Priorities  
(Details)

**VACATION RENTALS**

The City of Holmes Beach adopted an ordinance more than two (2) years ago which ensures properties are registered and inspected for life safety issues and building code compliance. Our focus is to make sure people who choose our City as a destination are safe and secure in their choice to spend quality time in Holmes Beach.

Although short term (vacation rentals) are required to be licensed by DBPR, the agency does not inspect these properties as a condition for licensure. The only time properties are inspected by DBPR is the result of a complaint – the state agency is reactionary. The City of Holmes Beach, under its Vacation Rental Ordinance provisions is proactive. In a very real sense the City assists the State of Florida in its willingness to warrant vacation rental housing stock as safe.

Our safety and compliance-driven vacation rental program is working in Holmes Beach. Please reject efforts to restrict our abilities to locally respond to the needs of our community.

**WATER AND AIR QUALITY**

The City of Holmes Beach is a coastal community that provides miles of beach and bay front for the enjoyment of all who visit or live here. Our waters must be free of pollutants that harm the ecosystem and inhibit grass flats and coastal incubators of marine life.

If we are to continue to be a destination for travelers, the State must assist Holmes Beach wherever and whenever it can in becoming community partners in protecting wetlands, conservation areas like Holmes Beach's Grassy Point Preserve, which is a natural habitat for wildlife; our Gulf beaches and bay front waters.

Please consider funding and other resources for coastal communities that face Red Tide, polluted storm water run-off, and the destruction of natural wildlife habitats

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE**

Revenues collected in this form assist in providing tourist-driven businesses in our coastal community with public services (police/fire/public works) critical to business -- hence, critical to the economic growth of the State.

Business tax revenue allows the City to operate efficiently without reduction of services to citizens and visitors.

We ask that you allow municipalities to continue to collect business taxes which allows the City to monitor our business mix and offerings in our community.

**TOURIST DEVELOPMENT REVENUE ALLOCATION**

The City of Holmes Beach retains a resident population not to exceed 4,000 in number. On weekends and holidays, and seasonal periods during peak beach weather our numbers swell to upwards of 30,000 people on any given day. We need oversight from police to ensure the safety of our residents and visitors. We need funding for repair of roads, maintenance of beaches and beach accesses.



We also need funding from our tourist tax dollars to mitigate the negative effects of Red Tide on our beaches and in our bayside canals. Business and vacation rentals absorbed the effects of last year's bloom and lost revenue. Our beaches and canals must be cleaned regularly which adds to labor and material costs for our coastal community

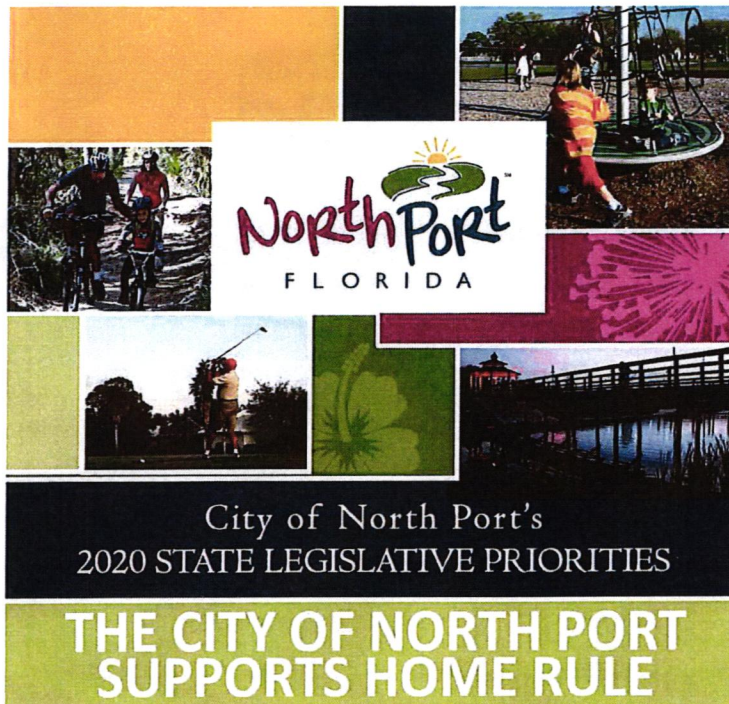
The City of Holmes Beach is in Manatee County. A substantial portion of bed tax comes from coastal communities. We support legislation that changes the population size requirement of counties eligible for public safety services and infrastructure maintenance and repair from 225,000 to 400,000.





## **Town of Longboat Key 2020 Legislative Priorities**

1. Support legislation that recognizes and addresses the need for planning for sea level rise concerns.
2. Support a State-wide unified approach to improve water quality with an emphasis on the elimination of red tide blooms and improved coordination on monitoring and research efforts.
3. Oppose legislation that pre-empts local governments' home rule authority, including legislation relating to local impact fees.
4. Advance funding for implementation of immediate and long-term recommendations identified in the Barrier Island Traffic Study to address significant seasonal traffic issues.
5. Support legislation to protect Evacuation Routes. Proposed transportation projects should protect or enhance timely evacuations, particularly for the State's barrier island residents.
6. Support State funding for beach nourishment.
7. Support changes to existing State law relating to vacation rentals that permit grandfathered local governments to modify existing short-term vacation rental regulations.
8. Support the maintenance of local business tax, communications services tax, and tax-exempt municipal bonds.
9. Support legislation that provides opportunities for increased and alternative revenue sources for municipal transportation infrastructure projects.
10. Support legislation to expand usage of collected tourist (bed) taxes for both public safety services and infrastructure maintenance, repair, and replacement in municipalities where substantial portions of a county's tourist taxes are collected.
11. Support the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government (OPPAGA) conducting an independent evaluation of the unique impacts (financial, practical and efficiency) of being in two counties.



### North Port Facts:

Largest city in population and landmass in Sarasota County

North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota Metropolitan Statistical Area

104.1-square-miles with a portion of U.S. 41 and Interstate 75

More than 70,000 residents, median age 44, and more than 12,000 children

More than 80 miles of freshwater canals, from which it draws its drinking water during certain parts of the year

Home to the Myakka State Forest; North Port is the only city in the state with an entire state forest within its boundaries

More than 800 miles of local roads

Two high schools, three middle schools, six elementary schools

#### North Port City Commission

Mayor Chris Hanks

Vice Mayor Debbie McDowell

Commissioner Vanessa Carusone

Commissioner Pete Emrich

Commissioner Jill Luke

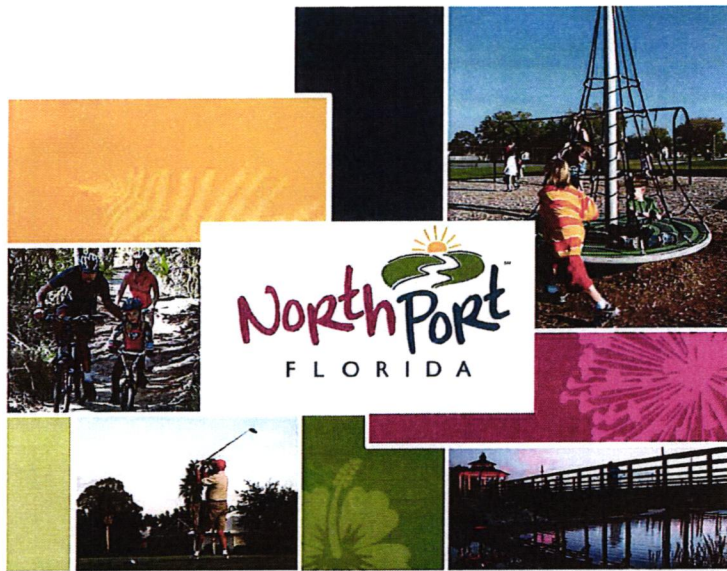
#### For More Information, Contact:

City of North Port • 4970 City Hall Blvd.

North Port, FL 34286

(941) 429-7000 • [CityofNorthPort.com](http://CityofNorthPort.com)





## City of North Port's 2020 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### THE CITY OF NORTH PORT SUPPORTS HOME RULE

#### North Port Facts:

Largest city in population and landmass in  
Sarasota County

North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota Metropolitan  
Statistical Area

104.1-square-miles with a portion of U.S. 41 and  
Interstate 75

More than 70,000 residents, median age 44, and  
more than 12,000 children

More than 80 miles of freshwater canals, from  
which it draws its drinking water during certain  
parts of the year

Home to the Myakka State Forest; North Port is  
the only city in the state with an entire state  
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#### For More Information, Contact:

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# Plan to Attend the **FAST Fly-in** to Washington, D.C.

**October 22-23, 2019**

**T**he **Federal Action Strike Team (FAST) Fly-in** is a federal advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. During the Fly-in, attendees will meet with members of Florida's congressional delegation to discuss key federal issues that affect municipalities.

The first scheduled event in Washington is a federal briefing at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, October 22, at the National League of Cities office.

## **HOTEL INFORMATION**

Phoenix Park Hotel  
520 N. Capitol Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Phone: (202) 638-6900

## **ROOM BLOCK**

Attendees may make reservations at the Phoenix Park Hotel by calling (855) 371-6824 with the group code **23084** to receive a reduced rate of \$279/night. The deadline to make a hotel reservation in the room block is **September 19**.

## **TO SIGN UP**

If you would like to attend the FAST Fly-In, please register using the following link: <https://conta.cc/2JYYgY2> by **September 27** so we can coordinate meetings with your member of Congress. If you have any questions, contact Allison Payne at (850) 701-3602 or [apayne@flcities.com](mailto:apayne@flcities.com).



February 2019 FAST Fly-in attendees.



February 2019 FAST Fly-in attendees with Senator Marco Rubio.



February 2019 FAST Fly-in attendees with Congressman Darren Soto.