

Regular Workshop – September 15, 2014  
Agenda Item 14

Agenda Item: Legislative Priorities

Presenter: Town Manager

Summary: Each year the Town establishes legislative priorities for submittal to the Sarasota County Legislative Delegation, Manatee County Legislative Delegation, and the Manasota League of Cities. The Town Manager will seek Commission direction regarding issues to be brought forward for consideration during this legislative session. Recommended Action: Pending discussion, provide direction to Manager.

Attachments: 9-10-14 Memo, Manager to Commission;  
10-9-14 Letter, Mayor Brown to Representative Boyd;  
9-9-14 Letter, Mayor Brown to Senator Detert;  
Draft Sarasota County Legislative Priorities  
2015 State Legislative Program Key Dates

Recommended

Action: Pending discussion, forward 2014-2015 Legislative Priorities to the October 6, 2014 Regular Meeting for formal action.

## **M E M O R A N D U M**

Date: September 10, 2014

**TO:** Town Commission  
**FROM:** Dave Bullock, Town Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Legislative Priorities

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Each year the legislative delegations for Manatee and Sarasota Counties ask the community for input regarding their legislative priorities for the upcoming year. In the past these issues have been considered by the Town Commission at a Regular Workshop Meeting, then forwarded to a Regular Meeting for formal action.

Attached are copies of the Town Commission's adopted 2013 Legislative Priorities, as presented to the Manatee and Sarasota County legislative delegations, the ManaSota League of Cities and other interested parties.

Sarasota County has provided a draft of Sarasota County legislative priorities that will be presented to the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners at their September 10, 2014 Meeting. Also attached is a list of key dates for the 2015 State Legislative Program.

We have made a request of Manatee County for their legislative priorities and will provide those when received.

The Town Manager will be seeking direction from the Town Commission regarding legislative priorities for 2014-2015 legislative session. The legislative priorities will be placed on the October 6, 2014 Regular Meeting for Town Commission formal action.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



# TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY

*Incorporated November 14, 1955*

501 Bay Isles Road  
Longboat Key, FL 34228  
(941) 316-1999  
FAX (941) 316-1656  
[www.longboatkey.org](http://www.longboatkey.org)

October 9, 2013

The Honorable Representative Jim Boyd Chair  
Manatee County Legislative Delegation  
717 Manatee Avenue West, Suite 100  
Bradenton, FL 34205

Dear Representative Boyd,

At our October 7, 2013 Regular Meeting, the Longboat Key Town Commission took formal action to establish the legislative priorities for presentation to the Manatee County Legislative Delegation.

On behalf of the Town Commission, I am forwarding the attached list for consideration by the Manatee County Legislative Delegation Meeting scheduled on December 4, 2013.

## **2013-2014 Town of Longboat Key Legislative Priorities**

Longboat Key has identified the top two priorities as:

1. Support amendment of Florida Statutes to provide grandfathered municipalities, like the Town of Longboat Key, with the ability to maintain long-standing, specific, charter referendum processes relating to density increases associated with local comprehensive plan and map amendments and development orders.
2. Oppose legislation that erodes home rule powers of local governments.
  - Oppose unfunded mandates, cost shifts, or preemptions of local governments' authority
  - Retain local/community control for local revenues and budgets and protect local bond ratings - no caps.
  - Support protection of local authority to administer the Local Business Tax program to meet community needs.

Manatee County Legislative Delegation  
Attn: Representative Jim Boyd Chair  
October 9, 2013  
Page Two

Additional priorities include the following items:

3. Oppose legislation that pursues or allows oil drilling off the West coast of Florida.
4. Support State funding for beach nourishment.
5. Support State authorization of other revenue sources beyond our present sources.
6. Oppose shifting state budget shortfalls through cost shifts to local governments.
7. Support property tax reform that ensures any reforms establish a fair tax system for all taxpayers and preserves local governments' ability to provide services.
9. Support legislation to provide for the protection of sea grasses in Sarasota Bay
10. Support State funding for research, control, and mitigation of Red Tide.
11. Support legislation to authorize governmental entities to utilize their publicly accessible websites for legally required advertisements and public notices in lieu of current requirements for notices to be placed in newspapers of daily circulation.
12. Support legislation to require a registration program for banking institutions for foreclosed properties to provide contact information in order to maintain property standards and local code compliance within communities.

I look forward to participating in the Manatee County Legislative Delegation Meeting when these Legislative Priorities are discussed and other issues that may come forward prior to the public hearing.

My best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Brown", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James L. Brown  
Mayor

Cc: Longboat Key Town Commission





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September 9, 2013

The Honorable Senator Nancy Detert, Chair  
Sarasota County Legislative Delegation  
417 Commercial Court, Suite D  
Venice, FL 34292

Dear Senator Detert,

At our September 3, 2013 Regular Meeting, the Longboat Key Town Commission took formal action to establish the legislative priorities for presentation to the Manasota League of Cities (MSLC), the Manatee County Legislative Delegation, and the Sarasota County Legislative Delegation.

On behalf of the Town Commission, I am forwarding the attached list for consideration by the Sarasota County Legislative Delegation Meeting scheduled on September 18, 2013.

## **2013-2014 Town of Longboat Key Legislative Priorities**

Longboat Key has identified the top two priorities as:

1. Support amendment of Florida Statutes to provide grandfathered municipalities, like the Town of Longboat Key, with the ability to maintain long-standing, specific, charter referendum processes relating to density increases associated with local comprehensive plan and map amendments and development orders.
2. Oppose legislation that erodes home rule powers of local governments.
  - ∞ Oppose unfunded mandates, cost shifts, or preemptions of local governments' authority
  - ∞ Retain local/community control for local revenues and budgets and protect local bond ratings - no caps.
  - ∞ Support protection of local authority to administer the Local Business Tax program to meet community needs.

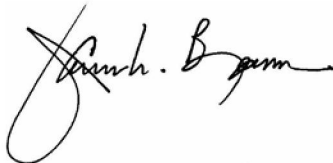
Sarasota County Legislative Delegation  
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Page Two

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I look forward to participating in the Sarasota County Legislative Delegation Meeting when these Legislative Priorities are discussed and other issues that may come forward prior to the public hearing.

My best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Brown". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James L. Brown  
Mayor

Cc: Longboat Key Town Commission

# Sarasota County Commission

## 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Expanded Commission Legislative Program - Guidelines for staff)

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### 1. **HOME RULE: COMMUNITY BASED GOVERNANCE:**

**Guiding Policy:** Sarasota County is dedicated to preserving the constitutional county Home Rule power to best develop and implement community-based solutions to local problems, with direct input from the citizenry.

- ∞ **OPPOSE** cost shifts, unfunded mandates, and preemptions of Sarasota County authority.
- ∞ **OPPOSE** any efforts to erode Charter County Authority.

### 2. **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY:**

**Guiding Policy:** Support efforts that ensure the availability of adequate resources to meet expected and unexpected demands placed upon Sarasota County and keep tax, assessment and fee rates stable.

### 3. **ECONOMIC VITALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY:**

- ∞ **SUPPORT** state policies/strategies and incentives to help communities sustain healthy economies to include partnering with local governments in economic development initiatives, investment in infrastructure, creating jobs, additional local revenue flexibility, and a fair tax structure.
- ∞ **SUPPORT** continued state partnership in establishing a world class rowing facility at the Aquatic Nature Center at Benderson Park as a significant economic engine for our community and the state.
- ∞ **SUPPORT** broadening the QTI – Qualified Targeted Industry Tax Refund incentive program to include capital investment as well as new job creation for expansions and relocations.

### 4. **TAX REFORM:**

- ∞ **SUPPORT** a system that improves equity and fairness among classes of taxpayers and individual taxpayers.

### 5. **SALES TAX REFORM:**

- ∞ **SUPPORT** the expansion of the state's General Fund revenue base by reducing state sales tax exemptions, ensuring exemptions are granted only for essential public purposes and to further strategic state goals such as to promote energy conservation.
- ∞ **SUPPORT** joining the interstate simplified sales tax consortium to facilitate sales tax on internet sales.

### 6. **PROPERTY TAX REFORM:**

**ENSURE** any reforms to the Florida Property Tax structure do not make system any more unfair than it already is or harm county ability to provide services.

- ∞ **SUPPORT** the retention of local/community authority for setting thresholds and implementing local taxes to include the communications services tax (CST) and local business tax to meet community needs.

### 7. **NO REVENUE EXPENDITURE CAPS:**

Retain local/community control for local revenues and budgets. **ENSURE** local government bond ratings are not jeopardized by caps on non-homestead properties.

**8. FLEXIBILITY OF TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX FUNDS:**

Provide flexibility in the expenditure of Tourist Development Tax revenues for purposes resulting in enhanced benefits to tourism.

**9. TAX INCREMENT FINANCING:**

Preserve home rule authority to administer tax increment financing.

**10. CONSULTANT’S COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATION ACT (CCNA):**

- ∞ **SUPPORT** revision of the CCNA to allow local and state agencies the option to procure professional services on a “best value basis” in addition to the existing qualifications based selection method.

**11. PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT/FRS:**

- ∞ **OPPOSE** any efforts that increase the cost of pensions or circumvent collective bargaining at the local level.

**12. LIBRARIES, ARTS; CULTURAL; AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUNDING:**

- ∞ **SUPPORT** state funding of libraries at levels recommended by the State Library of Florida and advocated by the Florida State Library Association including state aide to public libraries, the Public Library Construction Program, Library Cooperatives and the Bureau of Braille and Talking Books.
- ∞ **SUPPORT** expanding the Florida Electronic Library system.
- ∞ **SUPPORT** efforts to restore historic preservation state program grant appropriations.
- ∞ **SUPPORT** additional funding for the North Port Technical Institute for the proposed partnership media center/public library.

**13. ONLINE TRAVEL TOURIST DEVELOPMENT /SALES TAX:**

- ∞ **SUPPORT** collecting taxes on full retail cost of online travel purchases.

**14. TAX COLLECTORS DRIVERS LICENSES:**

- ∞ **SUPPORT** Adequately funding Tax Collectors for the impending shift of operating driver’s license services from the state and provide authority for private testing.

**15. INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE:**

**Guiding Policy – Mobility:** Support efforts that meet the mobility needs of the people of our Sarasota County and the region while respecting and enhancing the character of our diverse communities and protecting our natural resources. Specifically support efforts that enhance and fund multimodal facilities that strive to preserve the natural systems.

**I. State Transportation Funding:**

- a. **OPPOSE** diverting funds from the State Transportation Trust Fund.
- b. **SUPPORT** efforts to identify additional continuing state revenue sources for funding transportation infrastructure.
- c. **SUPPORT** comprehensive evaluation of state policies for planning and funding transportation.
- d. **SUPPORT** leveraging state dollars by partnering with local governments to fund local construction projects.
- e. **SUPPORT** state policies that direct state funding to arterial roads and state highways in the FDOT Work program.

- f. **SUPPORT** and maintain state funding for the US 41 Venice Bypass through completion of the project.
- g. **SUPPORT** enhanced state transportation funding priorities for local governments and regions that maximize use of local option revenue sources for transportation. **SUPPORT** prioritizing the allocation of state program funds for the Strategic Intermodal System to counties that have adopted local option transportation funding sources.

## **II. Local Transportation Funding:**

- a. **OPPOSE** efforts to diminish or eliminate county ability to impose and regulate impact fees.
- b. **SUPPORT** provision of clear legislative authority for local governments to waive impact fees for affordable housing and economic development.
- c. **SUPPORT** local authority and flexibility to provide adequate funding for mobility improvements and alternatives.
- d. **SUPPORT** prioritizing the allocation of state program funds for the Strategic Intermodal System to counties that have adopted local option transportation funding sources.

## **III. Statewide Transit Strategy:**

- a. **SUPPORT** a statewide transit policy to guide major regional projects and to ensure equity in allocation of resources and ability to achieve regional goals.
- b. **OPPOSE** state legislation mandating permitting of bus stops and benches by public transit agencies on state rights of way.

## **IV. Reduce Costs of Acquisition of Property for Right-Of-Way/Easements:**

- a. **SUPPORT** the reduction right-of-way acquisition costs to include capping attorney and witness fees in eminent domain proceedings.

## **16. GROWTH PLANNING**

***Guiding Policy – Sustainable Growth:** Support growth management efforts that improve the quality of life while balancing economic development, preservation/conservation of natural resources, and sound county fiscal policies. Specifically support efforts that control sprawl; provide diverse, affordable and safe neighborhoods; and increase the quantity/ quality of open space.*

### **I. Growth Management:**

- a. **SUPPORT** sustainable growth and maintain local control of long-range planning, development, and natural resource protection.
- b. **SUPPORT** policies that encourage joint cooperative planning relationships between adjacent jurisdictions.
- c. **SUPPORT** state role in growth management in protecting significant state resources, resolving conflicts over extra jurisdictional development impacts, and providing technical assistance to local governments to achieve sustainable growth.

### **II. Energy Efficient Land Use:**

- a. **SUPPORT** policies to cultivate sustainable communities and developments that integrate all modes of transportation to include walking, bicycles, and transit.
- b. **SUPPORT** measures or incentives to help local governments to discourage sprawl/reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



### **III. Concurrency requirements:**

- a. **SUPPORT** provisions to ensure that infrastructure facilities, water supply and schools be in place prior to or concurrent with the impacts of new development and that the infrastructure is consistent with overall infrastructure master planning.
- b. **SUPPORT** home rule authority/laws authorizing counties to establish transportation concurrency and mobility fee systems by local ordinance.

### **IV. Re-zonings:**

- a. **SUPPORT** legislation that retains local authority over rezone decisions.

### **V. Regional Transportation Planning:**

- a. **SUPPORT** regional transportation strategies that include participation of local government officials, are consistent with local comprehensive plans, and do not divert or compete with funding for local government transportation priorities.
- b. **SUPPORT** a new rental surcharge or other new funding source for regional transportation authorities.

### **VI. Special Districts:**

- a. **SUPPORT** development and enforcement of interlocal agreements among affected local governments to address infrastructure needs and coordination prior to any expansions of existing or creation of special districts.

### **VII. Affordable Housing:**

- a. **SUPPORT** allocating the full amount of dedicated documentary tax revenues for state and local affordable housing programs.
- b. **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.

## **17. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

***Guiding Policy**—**SUPPORT** efforts to optimize clean air, protect water quality, and preserve our natural resources and habitat. Specifically support use of renewable and alternative energy sources that reduce emissions. **SUPPORT** policies that ensure the quality and quantity of water resources when and where they are needed, and to provide a safe and reliable water supply and flood protection system.*

### **I. Water Quality:**

- a. **SUPPORT** requesting state funding from the Ecosystem and Restoration Trust Fund to partner with county and federal government in implementing the ***Phillippi Creek Septic System Replacement Program***.

### **II. Red Tide:**

- a. **SUPPORT** efforts to reduce or eliminate red tide algae blooms in the Gulf of Mexico such as monitoring/research conducted by Mote Marine Lab. and the Fish & Wildlife Research Institute.

### **III. Offshore Oil and Gas Extraction:**

- a. **SUPPORT** ban on offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of Mexico.
- b. **OPPOSE** offshore oil and gas exploration drilling in Florida Waters.

**IV. Florida Forever Funding/Public Lands:**

- a. **SUPPORT** funding of the Florida Forever program for the purposes for which it was originally dedicated including land preservation programs within the DEP, and WMDs, and the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program .
- b. **OPPOSE** legislation that would cap, set a maximum level, or establish requirements of publicly held land at the state or county level.

**V. Environmental Permitting:**

- a. **OPPOSE** any legislation that would limit the County's ability to regulate the following environmental issues including:

- *Wetlands* – and mitigation of impacts to wetlands
- *Docks and Boat Lifts* – and other dredge and fill activities
- *Natural Resource Protection* – and including upland habitat protection
- *Anchoring and Mooring* – and other waterways management issues
- *Coastal Armoring* – and other coastal construction regulations. Oppose any legislation that results in increased coastal armoring and associated adverse effects to coastal systems.
- *Unfunded Mandates* – oppose legislation that imposes unfunded mandates to local governments for environmental regulations or that would reduce local jurisdiction regarding natural resource protection issues

**VI. Phosphate Mining:**

- a. **OPPOSE** any modifications to Florida phosphate mining statutes that would erode protections of the water resources within the Myakka or Peace River basins.
- b. **SUPPORT** DEP initiative to develop a single mining and reclamation process to establish a more comprehensive and environmentally protective program, including combining the Comprehensive Reclamation Plan and Environmental Resource Permit into a single permit.
- c. **SUPPORT** DEP requiring a Cumulative Impact Analysis of Phosphate Mining on the Peace and Myakka River Watersheds.

**VII. Water Quality and Supply:**

- a. **SUPPORT** full funding of the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund for alternative water supply projects and to improve impaired water bodies under the TMDL program.
- b. **SUPPORT** adoption of reasonable water quality standards that are scientifically based and economically feasible.
- c. **SUPPORT** legislation that strengthens water supply, water quality, and flow and habitat protection for Florida's water resources.
- d. **SUPPORT** policies for streamlining consumptive use permitting and development of alternative water supply.
- e. **OPPOSE** legislation that would prevent counties from requiring mandatory hookup to central sewer.
- f. **SUPPORT** retention of septic tank program under the county health departments. September 11, 2013

- g. **SUPPORT** low impact design projects that cost effectively remove pollutants from water bodies while restoring aquifers and providing irrigation water supply that offsets portable water demands.
- h. **SUPPORT** local control of water resources.



**VIII. Stormwater Assessments/Agricultural Lands:**

- a. **SUPPORT** storm water assessments that credit agricultural lands for use of BMPs, on-site storage, and nutrient reduction programs.

**IX. Vessel Management:**

- a. **SUPPORT** providing counties option to increase local vessel registration fees to up to 100% of the applicable state fee, to be shared as appropriate with municipalities to support the inland waterway management program. Expand use of vessel fees for navigational waterway management feasibility studies.

**X. Environmental Trust Funds:**

- a. **SUPPORT** the continuation of state documentary stamp funded trust accounts that have previously been established by the Legislature; specifically Florida Erosion Control Trust Fund (TF), Ecosystem Management and Restoration TF, Inland Protection TF and Air TF.

**XI. Beach Management:**

- a. **SUPPORT** funding for Gulf beach nourishment and erosion control projects, and legislation that promotes regional coastal planning, including preservation of the public right of access along beach shorelines.
- b. **SUPPORT** legislation that affirms the rights of local governments to determine how to manage the funds and administrative processes associated with the RESTORE Act.
- c. **OPPOSE** legislation that pre-empts local control of RESTORE Act funds allocated to counties and the associated administrative processes.
- d. **OPPOSE** policy dictating that monies assigned to local governments be diverted to state initiatives or administrative oversight.

**XII. Post Disaster Planning:**

- a. **SUPPORT** legislation that seeks to develop comprehensive post-disaster planning for the state of Florida.

**XIII. Recycling and Disposal:**

- a. **SUPPORT** the establishment of a statewide recycling and disposal system for electronic products and creation of a funding source to support the program, either through manufacturer responsibility or an advanced disposal fee.
- b. **SUPPORT** the state urging the federal government to legalize the disposal of controlled substances through an authorized local government hazardous waste program.
- c. **SUPPORT** mechanisms to assist local governments in meeting the state recycling goals to include state assistance in developing and sustaining new markets for recycled waste products not part of the traditional curbside recycling waste stream.
- d. **SUPPORT** state program to collect, recycle and market recycled paint in Florida.

**XIV. Fertilizer Management:**

- a. **OPPOSE** preempting counties from adopting regulations on fertilizer use or licensing of professionals who apply fertilizer that may be more stringent than statewide standards.
- b. **SUPPORT** funding of the Florida Friendly Landscaping Program.

## **XV. Air Quality:**

- a. **SUPPORT** legislation that proposes to optimize air quality including:

Promoting alternatives to fossil fuels such as biodiesel fuels and electric vehicles, allowing states to create lower emissions rates for off road engines and small engines (e.g. lawnmowers, leaf blowers, etc.). Promoting the development of alternative energy sources and initiatives focused on reducing emissions from traditional energy generating plants to improve ambient air quality. Policies that aid the state and communities to attain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Land use planning and growth practices that promote walkable communities and use of transit.

## **XVI. Alternative Energy/Sustainable practices:**

### ***Energy/Sustainable Practices:***

- a. **SUPPORT** legislation that helps local government achieve job creation and economic development in green business, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy and clean technology sectors to include.
- b. **SUPPORT** initiatives and incentives for green industry, sustainable agriculture, green construction, and clean technology businesses.
- c. **SUPPORT** ensuring protections and incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency are not reduced or eliminated.
- d. **SUPPORT** renewable energy and energy efficiency policy and associated rules that enhance economic development opportunities within a framework of energy independence and domestic production.
- e. **SUPPORT** allowing cost recovery for renewable energy generation that includes generation at all scales and other incentives that advance renewable/green energy.
- f. **SUPPORT** focus on reducing emissions from fossil fuel energy generating plants and promoting the development and use of alternative fuel sources.
- g. **SUPPORT** higher energy efficiency goals and additional residential and commercial demand side management (DSM) programs to enable energy conservation for investor owned utilities.
- h. **SUPPORT** policies providing for access to Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds that would enable local governments to access that low cost financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.
- i. **SUPPORT** incentives and planning for charging infrastructure to expand electric transportation at the State and local levels, and incentives and tax credits for electric vehicles and neighborhood electric vehicles.
- j. **SUPPORT** policies to help communities implement "buy local food" programs

## **XVII. Petroleum Cleanup and Storage Tank Compliance Programs:**

- a. **SUPPORT** legislation that proposes to increased funding to local programs for the management of the petroleum cleanups and storage system inspections throughout the state.

## **18. HUMAN SERVICES**

**Guiding Policy – *Taking care of citizens:*** Support efforts to facilitate partnerships which set priorities, establish coordinating structures, and secure funding sources to plan and implement integrated human services which meet the needs of the community. Specifically support efforts to coordinate the provision of human services; efficiently utilize social services staff resources; and utilize the Contracted Human Services Program to serve as an instrument of the policy and priorities of the County.

**I. Homelessness:**

- a. **SUPPORT** state partnering in support of local homelessness programs.
- b. **SUPPORT** increased funding of the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program.
- c. **SUPPORT** continued recurring funding of Lead Agencies Staffing Grants.
- d. **SUPPORT** distribution of the Sudowski funds for local homeless priorities.
- e. **SUPPORT** continuation of Challenge Grants to local CoC's and to allow sward funds to be based on local priorities.

**II. Medicaid Reform:**

- a. **OPPOSE** any modifications to the current Medicaid system that would shift more costs to Sarasota County or have a negative impact on the provision of Medicaid services in the County.
- b. **OPPOSE** any increase to the County contribution for Medicaid nursing home services.
- c. **OPPOSE** expanding the Medicaid HMO Dental pilot program.
- d. **SUPPORT** full expansion of Medicaid eligibility either based upon the criteria stated in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) or other similar criteria developed by the Florida Legislature.
- e. **SUPPORT** legislation to address Medicaid fraud draining limited financial resources much needed for health care.
- f. **SUPPORT** revisions to state law to ensure an accurate billing methodology for assessing Medicaid expenditures for each county's share of cost for nursing home and hospital services.
- g. **SUPPORT** efforts of local homelessness programs.

**III. Adequate Aging Services:**

- a. **SUPPORT** enhancing state funding for elder and long-term care services and direct existing funding from institutional care to community-based care programs such as Community Care for the Elderly, Home Care for the Elderly, Medicaid Waiver, Alzheimer's Disease Initiative and Senior Centers;
- b. **SUPPORT** funding of needed comprehensive and quality services for senior recipients;
- c. **SUPPORT** quality assurance monitoring and measures that hold Managed Care and HMOs and other plans and providers accountable for appropriate care.

**IV. Behavioral Health Services:**

- a. **SUPPORT** maintenance of the current level of funding for behavioral health services.
- b. **SUPPORT** state increase in funding for mental health beds.

**19. PUBLIC SAFETY**

***Guiding Policy-Public Safety:*** Support policies that protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizenry. Specifically support policies that strengthen county emergency management operations, provide for fire and rescue services, adequately and fairly fund the court system, sheriff's offices, juvenile programs, and the jail system.

**I. Disaster preparedness:**

- a. **SUPPORT** efforts to develop comprehensive state post-disaster planning.

**II. Emergency Services:**

- a. **SUPPORT** the Emergency Management Preparedness Trust Fund and Oppose any efforts to divert the EMPA surcharge to general revenue.



**III. Public Safety Communications:**

- a. **SUPPORT** state partnering with local governments to fund installment of public safety digital **800 MHZ radio systems**.

**IV. Medication Shortages:**

- a. **SUPPORT** any state efforts to address the national shortage of medications needed by emergency medical services to treat critically ill or injured patients.

**V. Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs:**

- a. **SUPPORT** local authority to implement pain management clinic ordinances including requiring physicians and pharmacists to check the online data base of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program prior to prescribing pain management medications,
- b. **SUPPORT** revising state HIPAA law to provide a clear exception for physicians to report medical crimes that occur on their premises such as doctor shopping.
- c. **SUPPORT** expanding the schedule / list of synthetic controlled substances.

**VI. Health Care Practitioner:**

- a. **OPPOSE** expansion of the definition of health care practitioner to include Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics

**VII. Secondary Metal Recycling:**

- a. **SUPPORT** the protection of local ordinances addressing secondary metal recycling, Revise laws to clarify or add violation penalties and consider transferring enforcement of state law to the Dept. of Agriculture.

**VIII. Jail Overcrowding:**

- a. **SUPPORT** review of mandatory sentencing requirements to allow more judicial discretion in determining whether offenders would be better placed in community treatment for rehabilitation rather than incarcerated.

**IX. Juvenile Justice:**

- a. **OPPOSE** any further state cost shifts of DJJ costs to counties. Support FAC efforts to ensure equitable cost sharing for juvenile justice programs.
- b. **SUPPORT** the restoration of full funding for Juvenile Assessment Centers (JACs) and changing the funding for JACs from non-recurring to recurring funds.
- c. **SUPPORT** efforts to reduce juvenile detention and focus resources on prevention and intervention programs that serve as diversion.

**X. Conflict Regional Counsels:**

- a. **SUPPORT** the elimination of County responsibility to fund space and court related technology needs for the newly created regional conflict counsels.

**XI. Pretrial Release:**

- a. **SUPPORT** retaining local control and oppose restrictions on local pretrial release programs.

**XII. Inmate Medical Costs:**

- a. **SUPPORT** reducing jail expenses by setting a standardized statewide reimbursement amount paid by counties to medical providers for health care services provided to inmates and arrestees at the established Medicaid rate or less.

**XIII. Court System:**

- a. **SUPPORT** adequate state funding.
- b. **SUPPORT** funding an additional magistrate in Sarasota County to handle significant case load backlogs and improve judicial system efficiency and management.

**XIV. Article V Funding:**

- a. **SUPPORT** the suspension and/or elimination of the 1.5% annual maintenance increase paid by Counties for designated programs.

**20. GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

**I. Regulation of Smoking:**

- a. **SUPPORT** legislation to allow local governments to regulate outdoor smoking on public property under their jurisdiction.
- b. **SUPPORT** continued funding for CDBG which historically provides up to \$100 million annually for park and recreation infrastructure nationally.

**II. Parks and Recreation:**

- a. **OPPOSE** legislation that would mandate state licensing of summer camp programs and certification of camp counselors.

**21. GENERAL**

- a. **SUPPORT** the **Florida Association of Counties (FAC)** 2014 Legislative Program and Guiding Principles unless specific issues conflict with the Sarasota County Commission positions.
- b. **SUPPORT** the 2014 legislative priorities of the **municipalities within the county** unless specific issues conflict with the Sarasota County Commission positions.
- c. **SUPPORT** the Sarasota County Agricultural Fair Association's request for State funding for construction of a new agricultural facility.
- d. **SUPPORT** state funding of jail diversion.

SUPPORT state increase in funding for mental health beds.

# *2015 State Legislative Program Key Dates*

| <b>Key Activity</b>   | <b>Date</b>     |
|---|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Present Preliminary Legislative Program to Commission      | September 10    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide adopted Legislative Program /COG & Manasota League | September 11    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAC Legislative Policy Conference                          | September 17-19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual delegation member meetings                      | October         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Election   | November 4      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Organizational Session                         | November 18     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAC Legislative Conference                                 | November 19-21  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County General Delegation Meeting                          | TBA             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interim Legislative Committee meetings                     | January 5-9     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interim Legislative Committee meetings                     | January 20-24   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interim Legislative Committee meetings                     | February 2-6    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interim Legislative Committee meetings                     | February 16-20  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Legislative Session Convenes                       | March 3         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Last Day of Regular Session (60 <sup>th</sup> Day)         | May 1           |



**End of Agenda Item**