

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: September 18, 2014

TO: Town Commission

FROM: Dave Bullock, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Town of Longboat Key 2015 Legislative Priorities

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. At the September 15, 2014 Regular Workshop Meeting the Town Manager requested Commission direction in developing legislative priorities for the 2015 legislative session.

Attached is the proposed list of legislative priorities for the Town of Longboat Key as discussed at the September 15, 2014 Regular Workshop Meeting.

Sarasota County and Manatee County have provided draft legislative priorities that will be considered by their respective Boards of County Commissioners for formal action. Those documents are provided for your review and consideration.

Sarasota and Manatee County Legislative Delegation meeting schedules have not been established at this point, however ManaSota League of Cities is requesting the Town's list for inclusion in their legislative priorities.

There was consensus to forward this item to the October 6, 2014 Regular Meeting for further consideration.



2015 Legislative Priorities

1. 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.
2. Oppose legislation that pursues or allows oil drilling off the West coast of Florida.
3. Support State funding for beach nourishment.
4. Support strategies to identify and address issues related to sea level rise.
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 that any reforms establish a fair tax system for all taxpayers and preserves local governments' ability to provide services.
8. Support legislation to provide for the protection of sea grasses in Sarasota Bay.
9. Support State funding for research, control, and mitigation of Red Tide.
10. 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.
11. 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.

Additionally, ManaSota League of Cities' preliminary list for Commission consideration includes:

- ∞ Preservation of Municipality Revenue derived from "Communication Services Tax"
- ∞ Preservation of Tax Exempt Municipal Bonds
- ∞ Map 21 "Grow America Act"
- ∞ Online Retail Sales Tax collection
- ∞ Oppose Freezing Impact Fees

Sarasota County Commission
2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
(Expanded Commission Legislative Program - Guidelines for staff)

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 or 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

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



MANATEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION 2014 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PORT MANATEE/ TRANSPORTATION	Manatee County SUPPORTS the ability for Port Manatee to operate as an independent entity and would OPPOSE efforts to consolidate or remove autonomy from Port Manatee. Manatee County SUPPORTS action that would facilitate business collaboration and marketing opportunities with neighboring ports. Manatee County SUPPORTS fully funding Enterprise Florida's international budget in order to meet the goal of increasing international trade and efforts that promote the Florida International Gateway as the most efficient port asset through which to move freight. Manatee County OPPOSES raids of the Transportation Trust Fund and SUPPORTS restoring state funding for transportation to FY 2005 levels.
JUVENILE JUSTICE	Manatee County SUPPORTS the state taking full responsibility for funding and operation of detention facilities serving juveniles, both for pre-disposition and post-disposition days and implementing juvenile justice reform, as recommended by the Detention Cost Share Proviso Workgroup. In the alternative, SUPPORT the dissolution of the current shared County-State Detention relationship in a manner that eliminates the administrative burdens for all parties and establishes a more collaborative and equitable detention model.
BEACH RENOURISHMENT	Manatee County SUPPORTS the Local Government Funding Request for beach renourishment by the Governor in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's budget for the FY 2015. Manatee County, as ranked near the top of the state priority list, requests \$3,907,512 in state cost share grants for FY 2015 to fund construction and monitoring activities for beach renourishment activities on Anna Maria Island beaches; \$1,430,650 in state cost share for construction of Cortez Beach permeable adjustable erosion control groins at Cortez Beach; and \$179,077 in state cost share grants for FY 2015 for completion of the Longboat Pass Inlet Management Plan, and \$225,000 in state cost share for design/permitting of the Anna Maria Island Longboat Pass jetty reconstruction.
COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TAX**	Manatee County SUPPORTS amending or revising current law in a manner that is 1) revenue neutral for local governments; 2) simplifies administration and collection of the current tax base; 3) provides for a broad and equitable tax base; 4) provides for the enhanced stability and reliability as an important revenue source for local government; and 5) provides for the opportunity for market-based growth.
SENIOR HOMESTEAD TAX EXEMPTION**	In an effort to avoid unintended abuses of the 2012 Senior Homestead Tax Exemption, Manatee County urges the state to amend changes to F.S. 196.075 that would 1) base the applicant's eligibility on all personal assets instead of household income; 2) require the person applying for the 25-year residency requirement to have qualified for a homestead exemption for at least the most recent 15 years; 3) provide that the exemption goes away when the original qualifying owner no longer owns the home; and 4) would penalize fraudulent claims for the exemption similarly to other fraudulent homestead claims.
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS**	Manatee County SUPPORTS full funding of regional planning councils to, at a minimum, cover the costs of statutory responsibilities, and to support enhanced economic development activities. Manatee County would OPPOSE legislation prohibiting or restricting the ability of a regional planning council to provide planning and technical service to its local governments.
NUISANCE ABATEMENT	Manatee County SUPPORTS legislation that would amend F.S. 893.138, extending from six to 12 months the period under which criminal activity pertaining to prostitution, drugs and dealing in stolen property must occur on more than two occasions.
HOME RULE ISSUES**	Manatee County SUPPORTS the statewide Keep it Local Florida movement which is committed to preserving local control and ensuring local taxpayers have the greatest say in how they are governed.

** Asterisks denote items that are supported by the Manatee County Council of Governments which is comprised of Manatee School Board, the Town of Longboat Key, the Cities of Anna Maria, Bradenton, Bradenton Beach, Holmes Beach and Palmetto and Manatee County Government.

MANATEE COUNTY'S SECONDARY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

VACATION RENTALS**	In order for counties and cities to address their citizens' concerns, Manatee County SUPPORTS the repeal of that portion of 2011's House Bill 883 which preempts local authority from regulating, restricting or prohibiting vacation rentals differently from other residential properties based solely on their classification, use or occupancy.
CANDY-FLAVORED TOBACCO BAN **	In accordance with Manatee County Resolution 12-089, Manatee County SUPPORTS legislation that would close an omission in Florida statutes regarding the promotion and sale of tobacco products to young people by allowing the distribution of candy-flavored tobacco products in establishments that are open to minors under the age of 18 within Florida.
FERTILIZER AND LANDSCAPING**	Manatee County SUPPORTS the ability of local government to enact fertilizer ordinances intended to improve water quality and reduce nutrient levels in local waterways. Manatee County SUPPORTS enhanced statewide promotion of the Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices as a basic level of water quality protection with more stringent protection available for specific water bodies in need.
INTERNET SALES TAX**	Manatee County SUPPORTS legislation that promotes an equitable competitive environment between "brick and mortar" businesses and remote business establishments conducting business in Florida.
LIBRARY FUNDING **	Manatee County SUPPORTS restoring state funding to 2005 levels for the public library system, to avoid jeopardizing vital federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds Florida receives annually.
PAIN MANAGEMENT CLINICS**	Manatee County SUPPORTS the ability of local government to enact local pain clinic ordinances that provide local officials an effective tool in curbing the growing epidemic of pain pill abuse. Manatee County would OPPOSE legislation that would preempt the regulation of pain management clinics to the state.
LOCAL BUSINESS TAX**	Manatee County SUPPORTS the authorization of local governments to modify local ordinances in a manner that reflects a more simplified, efficient and equitable tax system that supports communities and economic development through business recruitment. Manatee County OPPOSES legislation that would eliminate the Local Business Tax.
JOINT USE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES**	Manatee County SUPPORTS legislation that would provide immunity from liability for district school boards that adopt public access policies or enter into joint-use agreements except in instances of gross negligence or intentional misconduct.
RED LIGHT CAMERAS**	Manatee County SUPPORTS the ability of local governments to install traffic safety devices as a cost effective way to reduce the instance of red light running at local intersections, and improving safety to motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians along roadways.
AFFORDABLE HOUSING	Manatee County SUPPORTS restoring to 2007 levels the state funding for the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Trust Fund and its distribution to counties for affordable housing activities.
LONGBOAT KEY	Manatee County SUPPORTS an amendment of statutes to provide grandfathered municipalities like the Town of Longboat Key with the ability to maintain a long-standing, specific charter referendum processes relating to density increases associated with local comprehensive plan and map amendments and development orders.



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Trish Granger

From: Jack Duncan [jduncan@longboatkey.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 05, 2014 5:49 PM
To: Dave Bullock
Cc: Susan Phillips; Town Clerk
Subject: LBK 2015 Legislative Priorities

Dave

Looking at Item #14 (page 145) of the 10/06/2014 Regular Commission Meeting Agenda, I have some suggestions on how we might want to organize our Legislative Priorities going forward.

First: I believe we should "categorize" our priorities. I suggest the following category headings:

- * Local Government Revenue and Taxes
- * Beaches Bays and Tourism
- * Local Infrastructure
- * Local Economic Development

Second: Organize the suggested Priorities, on page 145 of the agenda, under the above headings as follows:

- * Local Government Revenue and Taxes
 - Priority 1b. 1c. 5. 7.
 - Add--Preservation of Communication Services Tax
- * Beaches Bays Tourism
 - Priority 2. 3. 4. 8. 9.
- * Local Infrastructure
 - Priority 11.
 - Add--Preservation of tax Exempt Municipal Bonds
 - Add--Oppose Freezing Impact Fees
 - Add--Support Map 21 Grow America
- * Local Economic Development
 - Add-- Support Local Business Tax Preservation
 - Add-- Support Online Sales Tax Collection to protect local main street businesses

Third: Eliminate Priority #6, as redundant to #1a "Cost Shifts" and Priority # 10, as not supporting revenues for local businesses.

Dave let me know your thoughts.

Jack



2015 Legislative Priorities

Home Rule, Local Government Revenue and Taxes

- 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.
- Support State authorization of other revenue sources beyond our present sources.
- Support property tax reform that ensures that any reforms establish a fair tax system for all taxpayers and preserves local governments' ability to provide services.
- Preservation of Communication Services

Beaches Bays and Tourism

- Oppose legislation that pursues or allows oil drilling off the West coast of Florida.
- Support State funding for beach nourishment.
- Support strategies to identify and address issues related to sea level rise.
- Support legislation to provide for the protection of sea grasses in Sarasota Bay.
- Support State funding for research, control, and mitigation of Red Tide.
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Local Infrastructure

- 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.
- Preservation of Tax Exempt Municipal Bonds
- Oppose Freezing Impact Fees
- Support Map 21 Grow America

Local Economic Development

- Support Local Business Tax Preservation
- Support Online Sales Tax Collection to protect local businesses



End of Agenda Item