

## MEMORANDUM

Date: August 31, 2015

**TO:** Town Commission  
**FROM:** Dave Bullock, Town Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Town of Longboat Key 2016 Legislative Priorities

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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.

This year the Manatee County Legislative Delegation was scheduled for August 24, 2015, with a deadline for submittals of August 17, 2015. Due to the early timeframe and lack of Commission meetings prior to the deadline, the Mayor, Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, and Town Attorney developed a proposed list of the Town's Legislative Priorities based on input from Sarasota County lobbyists, Manatee County's proposed priorities, and preliminary information from ManaSota League of Cities and Florida League of Cities. This list was forwarded to the Manatee County Legislative Delegation. The Town Manager and Commissioner Zunz attended the Delegation Hearing and presented the Town's legislative priorities.

Discussion and formalization of the Town's 2016 Legislative Priorities is placed on the September 9, 2015 Regular Meeting. Following Commission action the Legislative Priorities will be submitted to the Sarasota County Legislative Delegation for inclusion in their agenda materials. The Legislative Delegation Hearing is scheduled for 9:00 AM on October 2, 2015 at the Sarasota County Commission Chambers. The Mayor and Town Manager will present the Town's priorities at the Legislative Delegation Hearing.

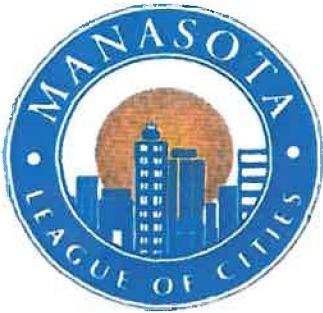
I have attached a copy of the Town of Longboat Key Legislative Priorities as submitted to Manatee County Legislative Delegation, as well as those adopted by the ManaSota League of Cities and Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners. Although Manatee County has not taken formal action on their legislative priorities, they have provided a list of proposed items for consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



## **2016 Legislative Priorities**

1. Support changes to existing State Law relating to vacation rentals that permit grandfathered local governments to modify existing short term vacation rental regulations.
2. Oppose legislation that requires local governments to incur the cost of utility equipment relocation.
3. Support the maintenance of local business tax, communications tax, and tax exempt municipal bonds.
4. Support State funding of transportation programs.
5. Support State funding for beach nourishment.
6. Oppose legislation that pursues or allows oil drilling off the West Coast of Florida.
7. Support legislation that recognizes and addresses sea level rise concerns.
8. Support legislation that encourages water quality preservation and enhancement.
9. Support future funding of the Town's subaqueous wastewater line replacement project through BP Funds and/or Amendment 1 funds.
10. Oppose legislation that pre-empts local government home rule authority relating to impact fees.
11. Support legislation that allows governments to advertise public meetings through websites.
12. Support State funding for purchase of lands for conservation (Florida Forever) and recreation (Florida Communities Trust).



# Manasota League of Cities, Inc.

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

## 2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### Major Priorities

#### **RELOCATION OF UTILITIES**

- o OPPOSE legislation that mandates local government bear the cost of relocating utility equipment when the equipment is located within a public utility easement and needed to be relocated for transportation purposes or for non-transportation purposes regardless of the location.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

##### Community Development Block Grant Funding (CDBG)

- o SUPPORT increased funding for the CDBG program which funds local community development activities such as affordable housing, anti-poverty programs, and infrastructure development.

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE**

The Manasota League of Cities will oppose any legislation that restricts or eliminates municipal revenues generated under the Communication Services Tax and the Local Business Tax.

- o SUPPORT the preservation of the Communication Services Tax.
- o SUPPORT the preservation of the Local Business Tax.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES**

- o SUPPORT legislation that plans and adequately funds basic mental health facilities and programs in Florida including additional psychiatric beds.

#### **PUBLIC PENSIONS**

- o 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.

#### **SOBERHOMES**

- o SUPPORT legislation that defines and establishes minimum regulatory standards for Sober Home facilities and allows for more stringent local regulations of these facilities.

MANASOTA LEAGUE OF CITIES  
2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITES  
(Details)

## RELOCATION OF UTILITIES

For more than 100 years, state law has provided local government with the authority to require non-government utilities to pay the costs associated with relocating its utility equipment out of public rights-of-way and public utility easements to accommodate public construction projects, such as road improvement projects and other non-transportation public projects. Public utility easements and public rights-of-way are controlled by local government and access is provided to utilities as a permissive use. Generally, a utility is required to pay the costs to relocate its equipment when relocation is in the public interest.

In many communities, a “public utility easement” is created by dedication in a land developer’s plan for a new community, such as “The owners of this property do hereby dedicate easements along each boundary of each home site for county drainage purposes and for public utilities.” Typically, public utility easements do not exceed six to ten feet in width and run alongside public rights-of-way in the case of roadways. Like rights-of-way, courts have found that public utility easements are for the benefit of the public and, therefore, are not owned by utilities. Instead, such easements function as public property for the use of utilities. Thereby, developers create interests relating to particular (limited) property uses by third parties who then use the property to provide essential public services. Occasionally utilities purchase these property interests, but often they do not, leaving local authorities with the burden of purchasing property for public easements and/or rights-of-way as part of roadway improvement projects.

If local governments are required to bear the cost of relocation, it would dramatically and negatively affect local governments by transferring the costs of utility relocations from the utility provider to local government taxpayers instead of the actual users of the utilities. In many cases, the utility equipment that needs to be relocated does not service the constituent taxpayers of that municipality or county, but services a neighboring municipality or county.

The expense of relocating a utility’s equipment in the public easement and for non-transportation purposes within the right-of-way will greatly increase the costs of completing transportation projects at a time when local governments continue to struggle with funding for such projects. Transportation projects are often the catalyst for economic development and the result of growth within a community, which benefit the utility in terms of an expanded customer base.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Community Development Block Grants:** SUPPORT increased funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program which funds local community development activities such as affordable housing, anti-poverty programs, and infrastructure development. CDBG, like other block grant programs, differs from categorical grants made for specific purposes in that they are subject to less federal oversight and are largely used at the discretion of the state and local governments and their sub grantees.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE

**Communications Services Tax:** OPPOSE legislation that modifies, restricts, or eliminates the authority of municipalities to levy, collect, and/or expend the Communication Services Tax. In 2001, the Florida Legislature restructured taxes on telecommunications, cable, direct-to-home satellite, and related services. This change was called the Communication Services Simplification Act and replaced and consolidated seven different state and local taxes and fees into a single tax that is comprised of two parts, the state CTS and the local CST. The CST is one of the main sources of general revenue for municipalities. Local governments collect nearly \$800 million year. These revenues may be used for any public purpose, including pledging the revenues to secure bonds. The loss or reduction of that revenue will be disastrous to the budgets of local government.

***Local Business Tax:*** OPPOSE legislation that modifies, restricts or eliminates the authority of municipalities to levy or collect Local Business Tax. Many local governments in Florida require businesses operating within their jurisdictions to obtain a Local Business Tax Receipt. Revenues collected in this form assist in providing services that contribute to business growth - growth which directly contributes to the economic development of the State. These revenues are used by many local governments to assist in the funding of services critical to businesses. Some local governments use the revenue to help fund economic development programs, representing a direct benefit to businesses through the promotion and marketing of the local area and its resources. Many municipalities use the business tax as general revenue funds and have pledged these revenues to secure debt. The Local Business Tax is one tool that enables local governments to operate efficiently without reducing services to citizens. Additionally, it allows local governments to know what businesses are operating in their community.

## **MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS FUNDING**

**SUPPORT:** Legislation that plans and adequately funds basic mental health facilities and programs in Florida, including additional psychiatric beds. While most psychiatric hospitals were closed from the mid 1960's thru the 1990's, adequate funding of replacement community mental health did not occur, with federal and state mental health program funding being dramatically reduced in the 1980's and more recently in the Great Recession. As psychiatric hospitals were being reduced, jail and prison cells were dramatically expanded by over 200%. It is estimated that over 20% of our jails and prisons are serving as de facto psychiatric hospitals (without treatment capabilities) and over 30% of our chronic homeless population is suffering from severe mental health problems including schizophrenia, manic-depressive disorder and severe depression aggravated by substance abuse.

The lack of mental health beds and community mental health program funding has become a critical problem placing costly pressures on our jails, hospitals, police, and EMS departments and our urban centers. As such, the lack of mental health treatment options for individuals, families, hospitals, courts and communities is fiscally and socially irresponsible resulting in an increasing number of well documented human and community tragedies across our country.

## **PUBLIC PENSIONS**

**SUPPORT:** Legislation that protects Home Rule power to set and fund municipal employee benefit levels and specifically provides comprehensive pension reform, disability presumption reform and a mechanism for municipalities to revoke their election to participate in the Florida Retirement System. The ManaSota League of Cities also supports legislation that provides flexibility in the use of insurance premium taxes, as currently interpreted by the Department of Management Services.

## **SOBER HOMES**

**SUPPORT:** Legislation that clearly defines Sober Homes, allows for the regulation of these facilities and details the minimum operating standards. "Sober Homes" or "Halfway Houses" provide needed transitional housing opportunities for people who are progressing through treatment for substance abuse problems. Presently there is little or no regulation from government agencies in setting up a Sober Home. Law enforcement officials have seen increases in crime and homelessness in neighborhoods where these Sober Homes have located. Residents of the neighborhoods have reported an increase in burglaries, panhandling and other criminal activity. There is clearly a lack of uniform state standards or regulations for "Sober Homes."



# Sarasota County

## STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



*Sarasota County supports economic development, job creation, fiscal responsibility, policies to protect the environment and public health and safety through the priorities listed on the reverse side of this card.*

### SARASOTA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**CAROLYN J. MASON – DISTRICT 1**

**PAUL CARAGIULO – DISTRICT 2**

**CHRISTINE ROBINSON – DISTRICT 3**

**ALAN MAIO – DISTRICT 4**

**CHARLES D. HINES – DISTRICT 5**

*Thank you for preserving  
Sarasota County's home rule!*

*Thank you Governor and State Legislature  
for your partnership!*

## SARASOTA COUNTY TOP LEGISLATIVE ISSUES INCLUDE:

### Respect Sarasota County Home Rule - No Preemption of Sarasota County's:

- Pain Clinic Ordinance.
- Fertilizer Ordinance.
- Secondary Metals Ordinance.
- Smoking Restrictions on county properties/parks.

### Support Sarasota County's Job Creation and Economic Development:

- Nathan Benderson Park/Rowing – Support continued state partnering in world-class rowing facility.
- Broadening the tax refund incentive programs, including capital investment and new job creation for expansions and relocations.

### Support Sarasota County's Transportation:

- Reconstruction of River Road.

### Support Sarasota County's Environment:

- Beach renourishment.

### Support Local Government Fiscal Responsibility:

- Local Business Taxes – preserve county authority to implement economic development initiatives.
- Communications Services Taxes – Ensure any revisions are revenue-neutral and allow for growth.

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### Support the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) - 2016 Legislative Program and Guiding Principles unless specific issues conflict with Sarasota County Commission positions.

### Support the 2016 Legislative priorities of municipalities within the county unless specific issues conflict with positions of Sarasota County.



For information on these or other  
county legislative issues, contact  
Sarasota County Intergovernmental  
Relations at 941-444-9532.

**Sarasota County Commission**  
**2016 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**  
*(Expanded Commission Legislative Program - Guidelines for staff)*

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**1. HOME RULE:**

**Guiding Policy:** Sarasota County is dedicated to preserving the constitutional County Home Rule power to 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.
- **OPPOSE** any preemption of Sarasota County's Pain Clinic Ordinance
- **OPPOSE** any preemption of Sarasota County's Fertilizer Ordinance
- **OPPOSE** any preemption of Sarasota County's Secondary Metals Ordinance
- **SUPPORT** local authority on smoking restrictions on County properties and parks.

**2. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY:**

- **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, 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. SPORTS TOURISM:**

- **SUPPORT** state partnering to attract and build Sports Tourism.

**5. TAX REFORM:**

- **SUPPORT** a system that improves equity and fairness among classes of taxpayers and individual taxpayers.
- **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.
- **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 energy conservation.
- **SUPPORT** the interstate simplified sales tax consortium to facilitate sales tax on internet sales.
- **SUPPORT** collecting taxes on the full retail cost of online travel purchases.

**6. NO REVENUE EXPENDITURE CAPS:**

- **SUPPORT** the retention of local/community control for local revenues and budgets. Ensure local government bond ratings are not jeopardized by caps on non-homestead properties.

**7. TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX:**

- **SUPPORT** policies that provide flexibility in the expenditure of Tourist Development Tax revenues resulting in enhanced benefits to tourism.

**8. TAX INCREMENT FINANCING:**

- **SUPPORT** preservation of home rule authority to administer tax increment financing.

**9. 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 qualification-based selection.

**10. PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT/FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM (FRS):**

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

**11. 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 aid 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 state funding for the Sarasota County Technical College (North Port) media center/public library.
- **SUPPORT** state funding for preservation of Little Salt Spring.

**12. INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE:**

*Guiding Policy – Mobility: Support efforts that meet the mobility needs of the 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:**

- **OPPOSE** diverting funds from the State Transportation Trust Fund.
- **SUPPORT** efforts to identify additional continuing state policies for planning and revenue sources for funding transportation infrastructure.
- **SUPPORT** leveraging state dollars by partnering with local governments to fund local construction projects.
- **SUPPORT** state policies that direct state funding to arterial roads and state highways in the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Work program.
- **SUPPORT** state partnering for funding improvements to River Road, a regional interstate connector.

- **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:**

- **OPPOSE** efforts to diminish or eliminate county ability to impose and regulate impact fees.
- **SUPPORT** provision of clear legislative authority for local governments to waive impact fees for affordable housing and economic development.
- **SUPPORT** local authority and flexibility to provide adequate funding for mobility improvements and alternatives.

**III. Statewide Transit Strategy:**

- **SUPPORT** a statewide transit policy to guide major regional projects and to ensure equity in allocation or resources and ability to achieve regional goals.

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

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

**13. 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:**

- **SUPPORT** sustainable growth and maintain local control of long-range planning, development, and natural resource protection.
- **SUPPORT** policies that encourage cooperative planning relationships between adjacent jurisdictions.
- **SUPPORT** state role 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:**

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

**III. Concurrency Requirements:**

- **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.
- **SUPPORT** home rule authority/laws authorizing counties to establish transportation concurrency and mobility fee systems by local ordinance.

**IV. Rezonings:**

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

**V. Regional Transportation Planning:**

- **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.

**VI. Special Districts:**

- **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 new, special districts.

**VII. Affordable Housing:**

- **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.

**14. 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 provide a safe and reliable water supply and flood protection system.*

**I. Water Quality:**

- **SUPPORT** state funding from the Ecosystem and Restoration Trust Fund to partner with county and federal government in the Phillipi Creek Septic System Replacement Program.
- **SUPPORT** state funding for the Dona Bay Restoration Project.

**II. Red Tide:**

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

**III. Oil and Gas Extraction/Hydraulic Fracturing:**

- **SUPPORT** a ban on offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of Mexico and **OPPOSE** offshore oil and gas exploration drilling in Florida Waters.
- **SUPPORT** authorizing counties to adopt or establish regulations pertaining to oil and gas exploration and extraction and hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and **OPPOSE** preemptions of the ability of counties to adopt or establish such regulations.

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

- **SUPPORT** funding of the Florida Forever program for the purposes for which it was originally dedicated, including land preservation programs within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the Water Management Districts, and the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program.

- **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:**

- **OPPOSE** any legislation that would limit the County's ability to regulate the following:
  - Wetlands – and mitigation of impacts to wetlands
  - Docks and Boat Lifts – and other dredge-and-fill activities
  - Natural Resource Protection – including upland habitat protection
  - Anchoring and Mooring – and other waterways management issues
  - Coastal Armoring – and other coastal construction regulations. (Oppose legislation that results in increased coastal armoring and associated adverse effects to coastal systems.)
- **OPPOSE** any legislation that would impose unfunded mandates to local governments for environmental regulations or reduce local jurisdiction regarding natural resource protection.

**VI. Phosphate Mining:**

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

**VII. Water Quality and Supply:**

- **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 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program.
- **SUPPORT** adoption of reasonable water quality standards that are scientifically based and economically feasible.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that strengthens water supply, water quality, and flow and habitat protection for Florida's water resources.
- **SUPPORT** policies for streamlining consumptive use permitting and development of alternative water supplies.
- **SUPPORT** local control of water resources.
- **SUPPORT** integration of watershed restoration principles that enhance the health of our watersheds, address flooding concerns, manage risk, minimize flood loss, and protect the natural and beneficial functions of the County's floodplain.
- **SUPPORT** alternative water supply projects that restore aquifers and provide irrigation water supply that offsets potable water demands.
- **SUPPORT** retention of septic tank program under the county health departments.
- **OPPOSE** legislation that would prevent counties from requiring mandatory connection to central sewer.

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

- **SUPPORT** stormwater assessments that credit agricultural lands for use of best management practices (BMPs), onsite storage and nutrient-reduction programs.

**IX. Vessel Management:**

- **SUPPORT** allowing counties 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, and to expand use of vessel fees for navigational waterway management feasibility studies.

**X. Environmental Trust Funds:**

- **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:**

- **SUPPORT** increased 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.
- **SUPPORT** full funding of the RESTORE Act.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that affirms the rights of local governments to determine how to manage the funds and administrative processes associated with the RESTORE Act and **OPPOSE** legislation that preempts local control of RESTORE Act funds and administrative processes.
- **OPPOSE** policy dictating that monies assigned to local governments be diverted to state initiatives or administrative oversight.

**XII. Post Disaster Planning:**

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

**XIII. Recycling and Disposal:**

- **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.
- **SUPPORT** the state urging the federal government to legalize the disposal of controlled substances through an authorized local government hazardous waste program.
- **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.
- **SUPPORT** state program to collect, recycle and market recycled paint in Florida.

**XIV. Fertilizer Management:**

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

**XV. Air Quality:**

- **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 small and off-road engines.
  - Promoting the development of alternative energy sources and initiatives focused on reducing emissions to improve ambient air quality.

- Policies that aid in attaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Land use planning and growth practices that promote walkable communities and use of public transit.

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

- **SUPPORT** legislation that helps local governments achieve job creation and economic development in green business, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy and clean technology.
- **SUPPORT** initiatives and incentives for green industry, sustainable agriculture, green construction, and clean technology businesses.
- **SUPPORT** ensuring protections and incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency are not reduced or eliminated.
- **SUPPORT** renewable energy and energy efficiency policy and associated rules that enhance economic development opportunities within a framework of energy independence and domestic production.
- **SUPPORT** allowing cost recovery for renewable energy generation that includes generation at all scales and other incentives that advance renewable/green energy.
- **SUPPORT** focus on reducing emissions from fossil fuel energy generating plants and promoting the development and use of alternative fuel sources.
- **SUPPORT** higher energy efficiency goals and additional residential and commercial demand side management (DSM) programs to enable energy conservation for investor-owned utilities.
- **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.
- **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.
- **SUPPORT** policies to help communities implement “buy local food” programs.

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

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

#### **15. 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:**

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

**II. Medicaid Reform:**

- **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.
- **OPPOSE** any increase to the County contribution for Medicaid nursing home services.
- **OPPOSE** expanding the Medicaid HMO Dental pilot program.
- **SUPPORT** full expansion of Medicaid eligibility based upon the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) criteria or similar criteria developed by the Florida Legislature.
- **SUPPORT** legislation to address Medicaid fraud draining limited financial resources much needed for health care.
- **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.

**III. Adequate Aging Services:**

- **SUPPORT** enhancing state funding for elder and long-term care services and directing 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.
- **SUPPORT** funding of needed comprehensive and quality services for senior recipients.
- **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:**

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

**16. 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:**

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

**II. Emergency Services:**

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

**III. Public Safety Communications:**

- **SUPPORT** state partnering with local governments to fund installation of public safety digital 800-MHz radio systems.

**IV. Medication Shortages:**

- **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:**

- **SUPPORT** local authority to implement pain management clinic ordinances including requiring physicians and pharmacists to check the online database of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program prior to prescribing pain management medications.
- **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.
- **SUPPORT** expanding the schedule/list of synthetic controlled substances.

**VI. Health Care Practitioner:**

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

**VII. Secondary Metal Recycling:**

- **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 Department of Agriculture.

**VIII. Jail Overcrowding:**

- **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:**

- **OPPOSE** any further state cost shifts of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) costs to counties. **SUPPORT** Florida Association of Counties (FAC) efforts to ensure equitable cost sharing for juvenile justice programs.
- **SUPPORT** the reimbursement of DJJ overcharges to Sarasota County.
- **SUPPORT** the restoration of full funding for Juvenile Assessment Centers (JACs) and changing the funding for JACs from non-recurring to recurring funds.
- **SUPPORT** efforts to reduce juvenile detention and focus resources on prevention and intervention programs that serve as diversion.

**X. Pretrial Release:**

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

**XI. Inmate Medical Costs:**

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

**XII. Court System:**

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

**XIII. Article V Funding:**

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

**17. GOVERNMENT:**

**I. Regulation of Smoking:**

- **SUPPORT** legislation to allow local governments to regulate outdoor smoking on public property under their jurisdiction.

**II. Parks and Recreation:**

- **OPPOSE** legislation that would mandate state licensing of summer camp programs and certification of camp counselors.
- **SUPPORT** continued funding for CDBG, which historically provides up to \$100 million annually for parks and recreation infrastructure nationally.

**III. Utilities:**

- **OPPOSE** mandating cost of relocation of utilities in public rights of way to local government.

**IV. Trails:**

- **SUPPORT** funding for completion of the Legacy Trail, a regional recreational and nature-based trail system connecting communities across Sarasota County and stretching into neighboring Charlotte County.
- **SUPPORT** funding for the “River-to-River Trail” which connects the Myakka River to the Peace River.
- **SUPPORT** funding for the Southwest Coast Connector Trail connecting Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier and Hendry Counties.

**18. GENERAL:**

- **SUPPORT** the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) 2016 Legislative Program and Guiding Principles unless specific issues conflict with the Sarasota County Commission positions.
- **SUPPORT** the 2016 legislative priorities of the municipalities within the county unless specific issues conflict with the Sarasota County Commission positions.
- **SUPPORT** the Sarasota County Agricultural Fair Association’s request for State funding for construction of a new agricultural facility.
- **SUPPORT** state funding of jail diversion.
- **SUPPORT** state increase in funding for mental health beds.

Susan,

Thank you for your email regarding the 2016 Manatee County Legislative Priorities. As I told our Commissioners, the 2016 priority list will be coming together early next following a Florida Association of Counties Conference I'm attending this week. We have a few funding requests that are in order and a few platform statements that are firm, but I want to attend the conference prior to serving up a list of priorities for our Board to consider in September. I'm happy to share with you the finalized list once it's available.

For now, here are two funding requests that you may be interested in:

Manatee County requests \$225,000 in state funds for FY 2016-17 for the **Longboat Pass Jetty Reconstruction** design and permitting phases and \$175,000 for the **Passage Key Inlet Management Plan**. Additionally, Manatee County and the Town of Longboat Key request \$3,328,587 in state funds through a joint funding application for **Longboat Pass Inlet Management**. These funds are for pre-construction and construction phase services, physical and biological monitoring and for reimbursement of funds associated with the inlet study.

Manatee and Sarasota County governments are creating the **Suncoast Regional Communication System (P25 Radio)**, a regional public safety radio network that has potential to serve a five-county area, capitalize on synergistic opportunities and solve difficult operational project. The two counties are requesting a total of **\$4 million** (\$2 million for each county) to offset the total project cost of \$28.4 million.

We also have serious concerns about the utility line relocation bill. Here's our platform statement on that issue:

**UTILITY LINE RELOCATION COSTS** Utilities reside within, and deliver their product by using governmentally acquired rights of way. They have the lawful right to do so but part of the exchange is that they comply with police powers, pay such franchise or license fees as are assessed, and move facilities when needed. Manatee County has serious concerns about legislation that would require local governments to use local taxpayer dollars to reimburse private utility companies for relocation costs.

I hope this helps. Thanks for your patience!

Nick



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**End of Agenda Item**