

**Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
2019 Proposed State Legislative Program**

Priority Issues

Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board- Local Bill

- **File** legislation which removes the requirement of the governmental building official appointees to reside in Pinellas County.

Regional Transportation

- **Support** Regional transportation coordination and funding, specifically related to FDOT District 7.
- **Support** the legislative priorities of Forward Pinellas, PSTA and TBARTA.

Tourist Development Tax

- **Support** language that clarifies allowable uses for Tourist Development Tax funds.

Community Redevelopment Areas

- **Oppose** efforts that would preempt local governments from controlling of managing Community Redevelopment Areas as local economic development tools.

Self-Defense

- **Support** language that brings greater clarity to self-defense laws, including Stand Your Ground and Justifiable Use of Force.

Additional Advocacy Issues

Affordable Housing

- **Oppose** money from the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund being used for any purpose other than housing.

Statewide Resiliency Plan

- **Support** the development of a statewide Resiliency Plan to strengthen and improve the resiliency of critical infrastructure.

Local Option Fuel Tax

- **Support** the indexing of the local option fuel tax.

Beach Nourishment

- **Support** a dedicated recurring source of funding for beach nourishment projects.

Local Tax Referenda

- **Oppose** efforts to raise the approval threshold or restrict local control over the scheduling of local tax referenda.

Tampa Bay Water

- **Oppose** any legislation that would impact Pinellas County's membership with Tampa Bay Water.

Enhanced 911 Fee

- **Support** language that increases county governments' distributions of collected E911 fees.

Internet Sales Tax

- **Support** legislation that compels remote sellers to collect sales tax at the time of a transaction.

Pre-emption

- **Oppose** pre-emptions of fertilizer ordinance, high prescriber moratorium, fireworks restrictions, authority to levy a local business tax, local regulation of firearms and ammunition etc.
- **Support** removing the pre-emption of local regulation of vacation rental properties.

Unfunded Mandates

- **Oppose** any unfunded mandates that impact local government budgets and control.

Partnerships

- **Support** the priorities of partner organizations and agencies, including Florida Association of Counties (FAC), Pinellas County School Board, Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA), Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA), and Forward Pinellas when aligned with the Board's priorities.

Appropriations

Lofty Pines Septic to Sewer and Stormwater Retrofit \$3,100,000

- Lofty Pines is within unincorporated Pinellas County and borders the City of Dunedin. The community is part of Group 2, Census Tract 269.10 and categorized low/moderate income. Currently all 120 homes are on septic and there is no formal stormwater management system within the neighborhood. The age and condition of the septic are problematic and sewage discharges are contributing to public health concerns and bacteria violations in Jerry Branch, which is part of the Curlew Creek Watershed. The proposed project includes the construction of a sewer collection system that will tie into the City of Dunedin's wastewater service area, closure of the septic tanks, and reuse expansion and stormwater retrofits to improve both flood control and water quality treatment prior to discharge into waters of the state. \$1,559,000 in local funds, including RESTORE funds, and SWFWMD cooperative funding match of \$839,000, have been dedicated to the project.

Highpoint Community Recreation Facilities \$800,000

- Construction of youth sports facilities to include baseball and multi-purpose fields, basketball courts, and playgrounds to serve low income community which currently has limited access to community recreation facilities. The total cost of the project is \$2,000,000. Pinellas County has allocated \$200,000 in the CIP budget to begin design and engineering.

Utilities Vocational Workforce Pilot Program \$25,000

- Pilot program in cooperation with Pinellas Technical College, local Public Works, and Public Utilities, that educates students to obtain State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) certification as water/wastewater treatment plant operators, distribution system operators, and collection system certification. Provides a pathway to prepare High School Career Academy and non-college bound high school students to enter into and advance in good jobs in the high growth and emerging occupations of drinking water and wastewater treatment.

East Lake Library Expansion Phase 1B \$500,000

- Phase 1B of library renovation would include additional open areas, additional seating, restroom renovations, replacement of carpeting and lighting, upgrades to existing computer area, and reconfiguration to conform to ADA requirements, expansion of parking lot.

Redingtons Joint Use Public Safety Facility \$500,000

- Multi-Government partnership to build a multi-use facility that will house Emergency Medical Services, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Public Works offices and equipment storage, voting precinct and more. This facility will meet the public safety needs of residents and visitors alike, and is a model for future partnerships.

Gulf Boulevard Undergrounding

- In an effort to plan for the future and increase coastal resiliency, this project would complete the undergrounding of utilities along Gulf Boulevard throughout all the barrier island communities, from Clearwater to St. Pete Beach. After Hurricane Irma, residents lost power for up to nine days. By undergrounding utilities along the barrier islands, the risk of power loss during a storm decreases. By completing this as one project, we anticipate reducing inefficiencies, and introduce cost savings through economies of scale.