

**Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
2017 Legislative Program**

I.) State Legislative Program

A.) Priority Issues

Issue	Position
Article V Court Funding	Support eliminating the requirement that counties increase certain court expenditures by 1.5 percent over the prior county fiscal year.
Beach Nourishment	Support the continuation and increase of funding for beach nourishment projects.
Building Permits	Support legislation allowing homeowners acting as their own contractors to pull online permits for additional projects instead of having to appear in person.
Construction Licensing Board	Support updating of the Special Act establishing the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board.
Defense Contractor Incentives	Support legislation that makes incentives for defense contractors an outright reward. Currently state dollars may offset federal incentives.
Energy Policy	Support the development of a statewide energy policy.
Entertainment Tax Credit Incentives	Support entertainment tax credit incentives. On-location and indigenous commercial, film, and media production generate over \$25 million per year in Pinellas County.
Flood Insurance	Support efforts to support flood mitigation and encourage the private marketplace.
Healthcare Expansion	Support efforts to expand healthcare in Florida and draw down federal resources to expand Medicaid eligibility.
High Impact Veteran County	Support legislation establishing a "High Impact Veteran County" designation that allocates state funds to hire Veterans Service Officers in designated counties to increase services and federal benefits for Florida veterans.
High Prescriber Database	Support legislation that requires physicians to input data into the state monitoring database rather than leaving it a voluntary program.
Homelessness Funding	Support a steady source of state funding for homelessness issues that is not subject to the annual appropriations process.
Medicaid Dental Care	Support legislation to incentivize participation by the dental community.
Medicaid Managed Care	Support continued efforts to work through Medicaid reform initiatives to ensure timely and full payment cycles for providers.
Mosquito Control Funding	Support increased mosquito control funding available to all mosquito control districts.
Regional Transportation	Support regional transportation coordination and funding, including funding for a study of the best regional models.
Sewer Infrastructure	Support creation of a state program to assist with the replacement of private laterals, support funding for a regional inflow and infiltration study of all sewer systems countywide and other recommendations from the Wastewater/Stormwater Task Force.
Vacation Rentals	Support removing the pre-emption of local regulation of vacation rental properties
Vehicles for Hire	Support statewide regulation of vehicles for hire. (HB 221 Passed last session)
Local Tax Referenda	Oppose efforts to raise the approval threshold or restrict local control over the scheduling of local tax referenda.
Open Carry	Oppose any efforts for open carry of firearms
SHIP/SAIL (Affordable Housing Trust Fund)	Oppose money from the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund being used for any purpose other than housing.

B.) Appropriations

\$6 million in state funding for the construction, fixtures, furniture and equipment for a small business incubator on land provided by the City of St. Petersburg. The County match of up to \$4 million could be allocated from the proceeds of the sale of the STAR Center or other sources. In addition, the County will be pursuing a federal Economic Development Agency grant. The project will lead to the creation of new high-wage primary employers in the Tampa Bay area. **(Vetoed last session, pursuing Florida Job Growth Grant Funding)**

\$17 million to match the local and water district contributions to improve the water quality of Lake Seminole and Boca Ciega Bay. This multi-year project will remove several tons of harmful nutrients from Lake Seminole and return the lake to a condition where it can support recreational and commercial uses. **(Item was heard last session, but not ultimately funded).**

\$3.5 in state funding to match local funding for the construction of an Airline Support Facility at the St. Pete Clearwater International Airport. The total cost of the project is \$7 million. **(Airport will not pursue appropriations this upcoming 2018 session).**

Support Tarpon Springs’ funding request for the dredging project and spoil site.

Support accelerated funding for the Bayway Bridge replacement.

Support funding for projects and programs that align with the Lealman Redevelopment Plan.

C.) Monitoring Issues

Issue
Support the Florida Association of Counties’ (FAC) Agenda when not in conflict with our own.
Support the priorities of partner agencies when aligned with County priorities.
Support funding for Pinellas County transportation projects.
Support the indexing of the local option fuel tax.
Support legislation to revise the deadline for city and county tax increment financing (TIF) payments to community redevelopment areas (CRA) from January 1 st to 30 days after the certification of the tax rolls.
Support legislation that would reduce the nutrient load in Florida’s springsheds. Oppose any springs protection legislation that would require local governments to pay up front for improvements and protection.
Support funding for Regional Planning Councils, Pinellas County Department of Health, Small Business Development Center Network.
Monitor any changes to gaming legislation, including provisions to allow slot machines at pari-mutuels.
Monitor any changes to mental health services and support increased funding for these services.
Monitor any changes to the Florida Retirement System.
Monitor any changes to Agency for Health Care Administration, Brownfield Incentive Programs, Department of Health.
Monitor any changes to the allowable uses of Tourist Development Tax (TDT) funds.
Oppose changes to sovereign immunity that would increase the cap on damages paid by local governments.
Oppose the preemption of the ability for medical examiners to charge reasonable fees for service.
Home Rule Issues
- Oppose pre-emptions of fertilizer ordinance, high prescriber moratorium, fireworks restrictions, vehicle for hire regulation, authority to levy a local business tax
- Oppose legislation that would reduce or eliminate the local air quality control contract
- Oppose any unfunded mandates that impact local government budgets and control

New Items/Emerging from Last Session:

- Support the Veterans Memorial Reef Appropriations
- Support updating of the Special Act establishing the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board.
- Pursue one time funding for capital.
- Repurpose 2017 appropriations (\$2 Million) for the Lealman Community Center to the County.
 - Pursue additional appropriations/grant funding for Lealman Community Center