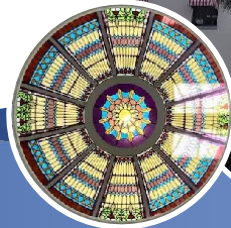




2026 State Legislative Program

November 14th, 2025



2025 Legislative Recap



Pinellas County Appropriation:

- Traffic Control Flood Mitigation Project - \$750,000
 - Representative Chaney and Senator DiCeglie

Guiding Principles



- ✓ *Support* adequate state funding for constitutional officers required to perform duties on behalf of the state.
- ✓ *Support* fully funding the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- ✓ *Support* a dedicated recurring source of funding for beach nourishment.
- ✓ *Support* fully funding the Resilient Florida Grant Program.
- ✓ *Support* assistance with disaster recovery as well as emergency management and planning.
- ✓ *Support* the continuation of policies that protect Florida's natural resources and scenic beauty, including the prohibition of all oil drilling or exploration efforts in state waters.
- ✓ *Support* maintaining Tampa Bay Water as the regional water supplier.
- ✓ *Support* state funding for cultural institutions and the Arts.
- ✓ *Support* the prioritization of state funding to assist with local and regional infrastructure improvements, including transportation, septic to sewer conversion, damaged sanitary sewer laterals, and wastewater systems.
- ✓ *Support* innovative funding strategies that address the declining revenue source of transportation funding to adequately address future transportation needs with a specific focus on electric vehicles and allowing for the local indexing of the gas tax.

Executive & Legislative Priorities



Support

- E-911 Fee Adjustment (*Executive*)
- Disaster Recovery
- Beach Nourishment Funding
- Anonymous Code Enforcement Complaints
- Overdose and Suicide Fatality Review
- Fire and EMS Service Impacts
- Animal Welfare

Monitor

- Tourist Development Tax (TDT) Expansion
- Short-Term Rental Regulation
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)

E-911 Fee Adjustment (Executive Priority)



E-911 Fee Increase

SUPPORT adjusting the 911 fee to accommodate increased expenses and expansion of technology to continue providing high quality of service to citizens of Pinellas County. (*Florida Association of Counties Policy Proposal*)

- Florida Association of Counties Proposal Supported by Pinellas and Pasco
- State law allows for a \$0.50 fee per phone line per month. The fee was lowered to \$0.40 in 2015 which is no longer able to support the level of expense in maintaining 911 systems throughout the state.
- Florida 911 Coordinators' Association brought this matter to the Florida Emergency Communications Board. Discussion has occurred over the last 9 years to increase the fee back to \$0.50 per line, which is the maximum allowed under state law. In 2016, the Board voted to increase the fee to \$0.45 cents, but the DMS rule to implement the change was not ratified by the legislature as required by State Statute (s. 120.541(3), F.S.).
- Florida Emergency Communications Board was preparing for a vote to raise the fee threshold back to \$0.50 on October 16th, but they decided to conduct additional research prior to making a rule ratification recommendation to the Legislature.

Disaster Recovery

SUPPORT a state-wide Disaster Recovery proposal to assist with recovery efforts, expedite procedures to get residents back in their homes as quickly as possible, and provide local governments with the flexibility to amend their comprehensive plans and land-use requirements for properties not damaged by natural emergencies to promote community redevelopment, preserve water quality standards, and advance environmental conservation efforts.

- Elevate Florida Program and Disaster Relief Funding – Utilizing FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funding opportunities to recover from past disasters and prepare for future storms.
- Providing statutory flexibility to amend comprehensive plans and land-use requirements for redevelopments will allow local governments to comply with other state laws and take advantage of various programs developed by the state, minimizing unintended consequences and the negative impacts of stalled development.

Beach Nourishment Funding



Beach Nourishment Funding

SUPPORT full funding of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Beach Management Funding Assistance Program for traditional beach and inlet projects as well as supplemental program funding to address damages from Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton while also preparing for future storms.

- The FY 2026 State Budget signed by the Governor allocates \$60.5 Million for the Beach Management Funding Assistance Program.
- Total funding for Resilient Florida in the FY 2026 budget was \$150 Million.
- After years of unsuccessful attempts to resolve easement policy disagreements with the US Army Corps of Engineers, the County is executing a \$125.7 million beach renourishment project supported by Tourism Development Taxes (TDT) and state grants without assistance from the Federal government. The State is supporting the project with \$14.2 million in grant reimbursement, but TDT funds will not be able to sustain future beach renourishment projects.

Anonymous Code Enforcement Complaints



Anonymous Code Enforcement Complaints

SUPPORT policy to allow for a **delay** in disclosing a complainant's name and address until a hearing officer determines that a code violation existed on the property. This will further protect complainants from retaliatory actions resulting in property damage, threats, acts of violence, bodily injury, or even death. (Florida Association of Counties Policy Proposal)

- 162.06 (1) (b), F.S. (2021) - Requires a person who reports potential code/ordinance violations to provide their name and address before any code enforcement proceeding may begin.
- Intent of the Law: prevent individuals from using the code enforcement process as a weapon to harass alleged code violators.
- Unintended Consequence of Law: personal information of the person reporting the violation allows the alleged code or ordinance violator to harass, threaten or intimidate the person who filed the complaint. This change in law already has resulted in a reduction of code complaints, which increases the threat to public health, safety, and welfare caused by unreported potential code violations.

Overdose & Suicide Fatality Review



Overdose & Suicide Fatality Review Committees

SUPPORT the creation of statewide Overdose and Suicide Fatality Review committees under the Department of Health to review facts and circumstances of suicide and drug-related deaths. Local review committees would conduct individual case reviews of suicide and drug overdose or drug poisoning deaths, identify factors contributing to those deaths, make recommendations for system, policy and practice improvements at the local and state level, promote interagency collaboration and data sharing consistent with Federal and State confidentiality protections, and inform prevention initiatives through accurate, timely, and comprehensive data.

- Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) committees are multidisciplinary teams established on the state, county, or city level to identify system gaps as well as innovative community-specific overdose prevention and intervention strategies. OFR teams review fatal drug overdose cases within their jurisdictions to determine what factors and characteristics may lead to a possible overdose.
- By understanding what influences a fatal overdose, the OFR can recommend changes in law, policy, and agency response/coordination that will better allow the state, county, or city to prevent future overdose deaths.

Overdose & Suicide Fatality Review



Benefits of Jurisdiction-Wide OFR Laws

- Jurisdiction-wide laws can directly authorize OFRs to obtain some disclosure-protected information about the decedent.
- Without such laws, OFRs—and the individuals and entities from which it requests information—are bound to their own interpretations of the confidentiality provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), 42 U.S.C. § 290dd-2, 42 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 2, and state or local confidentiality laws.
- This may result in an unwillingness to provide the requested information due to unduly restrictive interpretations and/or confusion caused by varying conclusions among jurisdictions.
- OFR legislation helps enhance the legitimacy of OFRs, especially in areas where some community members may be reluctant to establish one due to misinterpretations and confusion regarding what decedent information is disclosure-protected.
- OFR laws promote uniformity and consistency among the local teams within a state or territory.

Overdose & Suicide Fatality Review

States With OFR Laws

1. Arizona
2. California
3. Colorado
4. Delaware
5. Indiana
6. Louisiana
7. Maine
8. Maryland
9. Michigan
10. Nebraska
11. New Hampshire
12. New Jersey
13. North Dakota
14. Ohio
15. Pennsylvania
16. Rhode Island
17. Virginia
18. Washington



* Alaska allows for review organizations.

* NY and WI recently proposed OFR legislation

Fire and EMS Service Impacts



Fire and EMS Service Impacts

SUPPORT an OPPAGA study on the statewide organizational impacts of Fire and EMS departments, systems, and services to consider the feasibility, efficiency, and fiscal impact of reducing firefighter hours to 42-hours a workweek pursuant to HB 929.

- HB 929 and SB 1212, Firefighter Health and Safety – Booth, Alvarez, D. and DiCeglie (2025) reduces firefighter hours by 25%. Bill passed the House and Senate unanimously.
- This reduction will require the hiring of more firefighters (approximately 500 countywide), adding an estimated **\$20 Million** impact to Pinellas County taxpayers.
- OPPAGA study will help identify the viability of this workforce reduction and allow for the recognition of more efficient ways to maintain an expansive firefighter workforce while minimizing the fiscal impact of these firefighter workweek reductions on taxpayers.

Animal Welfare

SUPPORT animal welfare policy and recommendations from the state that ensure animal care and wellbeing.

High-Profile Animal Welfare Policy from 2025:

- SB 150 – Trooper’s Law (Gaetz): established penalties for abandoning restrained dogs during natural disasters.
- HB 255 – Dexter’s Law (Chaney): strengthens penalties for aggravated animal cruelty by adding a 1.25 sentencing multiplier for repeat offenders and creating an animal abuse database under the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Other Legislative Priorities



Monitor List

Tourist Development Tax (TDT) Expansion

- MONITOR proposals to expand the use of TDT funds.

Short-Term Rental Regulation

- MONITOR policy to regulate the density and intensity of short-term rental properties.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)

- MONITOR future plans to consolidate MPOs and study the efficiency, effectiveness, and necessity of MPOs based on geographical population to better address growing regional transportation needs.

2026 Appropriation Requests



- East Lake Road Corridor Improvements – Phase 1
 - Representative Anderson and Senator Hooper
- 31 Pump Station Control Panel Elevating
 - Representative Chaney and Senator Hooper
- Hurricane Shelter Hardening – Generators for Special Needs Shelters
 - Representative Anderson and Senator Rouson
- Hurricane Shelter Hardening – Lealmam Exchange
 - Representative Chaney and Senator DiCeglie
- Seminole Junior Warhawks – Youth Sports Field Improvements
 - Representative Jacques and Senator DiCeglie

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Questions?