



2026 Post-Session Legislative Update

April 16, 2026

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Recent & Upcoming Legislative Dates





Guiding Principles

Supported Guiding Principles



- ✓ Adequate state funding for constitutional officers required to perform duties on behalf of the state.
- ✓ Fully funding the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- ✓ A dedicated recurring source of funding for beach nourishment.
- ✓ Fully funding the Resilient Florida Grant Program.
- ✓ Assistance with disaster recovery as well as emergency management and planning.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Maintaining Tampa Bay Water as the regional water supplier.
- ✓ State funding for cultural institutions and the Arts.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

Policy Within Guiding Principles



Protection of Florida's Natural Resources and Scenic Beauty

- **FAILED** | Oppose HB 479 and SB 718 – Land and Water Management, by Rep. Maggard and Sen. McClain
 - Preempts the regulation of water resources or wetlands to the state.
 - House Bill passed one committee.
 - Senate Bill was never heard.
 - Problem with the Policy: In its current form, the State's regulatory standards are set as a baseline; therefore, the policy would limit the County's ability to protect our waterways if the State's regulation didn't meet the minimum standards needed in Pinellas.
 - Action: We had discussions with the bill sponsors to articulate how water adjacent communities may need to enact additional regulations to preserve water quality and natural resources.

Disaster Recovery | Emergency Management and Planning

- **PASSED** | HB 7005 and SB 7000 – Persons Provided Public Emergency Shelter, by Rep. Weinberger and Sen. Wright
 - Provides indefinite public record protections for address and telephone information of individuals who use public emergency shelters.
- **PASSED** | HB 5503 and SB 7040 – Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund/Executive Office of the Governor, by Rep. Griffiths and Sen. Hooper
 - Re-creates the fund within the Executive Office of the Governor, specifying that money may be appropriated by the Legislature or s. 11.90.
 - Extends termination to July 1, 2028, requires legislative review, and mandates quarterly reports.

Policy Within Guiding Principles Continued



Local Indexing of Fuel Tax & Electric Vehicle Registrations or Taxation

- **ONGOING** | SB 680 and HB 653 – Electric Vehicle Charging Taxation, by Sen. Mayfield and Rep. Hodgers
 - Provides that the sale of electricity from a utility to an electric vehicle charging station for the purposes of providing charging to an electric vehicle is exempt from sales tax and gross receipts tax. Such exemption also includes electricity used for necessary supporting equipment and infrastructure for such an electric vehicle charging station.
 - The sale of electricity from an electric vehicle charging station to an electric vehicle consumer remains unchanged under the bill.
 - SB 680 was rolled into the proposed Senate Tax Package.
 - Action: We spoke with the House sponsor to see if he was willing to consider amendments. He said the issue had been negotiated with the Senate sponsor and they were not inclined to expand the bill beyond its intended purpose.
- **FAILED** | SB 804 – Electric Vehicle Registration Fees
 - Requires owners of battery electric vehicles to pay an additional annual fee deposited into the State Transportation Trust Fund for transportation projects.
 - No House Companion was filed.
 - Bill was never heard in Senate.
 - Action: We spoke with the bill sponsor to see if he would be willing to allow for a local cost share, but he wasn't sure he would even be able to find a House Companion at the time.
- **FAILED** | Monitor HB 1233 and SB 1220 – Transportation, by Rep. Griffiths and Sen. Massullo
 - SB 1220 requires FDOT to conduct a study to evaluate the long-term impact of alternative fuel vehicles on state transportation revenues and identify potential policy options to address projected revenue reductions.
 - Action: We asked the Senate sponsor if he would be willing to amend the study language to apply to local government evaluation as well; however, he didn't want to expand the study because he was worried about adding a fiscal impact to the bill and delaying the results of the state study.
 - Chambers couldn't resolve their policy disagreements, so the bill died in messages.



Legislative Priorities (Support)

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.

Filed Bills

- SB 840 – Land Use Regulations for Local Governments Affected by Natural Disasters, by Sen. DiCeglie
- HB 1465 – Restrictions on Local Government Regulations After a Hurricane, by Rep. Andrade
- HB 217 and SB 218 – Land Use Regulations, by Rep. Abbott and Sen. Gaetz

SB 180 (2025) & SB 840 (2026) | Moratorium



SB 180 | Current Law Pertaining to Construction Moratoriums

- Applies to counties within 100 miles of the declared storms: “impacted local governments.”
 - Bi-partisan debate on the House and Senate floor argued this would apply to the entire state.
- After 1 year of any hurricane making landfall, an impacted local government may not propose or adopt moratoriums on construction, reconstruction, or redevelopment.
- ✓ After 1 year of any hurricane making landfall, an impacted local government may not propose or adopt more restrictive or burdensome amendments to comprehensive plans or land development regulations.
- ✓ After 1 year of any hurricane making landfall, an impacted local government may not propose or adopt more restrictive or burdensome procedures concerning reviews, approvals, or issuance of site plan, development permits, or development orders.
 - Basically, this applies to all Building & Development Review Services operations and comprehensive plan updates formulated by Housing & Community Development.
- Counties impacted by Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton specifically may not propose or adopt any of the aforementioned restrictions before October 1 of 2027.
 - The section applies retroactively to August 1, 2024.
 - The full section of law expires June 30, 2028.

SB 840 | Glitch Bill to Fix SB 180

- Removed all restrictive and burdensome language.
- Narrowed the scope of impacted local governments after general hurricanes from 100 miles to 50 miles.
- Amended the general moratorium language to narrow the focus on reconstruction after a storm.
 - Rather than applying to future construction as well.
- Removes the lawsuit language allowing individuals to sue local governments to enforce the law.
- Provided a sunset of the law applying to Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton by June 30, 2026.
 - Provided a sunset of the full law for June 30, 2026.

✓ = most significant operational impact.

SB 840 – Land Use Regulations for Local Governments Affected by Natural Disasters



SB 840 | Legislative Status

- **FAILED**
- Passed all committees and off the Senate Floor unanimously.
- Bill was never taken up in the House (HB 1465).
- There seems to be more of a willingness to engage with this topic next Legislative Session when there is new House Leadership.

SB 218 – Land Use Regulations



SB 218 | Summary

- Essentially carved out the panhandle communities from the effects of SB 180.
- Clarifies that “impacted local governments” are only those communities listed in the specific Federal Disaster Declarations for Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton.

SB 218 | Legislative Status

- **FAILED**
- Passed all committees and off the Senate Floor unanimously.
- Bill was never taken up in the House.

Beach Nourishment Funding



SUPPORT fully 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.

Funding Status

- FDEP recommended \$43,311,521 (50%) for the Sand Key Segment of the beach renourishment project.
 - Awaiting State budget to be finalized.
 - Action: Sen. Hooper said he has been working to help secure this funding.

Beach Nourishment Policy



SB 636 and HB 1297 – Beach Management, Sen. Leek and Rep. Greco

- **FAILED**
- Requires beaches to be designated as critically eroded if they have perpetual easements and geological features of dune, beach, and seabed combined with insufficient space between the erosion control and upland assets that results in repeated inland flooding or structural damage.
- Allows the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to require local governments to develop strategic beach management plans so the local government can assist DEP with beach and shore preservation by requiring the local government to cover 75% of the cost for restoring and renourishing a critically eroded beach.
- Problem with the Policy: Could negatively impact our negotiations with the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) because the bills codify language into state law that the Corps could see as working against the progress made in our discussions (for example: recognizing the Erosion Control Line in a new direction – landward until the dunes instead of seaward until the water line).
 - Additionally, the bills would limit resources coming to Pinellas County – potentially setting back future funding opportunities and allocations.
- Action: We met with the bill sponsors to highlight the potential implications if the bills were to pass.
 - We engaged several members of our delegation, including Sen. Hooper, Sen. DiCeglie, Rep. Berfield, Rep. Chaney, and Rep. Cross, who helped to advocate with committee chairs against the bills.
 - The bill sponsors ultimately agreed to look for additional pathways to resolve their problem in Northeast Florida while we continued our conversations with the Corps.

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. *(FAC Policy Proposal)*

Legislative Status

- No bills opened this statute.
- Action: We had conversations with our legislative delegation to see if they were aware of any trains to potentially attach the policy to, but the recommendations weren't germane.

**There was a bill (HB 1283) that passed the House, limiting Anonymous Complaints Against Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers. The Senate Companion died.*

Overdose & Suicide Fatality Review



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.

Legislative Status

- SB 1752/1754 – Suicide and Overdose Prevention, by Sen. DiCeglie.
- The House Companion was never filed due to an administrative bill drafting error.
- Senate Bill was never heard in committee because there wasn't a House counterpart.
- Action: We secured bill sponsors, but the House bill drafting error slowed down the policy this Session.

Fire and EMS Service Impact Study



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.

Study Status

- Action: Sen. DiCeglie submitted an OPPAGA study request through the Senate President's office that was subsequently approved.
- OPPAGA has been executing this study of Pinellas' systems, but the study has been temporarily postponed until further notice.

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

Filed Bills

- HB 559 and SB 676 – Criminal Offenses, by Rep. Chaney and Sen. Arrington
- HB 1159 and SB 1750 – Sexual Offenses, by Rep. Jacques and Sen. Martin
- HB 1521 and SB 1004 – Domestic Animals, by Rep. Weinberger and Sen. Gaetz
- HB 1333 and SB 1418 – Testing of Cosmetics on Animals, by Rep. Driskell and Sen. Polsky

Animal Welfare Status and Summaries



Bill Summaries and Legislative Status

- **PASSED** | HB 559 and SB 676 – Criminal Offenses, by Rep. Chaney and Sen. Arrington
 - Expands Dexter’s Law (HB 255 – 2025) by requiring the Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to post on its website specified identifying information for individuals convicted of certain animal cruelty offenses.
 - Additionally, the bills establish new criminal offenses for causing or enticing minors to commit or witness acts of aggravated animal cruelty.
- **PASSED** | HB 1159 and SB 1750 – Sexual Offenses, by Rep. Jacques and Sen. Martin
 - Amongst other things, the bills create distinct felony degrees for individuals who commit sexual acts on animals and require courts to prohibit offenders from owning animals for at least 5 years.
 - Approved by Governor.
- **PASSED** | HB 1521 and SB 1004 – Domestic Animals, by Rep. Weinberger and Sen. Gaetz
 - Expands animal cruelty offender reporting, strengthens consumer protections in pet sales, and establishes voluntary best management practices for dog breeders to ensure the humane treatment of animals.
- **FAILED** | HB 1333 and SB 1418 – Testing of Cosmetics on Animals, by Rep. Driskell and Sen. Polsky
 - Prohibits the manufacturing, sale, and distribution of cosmetics tested on animals, with certain exceptions.



Executive Priority (Support)

E-911 Fee Adjustment



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. *(FAC Policy Proposal)*

Executive Status

- The Department of Management Services said they would not recommend a rule ratification because the last time they did the Legislature didn't pick up proposal.
- Ultimately, the DeSantis administration has been anti-fee bills, so the Department was probably just mirroring that position.

Legislative Status

- The Legislature said they would not propose legislation until the Department of Management Services recommended a new rule ratification.
- Action: We spoke with Sen. DiCeglie regarding SB 1586 and Rep. Chaney regarding HB 1427 to see if they would be willing to help with amendments to the respective bills to increase the fee to the statutory max.
 - The bills were never heard, so there was no chance to even offer language.



Legislative Priorities (Monitor)

Monitored Legislative Priorities



Tourist Development Tax Expansion

All these bills **FAILED**:

- SB 446 – Large-scale County Destination Marketing Organizations, by Sen. Smith
 - Creates requirements for large-scale county destination marketing organizations to register, secure matching private contributions for public funding, and revert unmatched funds to local governments.
- SB 454 and HB 6007 – Tourist Development Taxes, by Sen. Smith and Rep. Eskamani
 - Removes the requirement that a specific portion of tourist development tax revenue be designated for tourism promotion and advertising.
- SB 456 – The Tourist Development Tax, by Sen. Smith
 - Authorizes the use of tourist development tax revenues for public safety improvements as well as the development and construction of affordable and workforce housing.
- SB 458 – Tourist Development Tax, by Sen. Smith
 - Lowers the required percentage of tourist development tax revenues that must be directed to promoting and advertising tourism before certain other uses are allowed.
- SB 976 – Tourist Development Tax Uses, by Sen. Smith
 - Authorizes use of tourist development tax revenues to fund certain commuter rail service operations.

There currently isn't anything in the tax package that is of TDT concern.

Monitored Legislative Priorities Continued



Short-Term Rental Regulation

- **FAILED** | HB 79 and SB 658 – Water Safety Requirements for the Rental of Residential Property, by Rep. Maggard and Sen. Burgess
 - Requires water safety measures for vacation rentals.
 - Senate Bill passed all committees and off the Floor unanimously.
 - House Bill passed one committee.
- **ONGOING** Establishment of Regulatory Taxing Structures for Vacation Rentals in Proposed House Tax Package
 - Contains a section that establishes a regulatory tax structure for vacation rental payments made on or through an advertising platform.
 - This affects administration and collection of locally levied taxes.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations

- **FAILED** | HB 543 and SB 1080 – Transportation, by Rep. McFarland and Sen. DiCeglie
 - Seeks to improve traffic safety and municipal authority by modifying signal timings, revising speed detection rules, updating local hearing procedures, and repealing certain vehicle noise regulations.
 - There are concerns with codifying local traffic decisions in statute that FAC and FLC took the lead on.
 - In addition, the bills directed an MPO consolidation feasibility study for Charlotte, Lee, and Collier counties.
 - Chambers couldn't resolve their policy disagreements, so the bill died in messages.



Appropriation Requests

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- ❖ East Lake Road Corridor Improvements Phase 1
 - \$ House: \$0 | Senate: \$7,500,000
- ❖ 31 Pump Station Control Panel Elevating
 - \$ House: \$1,963,577 | Senate: \$3,427,154
- ❖ Hurricane Shelter Hardening – Special Needs Generators
 - \$ House: \$2,000,000 | Senate: \$0
- ❖ Hurricane Shelter Hardening – Lealman Exchange
 - \$ House: \$1,000,000 | Senate: \$0
- ❖ Seminole Junior Warhawks Field Improvements
 - \$ House: \$2,000,000 | Senate: \$0



Questions