



July 22, 2025

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
County Administrator Barry Burton
315 Court St # 501
Clearwater, FL 33756

Re: Proposal Memo from The Legis Group for Lobbying Services

Thank you very much for your interest in The Legis Group! We appreciate the opportunity to provide governmental consulting services to Pinellas County.

We are thrilled about the chance to represent the county—a special place that blends lively city vibes with beautiful beaches and coastal charm. What makes Pinellas stand out isn't just the great arts scene, diverse regions, and creative spirit, but also its unique political mix. From the busy streets of St. Pete and Clearwater to the relaxed neighborhoods by the water, there is something for everyone. Pinellas County's mix of culture, environment, and active community makes it a great partner to work with.

Ready to bring both experience and energy, the Legis Group will ensure Pinellas County's voice is heard at the state level and help secure the support needed for smart, responsible growth. Our focus will be on building strong partnerships and practical strategies to honor Pinellas's character while moving progress forward. Working with a community as vibrant and distinctive as Pinellas is a privilege—and we're eager to get started and make a real impact together.

The Legis Group is dedicated to delivering top-quality professional service to help you achieve your goals. Our team, mainly Carole Duncanson, Mike Fischer, and Rob Schenck, would be the primary contacts providing government consulting services. You've asked us to submit a proposal to represent Pinellas County before the Florida Legislature and

Governor's Office, focusing on advancing your public policy priorities. We would commit to consulting with Pinellas County before taking any specific action on your behalf.

At The Legis Group, we believe exceptional lobbying begins with exceptional communication. Our approach is centered on building strong, transparent relationships with our clients, grounded in consistent updates. We don't just represent our clients — we partner with them. We will anticipate needs and make sure you're never left wondering about the status of your priorities. When you work with The Legis Group, you can count on a team that is accessible and accountable. We will provide the following communication services to ensure you stay well-informed and fully up to date every step of the way:

1. Ensure all calls, emails and texts from county commissioners, their aides, and county administrators are prioritized. Timely responsiveness is key to building trust, maintaining strong relationships, and advancing your priorities. You can always expect a same-day response with no exceptions. Florida's political landscape moves fast—and so do we.
2. Share timely updates with staff by forwarding relevant news stories and official state announcements that impact local priorities.
3. Provide ongoing communication throughout the year, including verbal and written status updates to the county administrator or their designee.
4. Prepare a briefing ahead of each legislative session highlighting expected bills, major policy themes, and recommended strategies to support your advocacy efforts.
5. Host regular strategy sessions during the legislative session and deliver consistent reports in both written and verbal form, along with legislative education as needed.
6. Deliver weekly written activity reports by close of business each Friday during the legislative session, followed by a comprehensive end-of-session presentation for the Board of County Commissioners.

We're ready to respond swiftly to new or emerging issues as they arise. At the same time, we understand your legislative agenda likely includes long-standing priorities deserving continued advocacy — such as the following:

1. Monitoring all filed legislation impacting Pinellas County throughout the session.
2. Safeguarding the integrity of home rule by ensuring Pinellas County retains authority and flexibility to develop and implement local solutions that best address the central needs of your communities. This includes resisting unfunded state

mandates and preserving the county's ability to govern effectively for issues directly impacting residents.

3. Champion sustainable environmental policies by advocating for dedicated, recurring funding to protect Florida's coastlines through beach nourishment. Advancing a Statewide Climate Resiliency Plan—with meaningful backing for local implementation—will also be a top priority. In addition, we will work to preserve the integrity of Tampa Bay as the region's primary water supplier and uphold protections for Florida's natural resources by maintaining the ban on oil drilling in state waters.
4. Advocate for increased state appropriations to support essential infrastructure upgrades in Pinellas County. This includes improvements to public transit, stormwater and sewer systems, wastewater management, and replacing outdated utility infrastructure. These efforts protect public health and strengthen the region's long-term resilience.
5. Promote funding to support the county's arts and cultural scene. These investments boost the local economy, bring communities together, and enhance the appeal that makes Pinellas such a great place to live and visit.

In order to best accomplish these goals, The Legis Group would offer the following services:

- The Legis Group will attend and observe all Pinellas County Legislative Delegation Hearings.
- Before each legislative session, The Legis Group will collaborate closely with county staff to assist in developing and refining the annual legislative agenda by identifying key issues. We will keep both the Board and county staff updated on the latest initiatives from leadership in the House, Senate, and Governor's office, helping to shape effective strategies on our items. Additionally, The Legis Group will attend any relevant local meetings related to state policy when requested by your government affairs contact.
- We will provide direct access to members in leadership in both the House and Senate, as well as senior staff in the Governor's Office and both legislative chambers.
- The Legis Group will work with you to help draft policy legislation, find sponsors and co-sponsors in both chambers, attend committee meetings, testify when needed, and keep legislators informed about what matters most to Pinellas County. We will coordinate closely with the Board, the county administrator, and staff to also

develop your requests for specific legislative funding and secure the necessary sponsors to get them filed.

- The Legis Group will represent Pinellas County during the regular legislative session, any special sessions, and interim committee meetings.
- The Legis Group is dedicated to working closely with all government entities—local, state agencies, and federal partners, as well as stakeholders and allies such as the Florida Association of Counties—to effectively represent Pinellas County’s interests. We will maintain open communication and strong teamwork across every level of government to ensure your priorities are heard. By building these relationships and staying actively engaged, The Legis Group will help secure the funding, resources, and policy outcomes Pinellas County needs to continue growing and thriving. Our number one goal is to ensure your interests are effectively represented at every level.

We hope you choose The Legis Group to represent your interests. We’re excited about the opportunity and look forward to achieving many successes together. Our focus will be on understanding your needs, earning your trust, and providing steady support throughout.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MJF", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Michael J. Fischer