

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
2018 State Legislative Program

I.) State Legislative Program

A.) Priority Issues

Issue	Position
Aging Friendly Community	Support efforts to improve services and resources for the elderly population.
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.
Community Redevelopment Areas	Oppose efforts that would preempt local governments from controlling or managing Community Redevelopment Areas (CRAs) as local economic development tools.
Construction Licensing Board	Support updating the Special Act to improve the membership structure, accountability, oversight, and transparency of the PCCLB.
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.
Infrastructure – Resiliency	Support statewide investments to strengthen and improve the resiliency of critical infrastructure (i.e. power, transportation, and telecommunications systems).
Infrastructure – Wastewater/Stormwater	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.
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.
Tourist Development Tax (TDT) Funds	Oppose efforts to amend or open up allowable uses for Tourist Development Tax (TDT) funds.
Vacation Rentals	Support removing the pre-emption of local regulation of vacation rental properties
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

- Additional \$2 million in state funding for Lealman Community Recreation Center.
- \$2.4 million in state funding for a regional inflow and infiltration study of wastewater/stormwater system.
- \$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.
- \$6 million towards a cooperative County / State project to implement a fully functional Connected Vehicle Arterial system that can be used for operational and original equipment manufacturer (OEM) testing of a wide range of smart city and connected vehicle technologies.
- \$3 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.
- Support City of Tarpon Springs' funding request for the Anclote River dredging project and spoil site.
- Support state funding for the construction of a Veterans Memorial Reef.
- Request state funding for school nurses within Public Schools.
- Request investments to strengthen and improve the resiliency of critical infrastructure (i.e. power grid, transportation, and telecommunications systems).

A complete list of proposed projects for appropriations can be found on pages 3 – 5 of the Legislative Program as “Projects to Consider for Appropriations.”

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.
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

**Projects to Consider for Appropriations
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Department	Amount	Summary of Proposal
Animal Services	\$40,000	Pet Friendly Emergency Shelters: The funds will be used to purchase 2 additional trailers equipped with generator, animal kennels, and necessary supplies to set up and operate two pet friendly shelters for the protection of citizens and their accompanying pets in a shelter environment during emergency events requiring citizens to evacuate their homes and seek refuge in a shelter. Pinellas County Animal Services is responsible for the set up and operation of up to 4 pet friendly shelters during an emergency event.
Economic Development	\$6,000,000	Small Business Incubator: The project would lead to the formation of new high-wage primary employers throughout the Tampa Bay area and the creation of quality jobs for citizens of Florida. Funds would be matched against local and federal dollars to construct and equip a 40,000 to 50,000 square foot state-of-the-art business incubator facility.
Emergency Management	\$500,000	Emergency Equipment and Supplies Warehouse: Provide hardened warehouse space in a non-evacuation zone for the storage and maintenance of emergency generator equipment, water filtration equipment, air conditioning equipment, communications equipment, points of distribution trailer and equipment, county staging area equipment, and shelter supplies such as cots and durable medical equipment, as well as a staging location post storm when shelter equipment must be collected, inventoried, cleaned, repackaged and stored.
Planning	\$2,000,000	Lealman Community Recreation Center: Purchase and renovation of existing property for the establishment of the Lealman Community and Recreation Center located in the Lealman Community Redevelopment Area (designated CRA per F.S. Chapter 163)
Planning	\$375,000	Lealman Playground Replacement, Splash Pad, Shade Cover, and Court Repair/Re-striping: Replace and new installation of playground apparatus, interactive water feature / splash pad, safety surfacing, shade cover, and repair/re-striping of existing multi-purpose outdoor basketball/tennis court. Existing playground apparatus is located at the future Lealman Community and Recreation Center, and immediately adjacent to the Joe's Creek Greenway Park. Elements of this project will be designed and constructed on the recreation center site, existing park land or a combination of both.
Planning	\$400,000	Lealman CRA Flexible Real-time Ridesharing Pilot Program: Test the feasibility of the implementation of a real-time ridesharing (RTR) (carpooling without pre-arrangement) pilot program for low-income and or transportation disadvantage areas. In partnership with area transit agencies and service providers, the program will aim to implement a flexible, RTR carpooling system through GPS enabled smart phones and designated RTR stations for passengers whose trip originates and or terminates within the boundaries of the Lealman CRA.
Public Works	\$6,000,000	Interconnected Pinellas (ATMS): Implementation of connected vehicle infrastructure to enhance the ITS with connected technologies including smart street lighting, vehicle to vehicle and vehicle to infrastructure communication, wireless communication, enhanced pedestrian and bicycle technologies, etc.

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Public Works	\$300,000	Pilot Project to install Solar-Powered Traffic Signals: This request is for funding to utilize the latest battery, solar and traffic signal equipment to develop a new power outage resilient traffic signal installation. The intent would be to reduce the power dependency from the power grid while significantly extending the operation life of a traffic signal in power outage situations. During Hurricane Irma over half of the traffic signals in Pinellas County were without power for as many as 5 days after the storm passed through. This funding would be used to cooperatively work with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Department of Energy (DOE), as well as private partner technology companies to investigate the develop a traffic signal that could continuously operate during long duration power outages for much extended times than current Uninterruptable Power Supplies (UPS) can provide. New battery technology, solar power and traffic signal equipment have made dramatic improvements in energy output and reduced power consumption. Combining these technologies in the safest and most efficient arrangement could provide far longer operational times without power and also reduce daily power consumption of the standard traffic signal. We are requesting \$300,000 to purchase and install up to 5 traffic signals with the newest technology as a test bed for this important project.
Public Works	\$3,000,000	Lake Seminole Dredging Project: This project will consist of dredging the problematic, organic sediments that contribute to water quality violations, dewatering the material, disposal of the dredged material, and site restoration. The project is shovel ready (designed, permitted, bid, and contracted). This project has been approved by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Reasonable Assurance Plan), the City of Seminole, and garners strong support from the community at large. We have held public meetings. Project is adopted in the County's Capital Improvement Program and an executed cooperative agreement with SWFWMD. We have supporting correspondence from the City of Seminole.
Public Works	\$250,000	Bee Branch Channel Erosion Control: The purpose of the project is to address severe erosion occurring in a segment of Bee Branch, a natural waterway in north Pinellas County. The erosion is contributing to the discharge of sediments downstream to lower portions of the creek, reducing flow capacity and increasing flood risk, and ultimately to the Sutherland Bayou estuary where it impacts mangroves and water quality. The erosion is also causing trees to fall into the creek, impeding conveyance and threatening adjacent properties and residential structures due to loss of soil. Pinellas has established an Erosion Control Capital Improvement Program to address such issues.
Public Works	\$200,000	Flood Protection Forecast Model: The purpose of this project is to develop a predictive hydrologic model and GIS interface that will harness existing watershed data and models and hydrologic forecasts to predict and map flood extents and depth in a near real time window. Pinellas County has invested significant financial resources in developing models of its watersheds that show flood levels and spacial extent over land uses. This information is critical in identifying flood zones, approving floor elevations for new development and support of the Community Rating System under FEMA. There's a need to leverage the models and add a GIS interface that allows for input and display of impending weather events to predict and guide response to rainfall/flood events as they develop. The results will be used to mobilize resources, alert the public, operate facilities and thereby eliminate damages and provide greater safety to our citizens. This is part of our Stormwater/Flood Protection programs.
Utilities	\$2,400,000	Wastewater/Stormwater Inflow and Infiltration Study: The purpose of the Pinellas County Inflow and Infiltration Study is to identify specific areas of the County sanitary sewer system that are high contributors to rain derived inflow and infiltration. This is achieved through monitoring the flows in the sewers before, during, and after rain events with flow meters. Specifically identifying the areas of high inflow and infiltration will help target where Capital Improvement dollars should be spent to reduce sewer overflows during heavy rain events

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Utilities	\$885,000	Emergency Back-Up Power for Sanitary Sewer Pumping Stations to Prevent Sewer Overflows: The Pinellas County Utilities Department is actively investigating and pursuing new stationary generators to be installed at additional critical pump stations for both North and South County service areas (12 locations). Currently the Pinellas County sewer system has a total of 300 pump stations in the north and South County combined. Only 30 of those stations are equipped with stationary generators. Installation of additional generators at the sites below will provide continuity of sewer service for customers as well as protect the public health and environment through reducing the amount of spilled sewage during power outages as a result of emergency storm events and hurricanes.
Utilities	\$450,000	Force Main Sampling Equipment to Improve Sanitary Sewage Collection Process: The South Cross Bayou Water Reclamation Facility (SCBWRF) treats sanitary sewage collected from (4) different and independent collection system basins located in southern Pinellas County. There have been occurrences of monitored parameters exceeding the allowable limits in the influent ('hits'). Most recently these have included lead and copper, and other unknown compounds that have caused upsets in the treatment process. Although the County's IPP group is notified there is no effective mechanism in-place that can quickly help identify the source(s) of these 'hits'. This equipment will help track those sources and potentially prevent them from causing a negative effect on the quality of the treatment process, reclaimed water and surface water discharge.
Utilities	\$250,000	Drinking Water Facility Security Equipment: Project includes installing additional pan and zoom cameras at drinking water facilities to cover blank areas. Install video cameras and recorders at locations from several angles of view. Provide gate control from the Keller SCADA room to open and close and view facility gates remotely. Install new perimeter fencing at all locations including gates and gate controllers. The drinking water treatment plant and the water boosting facilities are located from east of Tarpon Springs, south to Ft. Desoto. There are several gaps in the surveillance systems of these facilities. These gaps leave areas unviewed or unprotected. CUSTOMER BENEFITS • Protect from terrorism, vandalism, mischief, accidental entry • Protect the integrity of the buildings, pumping equipment, and chemical processes