



Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners



2019 Preliminary State Legislative Program

Priority Issues

Regional Transportation

Support Regional transportation coordination and funding, specifically related to FDOT District 7.

Support the legislative priorities of Forward Pinellas, PSTA and TBARTA.

Community Redevelopment Areas

Oppose efforts that would preempt local governments from controlling or managing Community Redevelopment Areas as local economic development tools.

Mental Health

Support increased funding for central receiving facilities.

Support increased funding for Marchman beds.

Self-Defense

Support language that brings greater clarity to self-defense laws, including Stand Your Ground and Justifiable Use of Force.

Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board

File legislation that removes the requirement of the governmental building official appointees to reside in Pinellas County.

Appropriations

Lofty Pines Septic to Sewer and Stormwater Retrofit \$3,100,000

Lofty Pines is within unincorporated Pinellas County and borders the City of Dunedin. The community is part of Group 2, Census Tract 269.10 and categorized low/moderate income. Currently all 120 homes are on septic and there is no formal stormwater management system within the neighborhood. The age and condition of the septic are problematic and sewage discharges are contributing to public health concerns and bacteria violations in Jerry Branch, which is part of the Curlew Creek Watershed. The proposed project includes the construction of a sewer collection system that will tie into the City of Dunedin's wastewater service area, closure of the septic tanks, and reuse expansion and stormwater retrofits to improve both flood control and water quality treatment prior to discharge into waters of the state. \$1,559,000 in local funds, including RESTORE funds, and SWFWMD

cooperative funding match of \$839,000, have been dedicated to the project.

Highpoint Community Recreation Facilities \$800,000

Construction of youth sports facilities to include baseball and multi-purpose fields, basketball courts, and playgrounds to serve low income community which currently has limited access to community recreation facilities. The total cost of the project is \$2,000,000. Pinellas County has allocated \$200,000 in the CIP budget to begin design and engineering.

Utilities Vocational Workforce Pilot Program \$25,000

Pilot program in cooperation with Pinellas Technical College, local Public Works, and Public Utilities, that educates students to obtain State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) certification as water/wastewater treatment plant operators, distribution system operators, and collection system certification. Provides a pathway to

prepare High School Career Academy and non-college bound high school students to enter into and advance in good jobs in the high growth and emerging occupations of drinking water and wastewater treatment.

East Lake Library Expansion Phase 1B **\$500,000**

Phase 1B of library renovation would include additional open areas, additional seating, restroom renovations, replacement of carpeting and lighting, upgrades to existing computer area, and reconfiguration to conform to ADA requirements, expansion of parking lot.

Redingtons Joint Use Public Safety Facility **\$500,000**

Multi-Government partnership to build a multi-use facility that will house Emergency Medical Services,

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Public Works offices and equipment storage, voting precinct and more. This facility will meet the public safety needs of residents and visitors alike, and is a model for future partnerships.

Gulf Boulevard Undergrounding **\$10,000,000**

In an effort to plan for the future and increase coastal resiliency, this project would complete the undergrounding of utilities along Gulf Boulevard throughout all the barrier island communities, from Clearwater to St. Pete Beach. After Hurricane Irma, residents lost power for up to nine days. By undergrounding utilities along the barrier islands, the risk of power loss during a storm decreases. By completing this as one project, we anticipate reducing inefficiencies, and introduce cost savings through economies of scale.

Additional Advocacy Issues

Affordable Housing

Oppose money from the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund being used for any purpose other than housing.

Statewide Resiliency Plan

Support the development of a statewide Resiliency Plan to strengthen and improve the resiliency of critical infrastructure.

Local Option Fuel Tax

Support the indexing of the local option fuel tax.

Beach Nourishment

Support a dedicated recurring source of funding for beach nourishment projects.

Local Tax Referenda

Oppose efforts to raise the approval threshold or restrict local control over the scheduling of local tax referenda.

Tampa Bay Water

Oppose legislation that would impact the Interlocal Agreement between Tampa Bay Water members.

Enhanced 911 Fee

Support language that increases county governments' distributions of collected E911 fees.

Internet Sales Tax

Support legislation that compels remote sellers to collect sales tax at the time of a transaction.

Preemption

Oppose preemptions of fertilizer ordinance, high prescriber moratorium, fireworks restrictions, authority to levy a local business tax, local regulation of firearms and ammunition etc.

Unfunded Mandates

Oppose any unfunded mandates that impact local government budgets and control.

Partnerships

Support the priorities of partner organizations and agencies, including Florida Association of Counties (FAC), Pinellas County School Board, Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA), Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA), and Forward Pinellas when aligned with the Board's priorities.

Tourist Development Tax

Support language that clarifies allowable uses for Tourist Development Tax funds.

Arts Funding

Support increased funding for the Arts.