

Board of County Commissioners

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Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street, 5th Floor Assembly Room
Clearwater, Florida 33756
www.pinellascounty.org

Work Session

October 21, 2014

11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. [Proposed 2015 Legislative Program](#)

Citizen's Comments Will Follow Presentation(s)

Any person wishing to speak regarding a work session topic must have a blue card completed and given to the agenda staff at the staff table. The Chair will call the speakers, one by one, to the podium to be heard. Each speaker may speak up to three minutes. Persons who have been authorized to represent a group of five or more individuals, who are present, should each complete blue cards and limit their presentation to 10 minutes.

2015 Legislative Priorities Draft

State Legislation

Subject	Position	Partner Support	Last Year's Agenda?	If Yes, result
Beach Nourishment	-Support legislation that maintains a state funding source for beach restoration projects throughout Florida -Support approval of state funding for the construction of erosion control structures (such as permanent rock structures) that reduce nourishment frequency requirements on highly erosive beaches	FAC	Yes	
Building Permits	Support legislation to allow homeowners acting as their own contractor to pull online permits for a wider range of projects instead of having to appear in person		No	N/A
Defense Contractor Incentives	Support legislation that makes incentives given to defense contractors an outright reward, in the current system state dollars count against federal incentives		No	N/A
Department of Juvenile Justice	Support appropriations to cover the overpayment of Pinellas County for DJJ services	FAC	Yes	Money was not appropriated to clear the backlog
Entertainment Tax Credit Incentive	On-location and indigenous commercial, film and media production generates upwards of \$25 million a year in Pinellas County. Increase the available tax credits and fund the state Office of Film and Entertainment to meet its statutory duties.	FAC	Yes	Bills filed in both House and Senate, both died in committee
Gambling	Discussion of position on legislation allowing pari-mutuels to offer slot machines		No	N/A

High Impact Veteran County	Support legislation establishing a "High Impact Veterans County" designation program that allocates state funds to hire Veterans Services Officers in designated counties to increase services and federal benefits for Florida veterans	FAC	No	N/A
High Prescriber Database	Support legislation that requires physicians to input data into the state monitoring database rather than leaving it as a voluntary program		Yes	Bills with this requirement did not pass
Homelessness Funding	Provide a steady source of state funding for homelessness issues that is not subject to the annual appropriations process	FAC	Yes	HB 979 established requirements for grants including distribution based on population but a steady stream of funding outside of appropriations was not provided
Intergovernmental Transfers (IGTs)	Support repealing the tiered hospital rate system for distributing IGTs established in sec. 409.97(4), F.S. to ensure that donor counties are able to direct federal matching to meet the health care needs of their constituents, rather than having those dollars redistributed throughout the state.	FAC	No	N/A
Medicaid Expansion	Support efforts to expand Medicaid eligibility which would decrease the number of uninsured residents and the number of individuals served by the Pinellas County Health Plan, reducing the County's financial burden		Yes	No bills were filed to expand Medicaid last session
Medicaid Increase for Dental Care	Support legislation to increase the Medicaid rate for indigent dental care to encourage increased participation by the dental community		Yes	
Penny for Pinellas expansion	Support legislation that, starting with the next Penny, would allow the County and Cities the authority to use a portion of the Penny for operations and maintenance, not just new construction		Yes	

SHIP/SAIL Funding (Affordable Housing Trust Fund)	All monies collected from the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund should be used for their intended purpose- housing		Yes	The Florida Housing Foundation was funded with \$100,000,000 to fund SHIP and 67,660,000 provided to SAIL
Tampa Bay/Cruise ships	Oppose any construction of a cruise port or dredging of the waters of off Pinellas County's coast without the approval of Pinellas County		No	N/A

Items Dependent on Election Results

Subject	Position	Partner Support	Last Year's Agenda?	If Yes, result
Amendment 1	Support a significant increase in statutory funding levels for beach projects as part of implementing legislation.	FAC	No	N/A
Medical Marijuana/ Amendment 2	Support local control of zoning for any medical marijuana growth, processing and distribution centers	FAC	No	N/A
Greenlight Pinellas	Support funding for transportation projects related to Greenlight Pinellas		No	N/A

Other State Issues for Monitoring

Support of the Florida Association of Counties' (FAC) Agenda when not in conflict with our own

Support of funding for Regional Planning Councils, the Pinellas County Department of Health, the Small Business Development Center Network

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 1st to 30 days after the certification of the tax rolls

Oppose changes to sovereign immunity that would increase the cap on damages paid by local governments

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 legislation that removes the mandate that Counties increase spending for court related functions by 1.5% each year

Monitor any changes to mental health services and support increased funding for these services

Monitor any policy changes within AHCA (Agency for Health Care Administration), Brownfield Incentive Programs, the Department of Health

Monitor any changes to vacation rental regulation

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

2015 Federal Priorities

Issue	Position
Beach Nourishment/Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Monitor the implementation of WRDA to ensure continuous authorization for Pinellas County beach nourishment projects - Support approval of funding for the construction of erosion control structures (such as permanent rock structures) that reduce nourishment frequency requirements on highly erosive beaches
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Monitor FEMA implementation of H.R. 3370 (The Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act) -Work with Congress to ensure FEMA meets the deadlines set forth in H.R. 3370 (there are seven hard deadlines that Congress set in the law) -Work with Congress to fix any unintended consequences that may occur as well as improve the National Flood Insurance Program for the benefit of all participants
Waters of the United States (WOTUS)	Oppose WOTUS rule elements that greatly increase the bodies of water that are deemed "Waters of the United States" and therefore must meet Clean Water Act guidelines
Internet Sales Tax- Marketplace Fairness Act	Support the Marketplace Fairness Act which would authorize the states to compel remote sellers to collect sales tax at the time of a transaction
Transportation Funding	Congress has begun discussing the follow-on legislation to replace MAP-21, which could have significant implications for the County, particularly related to new-start funding for transit investments (Greenlight Pinellas).
Intergovernmental Transfers/Buyback program	Oppose the elimination of the LIP/Buyback program to fund indigent health care
Offshore Drilling	Oppose efforts to increase offshore drilling
FY2015 Appropriations	Support appropriations for CDBG, HOME, Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Grants, CSBG, Corps of Engineers beach funding, COPS and Byrne JAG funding, Emergency Management Performance Grant funding, State Criminal Alien Assistance Program