

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

August 11, 2015

10:30 A.M.

AGENDA

1. [Board Feedback – Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget](#)
2. [2016 Federal and State Legislative Program](#)

Order of items is subject to change. All times are approximate. Break may be taken.

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Citizen's Comments Will Follow Presentation(s)

Any person wishing to speak regarding an agenda topic must complete a comment card and give to the agenda staff at the staff table. The Chairman 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 four or more individuals, who are present, should complete a comment card and may speak up to 10 minutes.

Commission Work Session Agenda Date: August 11, 2015

Item No.: 1

NO BACKUP MATERIAL WILL BE PROVIDED FOR
BOARD FEEDBACK – PROPOSED
FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET

Adopted 2015 State Program and Results

August 11, 2013 Work Session

A. Priority Issues

Item No. 2

Subject	Position	2015 Result
Department of Juvenile Justice	Support appropriations to cover the overbilling by State DJJ resulting in Pinellas County overpayment. Pinellas is currently owed over \$8 million for years FY 08/09 - 11/12, statewide is over \$130 million.	No legislation was filed dealing with overpayment and legislation establishing new billing practices did not pass. Litigation is ongoing
High Impact Veteran County	Support legislation establishing a "High Impact Veteran County" designation that allocates state funds to hire Veterans Services Officers in designated counties to increase services and federal benefits for Florida veterans	A bill was filed in the Senate but not in the House
Medicaid Expansion	Support efforts to expand Medicaid eligibility decreasing the number of uninsured residents and individuals served by the Pinellas County Health Plan, reducing the County's financial burden	A version of Medicaid expansion (FHIX) passed the Senate but did not pass the House
Medicaid Dental Rate Increase	Support legislation to increase the Medicaid rate for indigent dental care to encourage increased participation by the dental community	Did not pass this legislative session but has been a part of ongoing health care discussions
Penny for Pinellas expansion	Support legislation, to allow the County and Cities the authority to use a portion of the Penny for operations and maintenance, not just new construction if approved by voters at the next referendum	Legislation regarding this issue did not pass this year. If this is a priority for the next Penny it would need to pass this legislative session in order to comply with our referendum timeline
Tampa Bay/Cruise ships	Oppose any construction of a cruise port or dredging of the waters of off Pinellas County's coast, including those waters that are a part of Hillsborough County, without the approval of Pinellas County	This subject did not become an issue this legislative session
Beach Nourishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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 - Support a significant increase in statutory funding levels for beach projects as part of implementing legislation for Amendment 1. 	Pinellas County received a \$3 million appropriation for a beach project this year and beach nourishment projects were included on the list of uses for Amendment 1 funds
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 legislation filed this session
Defense Contractor Incentives	Support legislation that makes incentives for defense contractors an outright reward, currently state dollars offset federal incentives	Bill filed on this issue but it did not pass this legislative session

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.	Multiple bills were filed on this issue but none ended up passing both chambers
High Prescriber Database	Support legislation that requires physicians to input data into the state monitoring database rather than leaving it as a voluntary program	The statewide database was funded in FY 15/16 and the sunset was extended but no changes were made to require participation from physicians
Homelessness Funding	Provide a steady source of state funding for homelessness issues that is not subject to the annual appropriations process	Appropriations were secured for this issue in FY 15/16
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 matches to meet the health care needs of their constituents, rather than having those dollars redistributed throughout the state.	An agreement was reached between the state and federal government to extend the Low Income Pool and IGT program over the next couple of years, gradually reducing the funding
SHIP/SAIL (Affordable Housing Trust Fund)	All monies collected from the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund should be used for their intended purpose- housing	SHIP and SAIL were funded during this year's appropriations cycle
Energy Policy	Support the development of a statewide energy policy	No statewide policy was developed by legislation this year. A pending EPA rule may mandate development of one in the next few years

B. Monitoring Issues

Issue	2015 Result
Support of the Florida Association of Counties' (FAC) Agenda when not in conflict with our own	Portions of the agenda were successful, portions were not. Development of the FAC 2016 program will begin at the Policy Conference in August
Monitor any changes to gaming legislation, including provisions to allow slot machines at pari-mutuels	No gaming legislation passed this session
Monitor any changes to the Florida Retirement System	Changes to FRS rates were monitored and evaluated by OMB
Support of funding for Regional Planning Councils, the Pinellas County Department of	Regional planning councils were not funded

Health, the Small Business Development Center Network	
Support the indexing of the local option fuel tax	No legislation regarding this issue passed this session
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	No legislation regarding this issue passed this session
Oppose changes to sovereign immunity that would increase the cap on damages paid by local governments	No changes to sovereign immunity cap
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	No significant changes this session
Monitor any changes to mental health services and support increased funding for these services	No significant changes to services, some increases in funding
Monitor any policy changes within AHCA (Agency for Health Care Administration), Brownfield Incentive Programs, the Department of Health	No significant changes outside of the modified Low Income Pool program
Monitor any changes to vacation rental regulation	No significant changes
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	Local governments were not preempted
- Oppose legislation that would reduce or eliminate the local air quality control contract	Local governments were not preempted
- Oppose any unfunded mandates that impact local government budgets and control	No significant new unfunded mandates
- Support the removal of the mandate that Counties increase spending for court related functions by 1.5% each year	The mandated increase was not removed

C. 2016 New State Issues Based on Board Input

- Economic development appropriations request for a small business incubator
- Support appropriation request for the R/V Bellows research vessel based out of St. Petersburg and utilized by universities from across the state
- Modification to the current state statute regarding dangerous dogs to give enforcement flexibility
- Reprioritization of Article V expenditures issue
- Backyard gun ranges
- Modification to statute regarding youth employment in manufacturing to support the AMSkills program and other apprenticeship programs
- Support for Pinellas County transportation funding issues
- Support of the legislative agendas of partner agencies, when not in conflict with our own

Adopted 2015 Federal Program and Results

A. Priority Issues

Subject	Position	2015 Results
Beach Nourishment/Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Monitor the implementation of WRRDA 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 	WRRDA has been implemented but we need to keep an eye on appropriation levels for beach projects in both chambers
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 	Bills regarding private flood insurance marketplace options are currently filed in both chambers. The NFIP will be up for renewal in 2017.
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, Comments submitted by staff on 11/13/14	The rule has been finalized and the impact will be monitored to direct any future advocacy efforts.
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	Legislation was filed but has not come to a vote
Transportation Funding	Congress is discussing legislation to replace MAP-21, could have significant implications for Pinellas, related to transportation funding.	Stopgap measures have been passed to continue funding in the short term. A six year renewal was recently proposed by the Senate.
Intergovernmental Transfers/Buyback program	Oppose the elimination of the LIP/Buyback program to fund indigent health care	The Low Income Pool funding was extended for one year with an agreement that the dollar amount of the funding will decrease each year
Offshore Drilling	Oppose efforts to increase offshore drilling	Rep. Jolly and Senator Nelson have filed legislation to extend the moratorium on drilling in the Gulf to 2027. A bill has been filed in the Senate that would allow drilling as close as 50 miles off the coast. This bill does not have a sponsor currently in the House.
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	The 2015 appropriation process is ongoing at this time

B. 2016 New Federal Issues Based on Board Input

- Waste to Energy plant regulations
- Support funding for transportation initiatives such as TIGER grant funding
- Monitor the impacts of the new Fair Housing rules