

Flagler County

FLAGLER

20
22

ISSUE



1769 East Moody Blvd. Building 2 Bunnell, FL 32110



Flagler County

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FLAGLER COUNTY
MESSAGE FROM
THE CHAIRMAN

Donald O'Brien



We offer this legislative agenda with the full knowledge that once again this legislative session will be dominated by the need to deal with the fallout of the COVID19 pandemic; its impact on our state and local communities, multi-year fiscal challenges, the need to modernize our laws and plans to deal with future pandemics.

DONALD O'BRIEN
Chairman of the Flagler County Commission

FLAGLER COUNTY
THANKS
THE DELEGATION



The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank our legislative delegation for providing this opportunity for the Flagler County community to vocalize its requests for legislative action in the upcoming 2022 session.

We are both professionally and personally inspired by the outpouring of our local community at these annual meetings. They are truly a testament to Florida's democratic process and the Flagler County commission is proud to be a part of it.

During challenging times, it is critical for all elected officials to continue to work together, to develop and execute the innovative solutions required.

We look forward to our continued partnership as we navigate toward those solutions through the upcoming Florida legislative session.

REPRESENTATION
FLAGLER COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



DISTRICT 1
Andy Dance



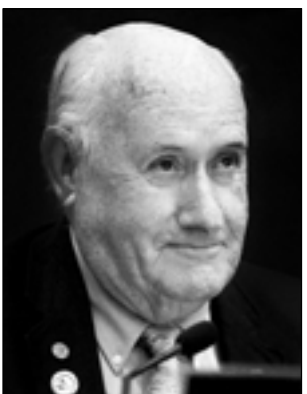
DISTRICT 4
Joe Mullins
VICE CHAIR



DISTRICT 2
Gregory L. Hansen



DISTRICT 5
Donald O'Brien Jr.
CHAIR



DISTRICT 3
David Sullivan

LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

SENATOR TRAVIS HUTSON

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2022 LEGISLATIVE DATES

- August 1, 2021:** Deadline for filing claim bills
- December 3, 2021:** Deadline for submitting requests for drafts of general bills and joint resolutions, including requests for companion bills
- January 7, 2022:** Deadline for approving final drafts of general bills and joint resolutions, including companion bills
- January 11, 2022:** Deadline for filing bills for introduction
- February 26, 2022:** Motion to reconsider made and considered the same day
- March 1, 2022:** Last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings
- March 11, 2022:** Last day of Regular Session



Flagler County

2022

POLICY PRIORITIES

1

Support the Legislature Appropriation funding for the **Public Library Construction Grant Program**.



2

Protect and Increase Funding for the **State of Florida Transportation Disadvantaged Program**



3

Support **Affordable and Reliable High-Speed Internet** throughout Florida



4

Continue Support of the **SCRAP and SCOP Grant Programs** to Assist Small Counties in Paving Farm to Market Roads

5

Increase support for **Septic to Sewer Grant Programs** to accelerate conversion on the Barrier Island in Flagler County.



6

Increase **Florida 911 Fee Revenue** to allow for transition to **NG-911 services** with the implementation of IP call routing and regional mapping.



7

Maintain **Short Term Vacation Rental Legislation Status Quo**

8

Continue to Support **Home Rule**





2022 FUNDING PRIORITIES

1. Provide support to the Florida Agricultural Museum Construction Project in Flagler County.

Requested Funding: \$ 4,500,000

2. Flagler Central Commerce Parkway Roadway Construction Project.

Requested Funding: \$ 5,000,000



2022 POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

POLICY PRIORITY 1 HIGHLIGHTS

SUPPORT THE LEGISLATURE APPROPRIATION FUNDING FOR THE PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM



Encourage the Legislature to appropriate the funding for the Public Library Construction Grant Program in which Flagler County is ranked #1 5 years in a Row. This will allow the County to construct a larger library and fill a much-needed gap in the underserved southern part of our community.

BACKGROUND

- The Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services, provides state funds to governments to construct public libraries under Chapter 257.191, Florida Statutes.
- Flagler County applied in 2016, 2017 and 2020 and ranked #1, but because of a zero appropriation by the Legislature, the county did not receive the funding to build.
- In 2018, we were ranked #1 again but we had to withdraw because of funding issues.
- In 2019, the Legislature appropriated funding but due to COVID, the Governor vetoed the spending.
- The Flagler County Public Library system has one library in Palm Coast, which was built in 1999 using this construction grant program to assist with funding. In 2004 in order to provide service to the Southern end of Flagler County, a small branch was opened in Bunnell in a county owned building.
- With the population now almost 120,000, the county can no longer delay the construction of a larger library in the Southern part of Flagler County.

REQUESTED ACTION

Appropriate funding for the Public Library Construction Grant Program under Chapter 257.191, Florida Statutes.

POLICY PRIORITY 2 HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECT AND INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM



Urge the Legislature to protect the Transportation Disadvantaged program and increase funding to support the unmet trip requests.

BACKGROUND

- The Transportation Disadvantaged Program is a coordinated statewide effort, which groups riders together for a shared ride service.
- Transportation services are available in all 67 counties including Flagler County for those individuals that are eligible and have no access to transportation.
- The Florida Legislature created the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged in 1989 to set policies.
- The Commission develops a budget that is submitted to the Governor by the Florida Department of Transportation. The Commission works with the local Governing body to assist in meeting its responsibilities for the transportation disadvantaged.
- The program in Flagler County provides mobility to more than 6,000 older adults, persons with disabilities, people with low incomes and at-risk children.
- Prior to the pandemic, Flagler County was trending 350 trips per day, 24 days per month for medical, employment, education/training/day care, nutritional or other life-sustaining needs. As of May 2021, requests have increased to 370 trips per day, six days per week. As a result, the projected total of trips for the fiscal year based on trip requests will bring Flagler County well over 115,000 trips annually.
- Because of limitations to staff, service and funding, unmet trip requests in Flagler County will continue to increase leaving residents without the ability to have their needs met. In 2019 the number of unmet trip requests was 512. So based on the current daily trip requests if funding does not increase we will double our unmet trips to over 1,000.

REQUESTED ACTION

Urge the Florida Legislature to protect the Transportation Disadvantaged Program and request an increase in funding to support unmet trip requests.

POLICY PRIORITY 3 HIGHLIGHTS

SUPPORT AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET THROUGHOUT FLORIDA



Continue to support a coordinated and collaborative effort to advance and expand internet access in all areas of Florida through creation of a comprehensive plan and a grant program for service providers to increase and improve access in rural Florida.

BACKGROUND

- In Flagler County there are major digital gaps in coverage. This gap in coverage has created challenges.
- Some of these challenges include:
 - The ability of our schoolchildren to have access to the best educational opportunities, including access to and effectively engage in virtual education.
 - The ability for our residents in the west side of Flagler County to access telemedicine for more positive health outcomes and reducing the need to travel and locate transportation.
 - The ability for our public to access public safety and for our public safety to have full coverage without gaps in communication creating a public safety crisis.
 - The ability for our community to expand business opportunities, stimulate job growth and allow rural areas of Flagler to employ innovative technologies to enhance our economy.

REQUESTED ACTION

Continue to support efforts to provide increased access, speed and affordability to broadband technology and support public funding to improve the infrastructure so service providers may build out their networks across Florida

POLICY PRIORITY 4 HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINUE SUPPORT OF THE **SCRAP & SCOP GRANT PROGRAMS TO ASSIST SMALL COUNTIES IN PAVING FARM TO MARKET ROADS**



Increase the amount of financial support to FDOT for the Small County Road Assistance (SCRAP) and Outreach Programs (SCOP).

BACKGROUND

- Currently, Flagler County receives millions of dollars each year of SCRAP & SCOP funding for projects. These funds make up the bulk of our entire capital improvement program.
- Funds are used to construct new roads, improve intersections, resurface and widen roadway and replace failing or aging storm water structures.
- Many of the roadway projects that have been completed over the past several years provide some benefit to existing farming and agricultural operations.
- Projects include widening and resurfacing roadways that they utilize to move their crops/product to packing and from packing to market.

REQUESTED ACTION

Increase the amount of financial support to FDOT for the Small County Road Assistance and Outreach Programs.

POLICY PRIORITY 5 HIGHLIGHTS

INCREASE SUPPORT FOR **SEPTIC TO SEWER GRANT PROGRAMS**



Urge the Legislature to increase available grant programs through State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection for septic to sewer projects.

BACKGROUND

Post Hurricanes Matthew and Irma saw large portions of this area experience severe flooding. While flooding presents its own problems, these problems are compounded when the majority of properties flooded are on septic tanks. While some of these systems are operating properly and are the best available alternative for wastewater disposal, there are thousands of septic tanks that are old and failing, discharging nutrients at high levels in environmentally sensitive areas. Even those that are working properly still discharge some nutrients into the environment. When these systems flood, as in recent weather events, the systems do not work properly for the homes and unwanted environmental discharges increase.

This area is a major part of the water that drains towards the Matanzas inlet. This drainage, when coupled with the continued bacterial and untreated storm water pollution and freshwater discharges, impacts and threatens the remaining Class II shell fishing waters in both Flagler and St. Johns counties. Lastly, the impact to Class III water quality standards throughout the region can be reduced by a prudent investment/partnership with Flagler County today, which will help prevent this region of Northeast Florida from becoming the next Indian River Lagoon Restoration effort costing hundreds of millions more.

REQUESTED ACTION

Urge the Legislature to increase available grant programs through State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection for septic to sewer projects.

POLICY PRIORITY 6 HIGHLIGHTS

INCREASE FLORIDA 911 FEE REVENUE TO ALLOW FOR TRANSITION TO NG-911 SERVICES

Urge the legislature to increase the Florida 911 Fee Revenue from \$0.40 per month per device to \$1.00 per month per device.



BACKGROUND

The 911 fee in the State of Florida was enacted in 1985 at an amount of \$0.50 per month per device accessing 911 services. In January of 2015 the amount was reduced to \$0.40, a 20% reduction.

The revenue from the 911 fee was to fund items such as 911 Operator salaries; 911 Operator training and certifications; 911 telephone system maintenance; 911 networks; 911 mapping; 911 call recording; hearing impaired equipment; backup power systems; time synchronization equipment; location repositories; 911 Center and equipment environmental integrity.

However, when this fee was enacted in 1985 there were no cellular telephones; no digital mapping; no text-to-911; no routers, switches, gateways, or servers; no software; no virus protection; no denial of service attacks and the 911 answering equipment was mechanical, not software driven.

Currently, Florida has one of the lowest 911 fees when compared to other southern states. Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and Mississippi have rates between \$1.00 and \$1.75. While 911 centers across the U.S. are transitioning to (Next Generation) NG-911 services, at the current rate of \$0.40, there is limited possibility of establishing NG-911 services in the State of Florida.

REQUESTED ACTION

Increase 911 Fee Revenue from \$0.40 per month per device to \$1.00 per month per device

POLICY PRIORITY 7 HIGHLIGHTS

MAINTAIN SHORT TERM VACATION RENTAL LEGISLATION STATUS QUO

Maintain the Status Quo in regards to local government regulations for Short Term Vacation Rental legislation.



POLICY PRIORITY 8 HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HOME RULE

Continue to encourage the State Legislature in seeking local government input on all legislative matters that have the potential to directly impact local communities.





2022 FUNDING BACKGROUND



2022 FUNDING PRIORITIES

1. Provide support to the Florida Agricultural Museum Construction Project in Flagler County.

Requested Funding: \$ 4,500,000

2. Flagler Central Commerce Parkway Roadway Construction Project.

Requested Funding: \$ 5,000,000

FUNDING PRIORITY 1 BACKGROUND

SUPPORT THE FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN FLAGLER COUNTY



REQUESTED FUNDING \$4,500,000

BACKGROUND

In 1992, The Florida Agricultural Museum Board of Trustees made the decision to relocate the museum from Tallahassee. The Board of County Commissioners at the time lobbied hard for Flagler County to be the new location and persevered with the Museum moving to Flagler County in 1997. Since that time the Florida Agricultural Museum has been successful preserving the state’s agricultural heritage by safeguarding rare Florida Cracker Cattle, Florida Cracker Horses, and Florida Cracker Sheep.

While the Agricultural Museum’s full potential has not been realized to date, Executive Director, Kara Hoblick, has proposed a long-term, multi-phase expansion plan to develop the museum’s potential as an education and research facility that will preserve agricultural history and improve the future of the industry while providing an entertaining experience. This plan is the result of years of effort by museum staff, its Board of Trustees, and public-spirited volunteers from across the state who share a common interest in preserving the history of Florida’s agriculture.

The Florida Agricultural Museum expansion plan, once actualized, will guide visitors through more than 400 years of history chronologically to include the important influences on Florida agriculture of the Timucua Indians, Spanish, early pioneers, plantations, agri-business work yards, concluding with anticipated future endeavors and a wildfire education zone. It will also have a two-story visitor center that will include a welcome lobby and admissions, exhibition area, gift shop, café, offices, classrooms, boardroom, and a hydroponics display.

The Florida Agricultural Museum has the potential to become an internationally recognized destination within the region given the vastness of Florida tourism but will require full support and a viable funding strategy.

FUNDING PRIORITY 2 BACKGROUND

FLAGLER CENTRAL COMMERCE PARKWAY ROADWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.



REQUESTED FUNDING \$5,000,000

BACKGROUND

Flagler Central Commerce Parkway is a 2-lane, 1.7-mile roadway with associated utilities. The construction of this roadway will connect State Road 100 to US Highway 1/State Road 5 and unlock over 1000 acres of property which are planned for governmental, industrial, and residential multi-family growth for development. Design has been completed and all permits have been obtained for the project. Funding for construction is the only issue holding up this project.

This funding will allow for increased levels of service available to those traveling on State Road 5/US Highway 1 and State Road 100, increases ease of access to governmental offices, promotes economic growth and job creation and provides another Emergency Evacuation route for those in the County.



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FLAGLER COUNTY 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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