



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**DATE:** December 2, 2014

**AGENDA ITEM NO. //**

**Consent Agenda** ☐

**Regular Agenda** ☒

**Public Hearing** ☐

 **County Administrator's Signature:**

**Subject:**

Adoption of the 2015 State and Federal Legislative Programs

**Department:**

County Administrator

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Mary Scott Hardwick, Intergovernmental Liaison

**Recommended Action:**

I RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOARD) ADOPT THE ATTACHED 2015 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS.

**Summary Explanation/Background:**

Based upon input received from Board members, attached is the proposed State and Federal Legislative Programs for the 2015 Session. It is now presented for the Board's consideration, input and approval. It is understood that it is not an exhaustive list and other issues may evolve that may require the Board's action to revise the program.

County staff and our state and federal contract lobbying firms will closely monitor these items as the legislative process progresses.

**Fiscal Impact/Cost/Revenue Summary:**

Not applicable

**Exhibits/Attachments Attached:**

2015 State and Federal Legislative Program



## 2015 Legislative Priorities

### State Legislation

Subject	Position	Partner Support	Last Year's Program	If Yes, 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.	FAC	Yes	Money was not appropriated to clear the backlog
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	FAC	No	N/A
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		Yes	Medicaid was not expanded
Medicaid Dental Rate Increase	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, starting with the next Penny, to allow the County and Cities the authority to use a portion of the Penny for operations and maintenance, not just new construction		Yes	
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		No	N/A
Beach Nourishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Support legislation that maintains a state funding source for beach restoration projects throughout Florida</li> <li>-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</li> <li>- Support a significant increase in statutory funding levels for beach projects as part of implementing legislation for Amendment 1.</li> </ul>	FAC	Yes	
Appropriations	List of County Requests -Water Projects -Fcon FTX400			

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Partner Support</b>	<b>Last Year's Program?</b>	<b>If Yes, result</b>
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 for defense contractors an outright reward, currently state dollars offset federal incentives		No	N/A
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
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 failed
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 but not statutory funding
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.	FAC	No	N/A
SHIP/SAIL (Affordable Housing Trust Fund)	All monies collected from the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund should be used for their intended purpose- housing		Yes	\$100,000,000 to fund SHIP and \$67,660,000 provided to SAIL
Energy Policy	Support the development of a statewide energy policy		No	N/A

## **Other State Legislative Issues for Monitoring**

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

Monitor any changes to gaming legislation, including provisions to allow slot machines at pari-mutuels

Monitor any changes to the Florida Retirement System

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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
- Support the removal of the mandate that Counties increase spending for court related functions by 1.5% each year

<b>Federal Legislation</b>	
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Position</b>
Beach Nourishment/Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) Implementation	-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
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	-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, Comments submitted by staff on 11/13/14
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 is discussing legislation to replace MAP-21, could have significant implications for Pinellas, related to transportation funding.
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