

Pinellas County State Legislative Priorities

Subject	Position
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.
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
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
Medicaid Dental Rate Increase	Support legislation to increase the Medicaid rate for indigent dental care to encourage increased participation by the dental community
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
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
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.
Appropriations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Water Projects -Fecon FTX40 –Equipment to clear underbrush in County parks and preserves
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
Defense Contractor Incentives	Support legislation that makes incentives for defense contractors an outright reward, currently state dollars offset federal incentives
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.
High Prescriber Database	Support legislation that requires physicians to input data into the state monitoring database rather than leaving it as a voluntary program
Homelessness Funding	Provide a steady source of state funding for homelessness issues that is not subject to the annual appropriations process
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.
SHIP/SAIL (Affordable Housing Trust Fund)	All monies collected from the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund should be used for their intended purpose- housing
Energy Policy	Support the development of a statewide energy policy

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 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

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