

Manatee Council of Governments Proposed 2011 Legislative priorities

Proposed 2011 Platform Statement

- 1 **Offshore Oil Drilling and Exploration** -- Manatee Council of Governments OPPOSES all oil and gas drilling in the state waters in the Gulf of Mexico and SUPPORTS a constitutional amendment for the 2012 ballot that would ban oil drilling in Florida's nearshore waters.
- 2 **TABOR** -- Manatee Council of Governments SUPPORTS a requirement for all remote vendors (including Internet retailers) to collect and remit Florida's state and local option sales taxes. Manatee Council of Governments also SUPPORTS a thorough review of Florida sales tax exemptions and exclusions and opposes revenue and expenditure caps (TABOR-like proposals) that impose legislative or constitutional restrictions on local authority to determine the local tax burden or local financial requirements to services and quality of life.
- 3 **Vessels and Waterways** -- Manatee Council of Governments SUPPORTS continued state funding of derelict vessel removal and SUPPORTS legislation that provides public access to waterways and preserves county regulatory power.
- 4 **Libraries** -- Manatee Council of Governments understands the dire fiscal constraints the state is facing, but OPPOSES further reductions to the public library system, which would jeopardize the vital federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds Florida receives annually.

2010 Manasota League

Offshore Drilling: SUPPORT a ban on offshore oil exploration and drilling within a thirty mile limit off Florida's coastline.

TABOR and 1.35 Cap Legislation: OPPOSE any legislation that will further limit local government revenue and expenditures by establishing caps. Local government must not be restricted from addressing community priorities through revenue and expenditure caps or changes to the property tax system which would magnify inequities.

None

None

2010 Manatee County statement

OFFSHORE DRILLING: Manatee Board of County Commissioners strongly opposes all oil and gas drilling in the state waters in the Gulf of Mexico.

TAXATION: Manatee Board of County Commissioners supports a requirement for all remote vendors (including Internet retailers) to collect and remit Florida's state and local option sales taxes. Manatee County supports a thorough review of Florida sales tax exemptions and exclusions and opposes revenue and expenditure caps (TABOR-like proposals) that impose legislative or constitutional restrictions on county authority to determine the local tax burden or local financial requirements to services and quality of life.

VESSELS AND WATERWAYS: Manatee County supports continued state funding of derelict vessel removal. Manatee County supports legislation that provides public access to waterways and preserves county regulatory power. Manatee County supports continued state and local regulation of vessels, mooring fields, bulkheads and seawalls, floating vessel platforms, and seagrasses in order to protect water quality.

LIBRARY FUNDING: Manatee County supports working toward the restoration of State Aid to Public Libraries funding from the current \$21,253,978 to the \$33,400,000 appropriated in 2000-2001. In 2008-2009 the appropriation was \$23,384,001. If funding is reduced further, vitally needed federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds received by Florida will be reduced.

Other potential areas

TRANSPORTATION: Manatee County supports the Port Connector Road to ensure safe and efficient freight movement critical for economic development surrounding Port Manatee. Manatee County OPPOSES raids of the Transportation Trust Fund to subsidize other areas of the state budget.

Renewable Portfolio Standard and Feed-In Tariff: SUPPORT the establishment of a Renewable Portfolio Standard and the adoption of Feed-In Tariff legislation.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS: Manatee County supports DCA's valuable role in guiding Florida's growth management policies. Manatee County also supports DCA's role as a technical resource and the prioritization of a DCA policy on urban growth.