



MANATEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION 2014 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

JUVENILE JUSTICE	Manatee County SUPPORTS the state taking full responsibility for funding and operation of detention facilities serving juveniles, both for pre-disposition and post-disposition days and implementing juvenile justice reform, as recommended by the Detention Cost Share Proviso Workgroup. In the alternative, SUPPORT the dissolution of the current shared County-State Detention relationship in a manner that eliminates the administrative burdens for all parties and establishes a more collaborative and equitable detention model.
PORT MANATEE/ TRANSPORTATION	Manatee County SUPPORTS the ability for Port Manatee to operate as an independent entity and would OPPOSE efforts to consolidate or remove autonomy from Port Manatee. Manatee County SUPPORTS action that would facilitate business collaboration and marketing opportunities with neighboring ports. Manatee County SUPPORTS fully funding Enterprise Florida's international budget in order to meet the goal of increasing international trade and efforts that promote the Florida International Gateway as the most efficient port asset through which to move freight. Manatee County OPPOSES raids of the Transportation Trust Fund to subsidize other areas of the state budget.
BEACH RENOURISHMENT	Manatee County SUPPORTS Local Government Funding Request for beach renourishment by the Governor in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's budget for the FY 2014. Manatee County, as ranked near the top of the state priority list, requests \$109,000 in state cost share grants for FY 2014 to fund final design, permitting and monitoring activities on Anna Maria Island beaches; and \$179,077 in state cost share grants for FY 2014 for completion of the Longboat Pass Inlet Management Plan, and \$77,500 in state cost share grants for FY 2013 planning and design for inlet maintenance construction.
COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TAX**	Manatee County SUPPORTS amending or revising current law in a manner that is 1) revenue neutral for local governments; 2) simplifies administration and collection of the current tax base; 3) provides for a broad and equitable tax base; 4) provides for the enhanced stability and reliability as an important revenue source for local government; and 5) provides for the opportunity for market-based growth.
SENIOR HOMESTEAD TAX EXEMPTION**	In an effort to avoid unintended abuses of the 2012 Senior Homestead Tax Exemption, Manatee County urges the state to amend changes to F.S. 196.075 that would 1. Base the applicant's eligibility on all personal assets instead of household income; 2. Require the person applying for the 25-year residency requirement to have qualified for a homestead exemption for at least the most recent 15 years; 3. Provide that the exemption goes away when the original qualifying owner no longer owns the home; and 4. Would penalize fraudulent claims for the exemption similarly to other fraudulent homestead claims.
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS**	Manatee County SUPPORTS full funding of regional planning councils to, at a minimum, cover the costs of statutory responsibilities, and to support enhanced economic development activities. Manatee County would OPPOSE legislation prohibiting or restricting the ability of a regional planning council to provide planning and technical service to its local governments.
NUISANCE ABATEMENT	Manatee County SUPPORTS legislation that would amend F.S. 893.138, extending from six to 12 months the period under which criminal activity pertaining to prostitution, drugs and dealing in stolen property must occur on more than two occasions.
HOME RULE ISSUES**	Manatee County SUPPORTS the statewide Keep it Local Florida movement which is committed to preserving local control and ensuring local taxpayers have the greatest say in how they are governed.

** Asterisks denote items that are supported by the Manatee County Council of Governments which is comprised of Manatee School Board, the Town of Longboat Key, the Cities of Anna Maria, Bradenton, Bradenton Beach, Holmes Beach and Palmetto and Manatee County Government.

MANATEE COUNTY'S SECONDARY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

VACATION RENTALS**	In order for counties and cities to address their citizens' concerns, Manatee County SUPPORTS a full repeal of 2011's House Bill 883 which preempts local authority from regulating, restricting or prohibiting vacation rentals differently from other residential properties based solely on their classification, use or occupancy.
CANDY-FLAVORED TOBACCO BAN **	In accordance with Manatee County Resolution 12-089, Manatee County SUPPORTS legislation that would close an omission in Florida statutes regarding the promotion and sale of tobacco products to young people by allowing the distribution of candy-flavored tobacco products in establishments that are open to minors under the age of 18 within Florida.
FERTILIZER AND LANDSCAPING**	Manatee County SUPPORTS the ability of local government to enact fertilizer ordinances intended to improve water quality and reduce nutrient levels in local waterways. Manatee County SUPPORTS enhanced statewide promotion of the Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices as a basic level of water quality protection with more stringent protection available for specific water bodies in need.
INTERNET SALES TAX**	Manatee County SUPPORTS legislation that promotes an equitable competitive environment between "brick and mortar" businesses and remote business establishments conducting business in Florida.
LIBRARY FUNDING **	Manatee County SUPPORTS restoring state funding to the public library system, which would jeopardize the vital federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds Florida receives annually.
PAIN MANAGEMENT CLINICS**	Manatee County SUPPORTS the ability of local government to enact local pain clinic ordinances that provide local officials an effective tool in curbing the growing epidemic of pain pill abuse. Manatee County would OPPOSE legislation that would preempt the regulation of pain management clinics to the state.
LOCAL BUSINESS TAX**	Manatee County SUPPORTS the authorization of local governments to modify local ordinances in a manner that reflects in a more simplified, efficient and equitable tax system that supports communities and economic development through business recruitment. Manatee County OPPOSES legislation that would eliminate the Local Business Tax.
SALES TAX EXEMPTION ON COMMERCIAL LEASES **	Manatee County OPPOSES legislation that would exempt state sales tax and local option sales tax on commercial leases.
JOINT USE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES**	Manatee County SUPPORTS legislation that would provide immunity from liability for district school boards that adopt public access policies or enter into joint-use agreement except in instances of gross negligence or intentional misconduct.
RED LIGHT CAMERAS**	Manatee County SUPPORTS the ability of local governments to install traffic safety devices as a cost effective way to reduce the instance of red light running at local intersections, and improving safety to motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians along roadways.
AFFORDABLE HOUSING	Manatee County SUPPORTS restoring to 2007 levels the state funding for the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Trust Fund and its distribution to counties for affordable housing activities.



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