

November 27, 2018 - Regular Meeting
Agenda Item #89

Subject

2019 Legislative Platform

Briefings

Briefing Provided Upon Request

Contact and/or Presenter Information

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Action Requested

Final consideration and approval of the 2019 State Legislative Platform.

Enabling/Regulating Authority

Background Discussion

Manatee County Legislative Delegation Meeting is scheduled for December 19 and the 2019 Legislative Session will begin in March.

Each year the County Commission submits to legislators its annual Legislative Platform. The 2019 Legislative Platform outlines Manatee's state funding requests and the Commission's most important policy positions. It was compiled through feedback from County Commissioners, County staff, and with consideration to other local government priorities and those of the Florida Association of Counties.

County Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Explanation of Other

Reviewing Attorney

N/A

Instructions to Board Records

None

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

None

Manatee County Government Administrative Center
Commission Chambers, First Floor
9:00 a.m. - November 27, 2018

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs
None

Attachment: [1128 2019 Legislative Priorities and Funding Request list.pdf](#)



Manatee Board of County Commission 2019 DRAFT State Legislative Priority List

I. Primary Legislative Requests

Home rule protection – Manatee County SUPPORTS the integrity of county home rule power which allows county officials to develop and implement community-based solutions to local issues, without state limitations or mandates. Manatee County OPPOSES legislation that would limit or remove a local government’s ability to adjust millage rates to sufficiently meet community demands.

Manatee County supports the **Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization's** (MPO) and the **Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority's** (TBARTA) funding request to replace the DeSoto Bridge. Expediting replacement of the bridge can facilitate improved north/south capacity on the U.S. 41 corridor.

Manatee County also supports state funding for the MPO’s Complete Streets Initiative to **reconstruct 15th Street East/301 Boulevard** from Tallevast Road to U.S. 41.

Tourism Development Tax use – Manatee County SUPPORTS legislation that would allow Manatee County the authority to utilize a portion of the Tourist Development Tax for improved public safety services in the same manner as authorized in current law, s. 125.0104.

Hurricane Shelter requirements -- Manatee County urges Florida Division of Emergency Management officials to reevaluate the process for determining the needs for counties to provide additional hurricane shelter space. The process should rely on more accurate population statistics to make hurricane shelter space recommendations that reflect Florida's rapidly growing number of fulltime residents, and the state consider modifying the geographic boundaries upon which shelter capacity is analyzed. Manatee County SUPPORTS state funding allocations for hurricane hardening measures that will ensure new Manatee County public school facilities now in planning stages may be built to accommodate evacuees in the future.

Braden River Library -- Manatee County requests to be reconsidered for a \$500,000 State Aid award to complete a renovation and expansion of the Braden River Library. With more than 170,000 patron visits each year, Braden River Library is the busiest branch of the Manatee County Public Library System. Patrons use computers, check out books from a collection of 85,000 volumes and use meeting rooms with Wi-Fi access. The branch is in need of more space for meetings, leisure reading and additional youth services.

Beaches and inlet funding

- Manatee County requests \$3,422,900 in state cost share for the Manatee County Federal Beach Nourishment project which will provide for the design and construction of the Central Beach Nourishment Project and the required physical and environmental monitoring associated with the federal project.

This project was ranked #8 on the list of projects. The Cumulative State Share Request to #8 is \$33.73 million.

- Manatee County requests \$3,706,475 in state cost share for the design, construction and required physical and environmental monitoring for both the Coquina Storm Damage Repair project (to repair damage from Hurricanes Hermine and Irma) and for the Coquina Beach Nourishment Project, to be conducted in combination with the USACE Central Beach project.

This project was ranked #11 on the list of projects. The Cumulative State Share Request to #11 is \$33.88 million.

II. Policy Priorities

Texting while driving – Recognizing that distracted driving crashes accounted for 50,000 crashes in Florida in 2016 and that Florida is one of five states that do not currently consider texting while operating a motor vehicle a primary offense, Manatee County SUPPORTS legislation to make texting while driving a primary offense.

Economic Development -- Manatee County SUPPORTS measures that empower local governments and provide resources to work with community partners towards the creation of quality jobs, more vibrant Florida communities, as well as an enhanced level of national and global competitiveness. Florida's Qualified Targeted Industries (QTI) Program has been particularly effective in creating jobs and wealth for Manatee County. Since 2009, the QTI Program has helped more than a dozen companies expand in or locate to our community. That investment has helped to create more than 1,000 jobs with a projected capital investment of over \$210 Million. The Quick Action Closing Fund has been utilized to bring two new companies (Feld, Air Products) and expand two more companies, resulting in high skill, high wage jobs in the manufacturing and headquarters sectors.

Remote Area Medical Clinics – Manatee County SUPPORTS legislation that would allow the Governor to issue a temporary waiver for out-of-state, actively licensed physicians, optometrists and dentists to provide temporary volunteer healthcare services to the indigent and underinsured.

SHIP Funding – Manatee County SUPPORTS full funding for the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Trust Fund and its distribution to counties for affordable housing activities.

III. Partner agency requests

- Manatee County supports **Port Manatee's** legislative priority list. (*DETAILS WILL BE INCLUDED FOLLOWING PORT AUTHORITY CONSIDERATION & APPROVAL AT A FUTURE MEETING.*)
- Manatee County supports the Manasota League of Cities' request for legislation to repeal the state preemption of the regulation of **short-term rental properties** to allow local governments to regulate such properties to protect the health and welfare of residents, visitors and businesses. The League also SUPPORTS changes to existing State law relating to short-term rentals that permit grandfathered local governments to modify existing short-term rental regulations.

NEW TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION

Green Bridge Fishing Pier -- Manatee County requests \$1 million in state funding for the demolition of an old concrete bridge, the Green Bridge Fishing Pier, that has been closed to vehicular traffic for years but that has become a popular fishing spot for many locals. The Pier, which extends into the Manatee River, would be replaced with a new wooden fishing pier. The project will remove a structurally deficient bridge for a new pier to improve fishing opportunities along the Manatee River.

Red Tide -- Manatee County SUPPORTS state efforts to reduce or eliminate red tide algae blooms in the Gulf of Mexico by improving efforts to enhance research conducted by Mote Marine Laboratory and the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute.

Safety, security and hardening schools – Manatee County supports state funding allocations to assist Florida school districts adequately pay for legislative-dictated school safety & security requirements.

Piney Point reservoirs -- In order to eliminate the possibility of contaminated water spilling into Bishop Harbor in the future, Manatee County requests that the state Department of Environmental Protection prioritize efforts to properly and safely dispose of water currently in the state-owned gypsum stacks at the former Piney Point phosphate processing plant. Manatee County also supports sufficient state funding to complete the closure of the gypsum stacks in accordance with Florida Statutes.

Substance abuse education – Manatee County supports legislation that would bolster comprehensive school mental health services, efforts to improve school safety, strategies to reduce bullying and harassment throughout Florida schools. Manatee County also supports Drug Free Manatee's efforts to encourage research-based drug prevention education curriculum that raises awareness of the consequences of drug use and reaches middle school and high school age students in the Manatee County School District.

Manatee County supports the leadership role the Florida Association of Counties takes representing the position of Florida's 67 counties on statewide issues. Manatee County's 2019 legislative priorities align with those of the Florida Association of Counties, unless otherwise noted. This document is a list of the top legislative requests and priorities of the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners.