

APPROVED in Open Session

Manatee County Board of County
Commissioners

Manatee County Government Administrative Center
Patricia M. Glass Commission Chambers, First Floor
9:00 a.m. - December 18, 2018

12/18/18

December 18, 2018 - Regular Meeting
Agenda Item #11

Subject

2019 Legislative Platform

Briefings

Briefing Provided Upon Request

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Nicholas Azzara
Information Outreach Manager
Ext. 3771

Action Requested

Final consideration and approval of the 2019 State Legislative Platform.

Enabling/Regulating Authority

Background Discussion

The 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 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 Commissioners weighed in on the 2019 Legislative Platform during their regular meeting on November 27. That feedback has been incorporated into the latest draft and is slated for final consideration.

County Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Explanation of Other

Reviewing Attorney

N/A

Instructions to Board Records

None

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Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name
None

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs
None

Attachment: [1218_2019 Legislative Priorities and Funding Request list.pdf](#)



Manatee Board of County Commission 2019 State Legislative Priority List

I. Primary Legislative Requests

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.

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.

Piney Point reservoirs -- In order to eliminate the possibility of processed 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 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.

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.

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 needs more space for meetings, leisure reading and additional youth services.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

Vacation Rentals – Manatee County SUPPORTS a state solution to address a uniform tourism tax collection method to address the proliferation of online home and vacation rental sites like HomeAway Vacation Rentals and Airbnb, a solution that will ensure private vacation property owners are remitting tourism taxes under the same requirements as traditional vacation resorts and hotels.

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.
- **Substance abuse education** – Manatee County supports legislation that would provide and sustain comprehensive school mental health services, efforts to improve school safety, and strategies to reduce bullying and harassment throughout Florida schools. Manatee County also supports Drug Free Manatee's efforts to ensure research-based universal prevention education curriculum that raises awareness of the consequences of drug use.

Manatee County supports the integrity of county home rule authority which allows county officials to develop and implement community-based solutions to local issues, without state limitations or mandates. 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.

