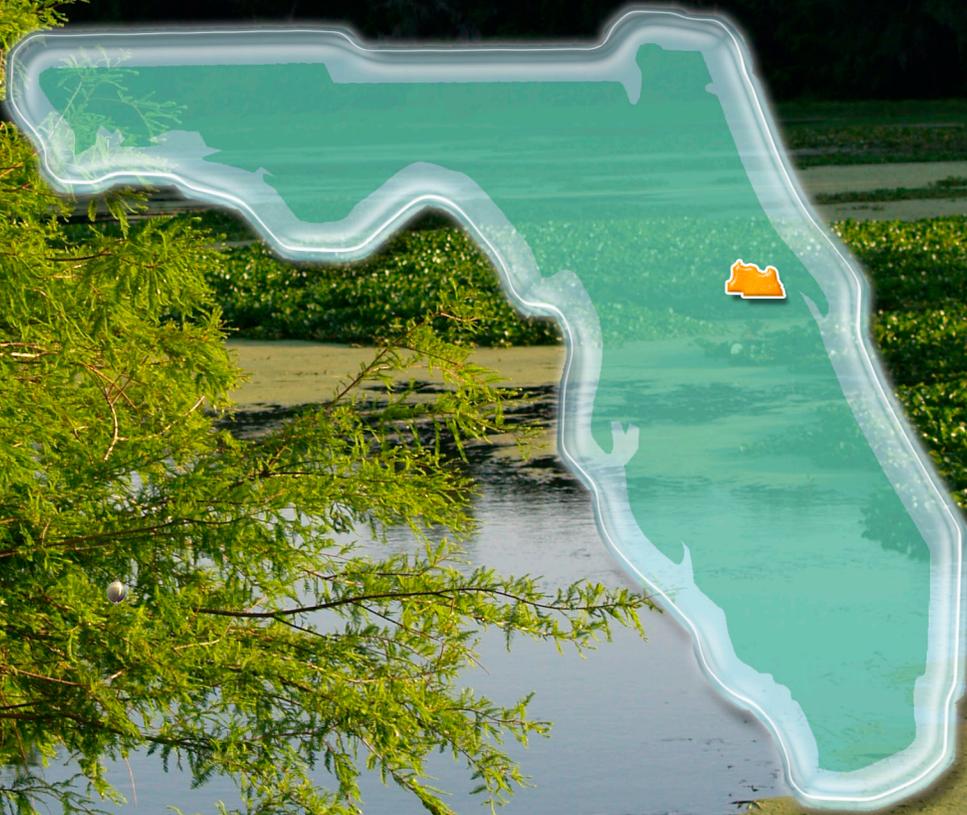


2012 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FOR



SEMINOLE COUNTY
FLORIDA'S NATURAL CHOICE



Seminole County Government
1101 East First Street • Sanford, FL 32771-1468
407-665-7211 • (Fax) 407-665-7958 • www.seminolecountyfl.gov



PRIORITIES

OPPOSE unfunded mandates by the State to provide a service without the appropriate funding sources.

MAINTAIN Home Rule Authority to develop community based solutions and retain decision making at the local level.

SUPPORT efforts to prohibit use of simulated gambling devices to conduct or promote game promotions, drawings and games of chance.

SUPPORT efforts to reinstate the Seminole County Expressway Authority.

SUPPORT increase to the portion of the Drivers License Fee retained by the Tax Collectors.

SUPPORT Metroplan Orlando transportation priorities.

SUPPORT LYNX legislative priorities.

SUPPORT Seminole County Public Schools legislative priorities.

MONITOR the impact of the pain management clinic regulations passed in 2011.

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Central Florida Commuter Rail (SunRail)



Continued support of 61-mile commuter rail system. Support the development of transit connections and station area improvements for four stations in Seminole County (Sanford, Lake Mary, Longwood and Altamonte Springs).

State Road 429 – Wekiva Parkway & SR 46 Bypass



The Wekiva Parkway, now in development by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – District 5 and the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority, is critical to accommodate inter-county travel between Lake, Seminole, and Orange Counties. The 25-mile project will relieve congestion on US Highway 441, State Road 46 and local roads, and complete the beltway on the western side of Metropolitan Orlando. FDOT is overseeing development of the Lake and Seminole County portions of the roadway. An environmental study is pending by FDOT. Lake County listed this project as a legislative priority. Seminole County supports the development of the Wekiva Parkway.

Reclaimed Water Projects

Northwestern Reclaimed Phase IV - New reclaimed water distribution system to retrofit Alaqua and Carisbrooke subdivisions in northwestern Seminole County. Reuse capacity estimated to be 0.28 million gallons per day. Base construction estimate \$3.3 M.

PRIORITY PROJECTS (Cont'd)

Northwestern Reclaimed Phase V - New reclaimed water distribution system to retrofit Cherry Ridge, Burlington Oakes, Kentford Gardens and Heron Ridge subdivisions in Northwestern Seminole County. Reuse capacity estimated to be 0.32 million gallons per day. Base construction estimate \$5.5 M.



POSITION STATEMENTS

Finance

Revenue & Expenditure Caps (TABOR):

OPPOSE legislative or constitutional restrictions on County authority to determine local tax burden or local financial commitments to services and quality of life.

Tourist Development Tax (TDT):

SUPPORT legislation that enhances the collection of TDT revenue not currently remitted by online travel companies.

OPPOSE legislation that would exempt online travel companies' room sales from TDTs.

Drivers License Fees:

SUPPORT legislative changes to allow for an increase to the portion of the Drivers License fee retained by the Tax Collectors.

Communication Service Tax:

OPPOSE a reduction to the Communication Service Tax rate.

Sales Tax:

SUPPORT Florida's participation in the Streamlined Sales Tax Compact to require remote vendors to collect and remit Florida's State and local option sales tax.

911 Fees:

SUPPORT the most effective and efficient method of implementation of the collection of 911 fees on wireless pre-paid calling cards.

Specific County Based Appropriations:

SUPPORT to maintain or increase current State appropriations critical to the delivery of public services at the government level.

Libraries:

SUPPORT full funding of State Aid to Libraries based on the current statutory formula that provides Counties 25 cents for every local dollar spent.

SUPPORT a \$10 million increase in State aid to public libraries.

OPPOSE legislation allowing individuals to sue Counties for issues relating to internet filtering devices and/or policies.

Florida Forever:

SUPPORT the continuation of the Florida Forever land acquisition program, to the extent the program is sufficient to acquire land for the protection of natural resources and green spaces.

SUPPORT continuation of a dedicated State funding source which provides local match funding for local land acquisition.

SUPPORT legislation that would require land acquisition projects to be ranked according to their consistency with the local comprehensive plan.

Administration

Procurement:

SUPPORT establishing an optional (alternative) best value process for State and local entities to consider cost in the award of professional services agreements pursuant to the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act.

Transportation

Seminole County Expressway Authority (SCEA):

SUPPORT efforts to reenact the SCEA. Senate Bill 2152 passed by the Florida Legislature during the 2011 Legislative Session inadvertently dissolved the SCEA, effective July 1, 2011. Prior to the SCEA's dissolution, the SCEA governing board unanimously approved a motion requesting the Florida Legislature to reenact the SCEA as it existed on June 14, 2011, as set forth in Florida Statutes, Part VIII, Sections 348.95 through 348.963, inclusive.

State Transportation Trust Fund:

SUPPORT and protect the State transportation trust fund and the transportation disadvantage trust fund.

Local Option Rental Car Surcharge:

SUPPORT legislation to authorize the local option rental car surcharge at \$2.50 per day.

Paratransit System:

SUPPORT continued coordinated paratransit system for providing non-emergency transportation for Floridians who cannot use standard bus service because of a disability.

Growth Management

Building Code:

SUPPORT transition of the Florida building code to the International building code.

Regional Planning Councils:

MONITOR any changes to Regional Planning Councils responsibilities especially in the area of intergovernmental coordination.

State Review of Comp Plans:

SUPPORT efforts to further streamline State review of comprehensive plan amendments.

Zoning:

OPPOSE any efforts to undermine local government zoning authority.

Environmental

Yard Waste:

OPPOSE efforts to reinstate the ban on yard waste landfilling.

Recycling:

SUPPORT legislation to establish fair and reasonable recycling goals and reporting requirements for Counties.

SUPPORT efforts to establish consistency in recycling credits afforded to all Counties regardless of type of landfill facility utilized in a given County.

Numeric Nutrient Criteria:

SUPPORT the State (FDEP's) version of Numeric Nutrient Criteria legislation. The FDEP version is much more flexible. Site specific alternative criteria would not have to be developed nearly as often as with EPA's NNC.

SUPPORT the development of more "user friendly" Site Specific Alternative Criteria (SSAC) for waterbodies that still need different criteria, with specific guidelines on what is needed to obtain a SSAC.

Environmental (Cont'd)

Stormwater Treatment Rule:

SUPPORT the Statewide Stormwater Treatment Rule legislation, which will make it easier for local governments to permit stormwater retrofit projects in order to meet TMDL/regulatory requirements.

Water Management District:

SUPPORT efforts to revise the current Consumptive Use Permit (CUP) process by not reducing the water allocation when utilities implement programs to conserve water. Leaving the water allocation as originally permitted within the CUP allows for future development and reduces administrative costs.

Health & Human Services

Baker Act:

SUPPORT the assisted outpatient treatment program which provides quality community treatment at lower costs to State and taxpayers.

Behavioral Health System:

SUPPORT appropriate funding for core mental health and substance abuse services.

SUPPORT continued efforts to work through Medicaid reform initiatives to ensure that persons with substance abuse and mental health treatment needs are appropriately served.

SUPPORT efforts to increase supportive housing, employment and education initiatives for people with behavioral health issues and/or disabilities.

OPPOSE diversion of current local funding, including but not limited to, diverting funding provided for non-Medicaid patients to Medicaid managed behavioral health care programs.

County Health Departments (CHD):

SUPPORT maintaining State general revenue funding for CHDs.

SUPPORT legislative efforts to retain Cost Based Reimbursement for CHDs and to align reimbursement methodologies with Federally Qualified Health Center's reimbursement methodologies under managed care.

SUPPORT efforts to enable CHDs to transition to managed care under Medicaid reform without impacting service capacity.

SUPPORT reinstating the exemption from rate control for County health departments.

SUPPORT local County health department with legislation to maintain Cost Based Reimbursement funding for dental and maternity services provided by local County health departments.

OPPOSE any State reductions to the CHD Trust Funds.

Medicaid Nursing Home Services:

SUPPORT a fair and equitable billing methodology for assessing the amount of County subsidization of the State's Medicaid expenditures for nursing home services.

SUPPORT legislation providing flexibility for Counties to actively participate in the State's efforts to reduce unnecessary nursing home placement by allowing Counties to re-direct their Medicaid match to divert premature nursing home placement.

SUPPORT utilizing dollars for job creation at the local level to allow patients to age in place.

OPPOSE any increase to the County contribution for Medicaid nursing home services.

Community Care for the Elderly:

SUPPORT restoration and expansion of State funding for the Community Care for the Elderly Program, which provides cost efficient diversion from nursing home placement for impaired elders.

Health & Human Services (Cont'd)

Homelessness:

SUPPORT legislation that streamlines current State statutes relating to homelessness and associated programs.

SUPPORT a process that would waive the fees related to obtaining personal identification from the State for persons identified as homeless.

SUPPORT the implementation of discharge protocols and/or procedures for hospitals and correctional facilities when releasing homeless persons.

SUPPORT the development of strategies that would allow local governments to work with the State and Federal government to serve target populations such as the chronically homeless, Veterans, families and children, and children aging out of the foster care system.

SUPPORT continued coordination with the State's homeless planning council, specifically as it develops policies in support of the new Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness.

Public Safety

Enact Legislation to Reduce Distracted Driving:

SUPPORT legislation to reduce distracted driving and improve transportation safety by regulating the use of electronic wireless communications devices and similar devices that cause distractions while operating a moving motor vehicle.

County Emergency Radio Systems:

OPPOSE legislation shifting funds away, or impeding Counties from, building and maintaining an interoperable radio communication system.

Fireworks Regulation:

SUPPORT revisions to Chapter 791, F.S., to strengthen State and local regulations governing the sale and illegal use of fireworks.

OPPOSE legislation that limits local regulation, or enforcement, of illegal fireworks.

Pre-Trial Release:

SUPPORT maintaining County ability to provide non-monetary pre-trial release services that ensure the safety and welfare of local communities.

SUPPORT changing pretrial program reporting requirements as provided in 907.043, F.S., from weekly to monthly updates.

SUPPORT legislation that allows Counties to impose pre-trial release fees based on an individual's ability to pay.

OPPOSE legislation limiting the discretion of the first appearance judge, requiring written reports and certification of defendants for release and eliminating the presumption of release on non-monetary conditions.

OPPOSE efforts to remove control of jails from County Commissioners, Sheriff's and local Judges.

Inmate Medical Costs:

SUPPORT legislation that reduces jail expenses by setting a standardized statewide reimbursement amount paid by Counties to medical providers for health care services provided to inmates and arrestees at the established Medicaid rate or less.

Juvenile Justice

Cost of Care:

SUPPORT legislation allowing Counties to charge juveniles, or the parents

of juveniles, for the costs of providing pre-adjudicatory, secure detention care based on their availability to pay.

Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI):

SUPPORT legislation that implements juvenile detention alternatives and revises the DRAI to divert children from detention facilities.

Juvenile Assessment Centers (JAC Centers):

SUPPORT continued funding of JAC's.

Emergency Management

Disaster Funding:

SUPPORT a 50/50 cost-share arrangement with the State for the Non-Federal portion of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

SUPPORT the current HMGP fund allocation and project selection process developed by the Department of Community Affairs.

SUPPORT the creation of an emergency bridge loan program for Counties to provide a source of expedient cash flow to Counties impacted by a major catastrophe.

SUPPORT expanding the current Florida Small Business Emergency Loan Program by making Counties eligible applicants.

Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance (EMPA) Trust Fund:

SUPPORT maintaining the original purpose of the EMPA Trust Fund, which is to serve as a funding source for State and local emergency management programs.

SUPPORT a repeal of the seven percent service charge on the EMPA trust fund and redirect these monies back to the Counties in the same manner in which the EMPA base grant is distributed.

Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs):

SUPPORT continued State funding for County EOCs to ensure each is able to meet the structural and operational space criteria established by the State and Federal government.

Shelter Funding and Standards:

SUPPORT additional State funding for hurricane shelter spaces, including the retrofitting of existing facilities.

SUPPORT statutory revisions requiring nursing homes and assisted living facilities to have back-up power supply sources that operate a majority of the mechanical systems in the facility for a minimum of 72 hours.

SUPPORT State funding for County and regional special needs patients and shelters.

MONITOR the development of the implementation guidelines to determine impacts of the new ADA requirements on the functional needs support services in general population shelters.

Emergency Management Credentialing:

SUPPORT the funding for enhanced training and educational opportunities for County Emergency Management employees.

Non-Emergency Governmental Telephone System:

SUPPORT creating a statewide grant program to support 2-1-1 and 3-1-1 telephone systems to provide seamless government access and relieve calls from 9-1-1 that are important but nonemergencies.

2012 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES & PRIORITIES

Seminole County Board of County Commissioners

Brenda Carey, Chairman • Carlton Henley, Vice Chairman • Bob Dallari, Commissioner
John Horan, Commissioner • Dick Van Der Weide, Commissioner

Appointed Officials: Jim Hartmann, County Manager • A. Bryant Applegate, County Attorney