



Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners 2013 State Legislative Agenda

Guiding statement—Eliminate unfunded mandates, cost shifts or preemptions of local authority. Honor home rule and charter county authority. Protect against trust fund diversions.

Economic Development

- Support \$3 million funding for Florida's Economic Development "Statewide Branding Initiative".
 - Maintain \$105 million financial commitment to Florida's Economic Development Tool Kit including: Qualified Target Industry, Quick Response Training, Quick Action Closing Fund, Brownfields, Enterprise Zones and Road Fund.
 - Allow ability to shift allocated incentive dollars between programs to allow the Governor, Enterprise Florida, and Department of Economic Opportunity more flexibility in providing deal closure packages that meet specific client needs.
 - Support client "Confidentiality" initiatives from Enterprise Florida.
 - Continue efforts to streamline business permitting initiatives, eliminating or streamlining processes.
 - Seek appropriations for the funding of CRA projects and development.
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Fiscal Responsibility

- Do not address state budget shortfalls through cost shifts to local government.
 - CCNA - Support legislation to revise Section 287.055 known as the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act to allow fees and costs to be a factor in the selection process.
 - Legislation creating a temporary exemption from public records law to keep engineer estimates of construction project costs confidential until bids are opened.
 - Property Tax Reform – Ensure any reforms establish a fair tax system for all taxpayers and preserve county ability to provide services.
 - Sales Tax Reform -- collect sales tax on internet sales.
 - Amend the Florida Statutes to close a "loophole" by which Unions are able to circumvent the legislatively-mandated impasse resolution process by strategically choosing not to "reject" any specific recommendations of a special magistrate, resulting in a public employer's inability to "impose" those items.
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Transportation

- Support a restructure of the formula and methodology used in the distribution of gas tax funds and a review of methodology of state prioritization (criteria) and funding for transportation projects.
 - Support a review of state criteria for roads to be designated SIS (state roads). Charlotte County believes there are roads within Charlotte County that meet the criteria to be designated state roads.
 - Amend the Florida Statutes regulating public railroad-highway grade crossings so that the railroad company shall provide a detailed cost estimate to county government.
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Public Safety

- Provide equitable state funding for juvenile justice programs.
 - Ensure local authority and flexibility to protect the community through local ordinances to regulate pain clinics.
 - Oppose the state shifting inmates with less than a year on their sentence at the time of sentencing to jails instead of prisons.
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Public Health and Environment

- Amend Public Service Commission statute – Certificate of authorization; application and amendment procedures; and that the Commission be bound by the local government comprehensive plan. (Amend FS 367.045(5)(b))
- Modify reclaimed water permit to require that reclaimed water is to be used if it is available. Charlotte County has invested a considerable amount of money to produce and deliver reclaimed water to the CCU service area.
- Support for Area I Sewer Expansion Program. Funding is needed to convert properties with old septic tank systems to a new, centralized sewer service of a county-wide project.
- ATU's – Aerobic septic treatment – eliminate state inspection fees and reduce property owner costs. Reduce ATU operating permits from 2 years to 1 year.



Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners 2013 State Legislative Agenda – continued

The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) has chosen three Legislative Priorities along with numerous policy statements for the 2013 Session:

County Share of Cost for Medicaid Services: FAC **SUPPORTS** the dissolution of the current county-state Medicaid contributory relationship in a manner that: (1) absolves counties of all financial responsibilities related to the provision of Medicaid services in Florida; (2) eliminates associated administrative burdens for the counties and the state; and, (3) equitably mitigates any potential fiscal impact for all affected parties. However, absent the identification of strategies to achieve the aforementioned goals in the referenced proscribed manner, FAC **SUPPORTS** retaining the current Medicaid billing system, but only with certain statutory modifications. At a minimum, these modifications should include: (1) allowing counties to review their bills prior to payment; (2) allowing counties to pay from a revenue source of their choosing within a specified time period; and, (3) allowing the state to withhold county revenue sharing for nonpayment within a specific time period; (4) and, requiring the state, in consultation with the counties, to develop an accurate, reliable, and equitable billing process.

Juvenile Detention: **SUPPORT** 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. **SUPPORT** recommendations of the joint Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and Florida Association of Counties Workgroup regarding juvenile detention; including but not limited to:

- Align the DJJ Detention budget with the statutory split. The Department has submitted a Legislative Budget Request for \$2.7 million that would help satisfy this recommendation;
- Clarify in statute that post-disposition detention stays, including those associated with post-disposition administrative handling, such as violations of probation and pickup orders, are not the responsibility of the county. Pre-disposition detention stays associated with violations of probation related to new charges will remain the responsibility of the county;
- Progress with detention reform, including the implementation of a scientifically validated Risk Assessment Instrument that can accurately predict the risk of reoffending and court appearance; and
- Require the DJJ to collaborate closely with the counties and achieve accountable and collaborative governance at the local level.

Communications Services Tax: **SUPPORT** amending and/or revising current law in a manner that is: 1) revenue neutral including unused capacity; 2) simplifies administration and collection of the current tax; 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.