

2020 LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

CITY OF FLAGLER BEACH FLORIDA

WATER QUALITY AND WASTE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE:

Background: Many communities continue to rely on decades-old water and wastewater infrastructure. In coastal communities, potable water lines are subject to saltwater intrusion. Corroding metal sewer system pipes and deteriorating lift stations pose a constant threat to the environment. Some communities still allow private septic systems because of the financial burden of extending sewer lines and putting the onus on its residents to pay impact fees. New wells need to be drilled to keep up with population growth and to provide the necessary water pressure for fire hydrants.

Requested Action: Increase both the number and the dollar amount of grants offered by federal and state agencies to small and rural communities in order to improve their water and waste water facilities. Provide the needed resources for communities to implement new technological improvements that will lower energy demands while meeting a higher demand.

Effect: Encourages local governments to plan their budgets properly and seek additional funding opportunities. This reduces the probability of a local facility becoming a burden to the State.

RECYCLING:

Background: In the last two (2) years the recycling cost with local vendors has increased over 90%. Vendors have stated that the market requires these increases for single stream. Local agencies have struggle with passing this cost to citizens to meet state requirements. This will require increases above and beyond expectations on local sanitation fees.

Requested Action: Legislation in 2020 to address the unfunded mandate this represents.

Effect: Without guidance from Legislation the cost will be passed to citizens.

FLAGLER BEACH RESTORATION:

Background: Flagler Beach has a tourist-dependent economy. In 2002, House Resolution 2676 provided for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to conduct a Feasibility Study of Flagler County's coastline for Beach Renourishment. The recommendation from that study was to provide shoreline protection to 2.6 miles in Flagler Beach to extend the dune 10 feet and protect SR A1A. A Joint Partnership Agreement between Flagler County and FDOT was to provide monies for the design and construction phases. On June 23, 2019, an agreement was finally signed with the ACOE for that 2.6-mile project to move forward once the reconstruction of SR A1A is completed. However, Flagler County has plans for a beach renourishment project for several miles of Flagler Beach coastline outside that of the ACOE. Additional funding is being sought from FDOT, FDEP, and the Tourist Development Fund.

Requested Action: That the State of Florida promotes the funding of beach renourishment programs through partnerships with State agencies and local governments.

Effect: The preservation of a vital recreational resource and a section of Scenic Highway State Road A1A that, through local, national and international tourism, has a high-impact, positive effect on the City's and County's economies.

CONSIDERATION TO ENSURE HOME RULE AND NO UNFUNDED FINANCIAL MANDATES TO LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES:

Background: The Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) met in 2017-2018 and recommended changes to Florida's constitution that will appear on the 2018 general election ballot. Municipalities are the only form of local government created to serve the needs and desires of its citizens. Local self-government is the keystone of American democracy and constitutional municipal home rule authority should be protected and preserved. Unexpected financial directives issued by legislators can have a negative impact on local governments. Unfunded mandates takes money away from programs intended to support or improve the quality of life of our citizens. An alternative would be to engage local governments in

program-specific partnerships with state and/or federal agencies in order to provide a level of service above and beyond the basic necessities.

Requested Action: The legislature should restrict unfunded mandates and allow for the control of municipalities to be left in the hands of their citizens and local elected officials.

Effect: Program-specific partnerships with cost-share budgets helps cities direct funding to projects particular to the local economy.

TIMELY REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA FOR FEMA OBLIGATED PROJECTS:

Background: Cities are spending their reserves to fund necessary repairs as a result of declared emergencies. The State has the funds to reimburse the obligated Project Work Orders, yet the reimbursements trickle in, whilst the city accounts continue to dwindle.

Requested Action: Department of Emergency management (DEM) to assist cities to have the ability to receive some funds in advance of an expensive project approved or obligated to allow for a low interest loan to implement the project.

Effect: The depleted reserves, a result of not being reimbursed, may delete or delay scheduled capital projects, causing cities to be less prepared for ensuing declared emergencies.