

Regular Workshop – September 24, 2012
Agenda Item 12

Agenda Item: Legislative Priorities

Presenter: Town Manager

Summary: Each year Sarasota and Manatee Counties host legislative delegation meetings to identify issues of local importance for the upcoming legislative sessions. This item is placed on the Town Commission workshop agenda to provide an opportunity to discuss and forward items of interest to Longboat Key to the County Legislative Delegations as well as to the ManaSota League of Cities.

Attachments: 9-17-12 Memo, Manager to Commission;
10-6-11 Letter, Commissioner Duncan to ManaSota League;
10-6-11 Letter, Mayor Brown to Senator Bennett;
10-6-11 Letter, Mayor Brown to Representative Holder;
Sarasota County 2013 State Legislative Priorities.

Recommended Action: Pending discussion, provide direction to Manager.

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: September 17, 2012

TO: Town Commission
FROM: Dave Bullock, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Legislative Priorities

Each year the legislative delegations for Manatee and Sarasota Counties ask the community for input regarding the legislative issues for the upcoming year. In the past these issues have been decided by the Town Commission at a workshop meeting.

The ManaSota League of Cities has asked that the Town forward legislative priorities for consideration at their October Board Meeting. For your reference, attached are the Commission approved priorities submitted to ManaSota League, Sarasota County and Manatee County regarding Longboat Key's 2011 -12 legislative priorities.

The County-sponsored Legislative Delegation Meetings are not the only opportunity the Town has to present information to the legislative delegation. In fact, if the Town has a serious concern about any particular issue it is recommended that a more directed lobbying effort be made.

For your reference, I have attached a copy of the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners' 2013 State Legislative Priorities. Manatee County has indicated they will establish their legislative priorities sometime in October.

Staff will provide Commissioners with details of the Manatee and Sarasota County Legislative Delegation meetings as soon as schedules are confirmed.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY

Incorporated November 14, 1955

Town Hall
501 Bay Isles Road
Longboat Key, Florida 34228-3196
(941) 316-1999
SUNCOM 516-2760
Fax (941) 316-1656
www.longboatkey.org

October 6, 2011

ManaSota League of Cities
c/o Pamela Nadalini, City Auditor and Clerk
City of Sarasota
P.O. Box 1058
Sarasota, FL 34230

Dear Ms. Nadalini,

At their October 3, 2011 Regular Meeting the Town Commission took formal action to establish the legislative priorities for presentation to the ManaSota League of Cities, the Manatee County Legislative Delegation and the Sarasota County Legislative Delegation.

As the Town's representative, and on behalf of the Mayor and Town Commission, I am forwarding the attached list for consideration at the October 2011, ManaSota League of Cities Meeting.

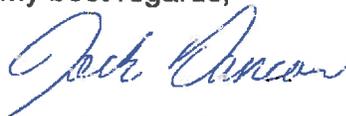
2011-2012 Town of Longboat Key Legislative Priorities (Not in Order of Priority)

1. Support amendment to 163.3167(12) to provide for glitch language allowing local governments to retain certain referenda processes related to land use planning that were in place as of June 1, 2011.
2. Oppose legislation that allows oil drilling off the West coast of Florida.
3. Support State funding for research, control, and mitigation of Red Tide.
4. Support State funding for beach nourishment.
5. Support State authorization of other revenue sources beyond our present sources.
6. Support establishment of numeric nutrient criteria for Florida waterbodies to be retained by the State of Florida rather than the Federal government.
7. Oppose unfunded mandates on local governments.
8. Support reform on the method of tax assessments on non-homesteaded and commercial properties including capping annual increases.

9. Oppose legislation that erodes home rule powers of local governments.
10. Support legislation to provide for the protection of sea grasses in Sarasota Bay.
11. Support reasonable insurance premiums and limit State financial exposure.
12. Oppose pre-emption of County and municipality authority to regulate the use of fertilizer.
13. Support full funding of the Affordable Housing Program
14. Support the efforts of the Sarasota Bay Watch to establish Sister Keys as an aquatic preserve.
15. Support legislation to modify the appointment process relating to the composition of the Board of Trustees for the Firefighters' and Police Officers' Pension Funds to provide for local municipal Commissions/ Councils to appoint three Board members or place restrictions or provide additional authority to the sponsoring entity on the election and approval of the fifth (at-large) member of the Pension Board.
16. Support legislation to authorize governmental entities to utilize their publicly accessible websites for legally required advertisements and public notices in lieu of current requirements for notices to be placed in newspapers of daily circulation.

I look forward to participating in the October 2011 ManaSota League Meeting for discussion of these and other issues that come forward from our other members.

My best regards,



Jack Duncan, Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

cc: ManaSota League of Cities Vice-President Jones
Longboat Key Town Commission



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October 6, 2011

The Honorable Senator Michael Bennett
Chair, Manatee County Legislative Delegation
3653 Cortez Road W, Suite 90
Bradenton, FL 34210

Dear Senator Bennett,

At their October 3, 2011 Regular Meeting the Town Commission took formal action to establish the legislative priorities for presentation to the Manatee County Legislative Delegation, the Sarasota County Legislative Delegation and the Manasota League of Cities.

On behalf of the Town Commission, I am forwarding the attached list for consideration at the Thursday, October 27, 2011 Manatee County Legislative Delegation Hearing.

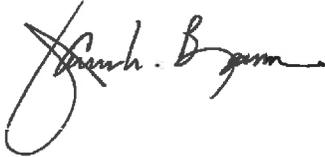
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I look forward to participating in the October 27, 2011 Manatee County Legislative Delegation Hearing to present these issues on behalf of the Town of Longboat Key.

My best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Brown". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jim Brown
Mayor

Cc: Longboat Key Town Commission



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October 6, 2011

The Honorable Representative Doug Holder
Chair, Sarasota County Legislative Delegation
8486 S. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34238

Dear Representative Holder,

At their October 3, 2011 Regular Meeting the Town Commission took formal action to establish the legislative priorities for presentation to the Sarasota County Legislative Delegation, the Manatee County Legislative Delegation and the ManaSota League of Cities.

On behalf of the Town Commission, I am forwarding the attached list for consideration at the Monday, November 7, 2011 Sarasota County Legislative Delegation Hearing.

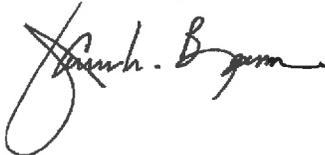
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I look forward to participating in the Monday, November 7, 2011 Sarasota County Legislative Delegation Hearing to present these issues on behalf of the Town of Longboat Key.

My best regards,

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Jim Brown
Mayor

Cc: Longboat Key Town Commission

COMMUNITY BASED GOVERNANCE: *Refrain from unfunded mandates, cost shifts or preemptions of local authority—respect home rule and charter county authority*

JOBS CREATION and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: *Partner with local governments in investing in infrastructure, promoting sustainable economic and community development, and creating jobs*

- Provide tools for local governments to attract economic development, fund infrastructure, and create jobs
- Do not negatively impact local community economic recovery efforts by enacting policies and revenue restrictions that jeopardize local bond ratings
- Leverage state dollars by funding local construction projects including the Venice Bypass, River Road, non SIS state highways and arterial roads --Do not raid the State Transportation Trust Fund
- Develop a state energy strategy and enact policies that help local governments achieve job creation and economic development in the renewable energy, energy efficiency, green building, low impact development, and sustainable mobility sectors
- Do not pursue offshore drilling in Florida Waters, preserve tourism economy by protecting our clean beaches/shores
- Partner in funding and establishing a world class rowing facility at the Aquatic Nature Center at Nathan Benderson Park as a significant economic engine for our community and the state.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY: *Avoid unintended consequences from budget cuts, ensure a fair, efficient fiscal and tax structure, and provide local flexibility to address needs and fund infrastructure*

- Retain local/community control for local revenues and budgets, and protect local bond ratings—no caps
- Do not address state budget shortfalls through cost shifts to local governments
- Property Tax Reform—Ensure any reforms establish a fair tax system for all taxpayers and preserve county ability to provide services
- Sales Tax Reform --expand the general revenue base by reducing the number of sales tax exemptions and collect sales tax on internet sales
- Online Travel Services --collect state and local taxes on the full retail cost of internet travel purchases
- Communications Services Tax--Retain local/community authority for setting thresholds and administration
- Local Business Taxes—protect local authority to administer the tax to meet community needs such as funding economic development

PUBLIC SAFETY: *Ensure local government flexibility and resources to protect the public*

- Retain local authority for pretrial release programs
- Provide equitable state funding for juvenile justice programs
- Fund an additional magistrate in Sarasota County to handle significant case load backlogs and improve judicial system efficiency and management
- Ensure local authority and flexibility to protect the community through local ordinances to regulate pain clinics

PUBLIC HEALTH and ENVIRONMENT: *Ensure local government flexibility to provide health and environmental services essential to community health and prosperity*

- Revise state law to ensure an accurate Medicaid system relative to assessing Medicaid expenditures for each county's share of cost for nursing home and hospital services.
- Do not implement the Medicaid Managed Care Program in any manner that increases costs to counties or negatively impacts services and access
- In making budget reductions, protect our most vulnerable citizens
- Maintain county authority to protect natural resources and public health
- Partner with the county in funding the Phillippi Creek Septic Tank Replacement Program (from Ecosystem Management/Restoration TF)



End of Agenda Item