



## 2016 Legislative Priorities

Thank you for inviting us to participate in this annual Manatee County Legislative Delegation Hearing. We realize you have a tough time in Tallahassee addressing very significant issues for our great State and local communities.

You and your fellow Delegation Members have always been supportive of Longboat Key issues and we sincerely respect the efforts you've made on our behalf.

This year, we again extend our gratitude and look forward to another mutually supportive relationship. You've been provided our complete priority list but due to the number of speakers present today we will highlight a select few that are significant to Longboat Key.

1. Support changes to existing State Law relating to vacation rentals that permit grandfathered local governments to modify existing short term vacation rental regulations.  
Longboat Key has had a short term rental law for many years and is grandfathered under the State law prohibiting local governments from adopting these. We are in the process of updating all of our Codes but are concerned that even minor changes would invalidate this long standing ordinance that is important to Longboat Key.
2. Oppose legislation that mandates local governments incur the cost of relocating utility equipment when the utility equipment is located within a public utility easement and needed to be relocated for transportation purposes or for non-transportation purposes regardless of the location.
3. Support the maintenance of local business tax, communications services tax, and tax exempt municipal bonds.  
Local business tax and communication services tax are important revenue sources for Longboat Key. We use these revenues to help pay for the Town services our residents enjoy.
4. Support legislation that provides opportunities for increased and alternative revenue sources for municipal transportation infrastructure projects.
5. Support State funding for beach nourishment.  
Thank you for your support for beach and inlet funding we received last session. Beaches are a central element to the State's economy and to Longboat Key. Please continue to support beach nourishment funding. We are working hard to maintain our beaches for recreation and for storm protection and we appreciate that you all have supported this funding.
6. Support legislation that recognizes and addresses sea level rise concerns.  
Places like Longboat Key will be the first to feel the effect of sea level rise. Portions of our island are very low and even extremely high tides can flood our roads and our homes. Some State level leadership and coordination around this issue is appropriate. It is very difficult for small communities to know what the best planning practices are in anticipation of sea level rise.
7. Support legislation that encourages water quality preservation and enhancement.
8. Support future funding of the Town's subaqueous wastewater line replacement project through BP Funds and/or Amendment 1 funds.
9. Oppose legislation that pre-empts local government home rule authority relating to impact fees.
10. Support legislation that allows governments to advertise public meetings exclusively through websites.
11. Support State funding for the purchase of lands for conservation (Florida Forever) and recreation (Florida Communities Trust).

Thank you again for this invitation and for allowing us time to present Longboat Key's priorities.