

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Town Commission
From: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
Report date: September 7, 2021
Meeting date: September 13, 2021
Subject: Establishing the Town's 2022 Legislative Priorities

Recommended Action

Establish the Town of Longboat Key Legislative Priorities for the 2022 Legislative Session

Background

Each year the Town Commission considers legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session and for presentation at the Manatee and Sarasota County Legislative Delegation Hearings.

Attached are the proposed 2022 Town of Longboat Key Legislative Priorities. The items listed are consistent with the Town's 2021 Legislative Priorities with a couple of minor updates and additions including gas tax replacement for the expanding inventory of Electric Vehicles and a Legislative solution to address building structural issues in the aftermath of the Surfside incident. This year the Town Attorney and I did edit and consolidate several of the items to end up with a manageable list of priorities and maintain our one-page priority list. We have also placed them in an initial DRAFT order for the Commission's review and prioritization. It was difficult to track in a red line edit format, so last year's list is included for reference.

The Town Manager and Town Attorney reviewed the list with David Ramba, the Town's lobbyist, and agreed the list is still relevant for the 2022 Legislative Session with the noted additions. The proposed 2022 Legislative Priorities will be presented for Commission consideration at the September 13, 2021 Regular Meeting. We can add, subtract, or edit any of the items on the list. We will also ask if the Commission would like to adjust the order of the items on the list to reflect a particular priority.

The Florida League of Cities 2022 Legislative Action Agenda is attached for reference. The ManaSota League of Cities 2022 Legislative priorities will be discussed and adopted at their 9:30 am September 9, 2021 Meeting and will be provided to Commissioners via an e-mail transmittal following adoption. Sarasota County and Manatee County's 2022 Legislative Priorities have not been finalized at this time.

Upon adoption, the Mayor and Town Manager will present the Town's Legislative Priorities at the Sarasota County and Manatee County Legislative Delegation Hearings. The Sarasota County Legislative Delegation Hearing will occur on Thursday, September

30, 2021 at 9:00AM. At this time, the date for the Manatee County Legislative Delegation Hearing has not yet been announced.

Staff Recommendation

Establish the Town of Longboat Key's Legislative Priorities for the 2022 Legislative Session.

Attachments

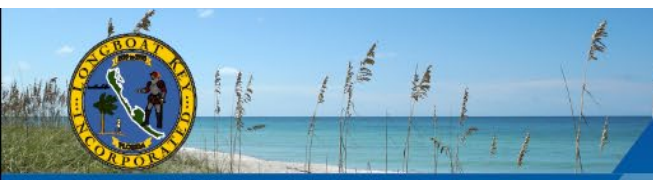
- A. Town of Longboat Key's 2021 Legislative Priorities
- B. Proposed 2022 Town of Longboat Key Legislative Priorities
- C. Florida League of Cities 2022 Legislative Action Agenda



2021 Legislative Priorities

TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY

- Seek Grants and Legislative Appropriation Support for funding of a major capital project to install a redundant subaqueous wastewater line connecting Longboat Key to the Manatee County treatment plant on the mainland.
- Support legislation and funding that recognizes and addresses the implementation of comprehensive adaptation strategies related to sea level rise concerns.
- Support State funding for beach nourishment.
- Advance funding for implementation of immediate and long-term recommendations identified in the Barrier Island Traffic Study to address significant seasonal traffic issues.
- Support legislation to protect Evacuation Routes. Proposed transportation projects should protect or enhance timely evacuations, particularly for the State's barrier island residents.
- Support legislation that provides opportunities for increased and alternative revenue sources for municipal transportation infrastructure projects.
- Support legislation and/or action by the Florida Department of Transportation to enhance the existing mid-block crossings on Gulf of Mexico Drive to address serious safety issues experienced with the existing lights and signage.
- Support a State-wide unified approach to improve water quality with an emphasis on the elimination of harmful algal blooms and improved coordination on monitoring and research efforts.
- Support changes to existing State law relating to vacation rentals that permit grandfathered local governments to modify existing short-term vacation rental regulations.
- Support consideration for local control to continue and expand the use of virtual /remote public meetings and related quorum requirements.
- Support the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government (OPPAGA) conducting an independent evaluation of the unique impacts (financial, practical and efficiency) of being in two counties.
- Oppose legislation that pre-empts local governments' home rule authority, including legislation relating to local impact fees.
- Support the maintenance of local business tax, communications services tax, and tax-exempt municipal bonds.
- Support legislation to expand usage of collected tourist (bed) taxes for both public safety services and infrastructure maintenance, repair, and replacement in municipalities where substantial portions of a county's tourist taxes are collected.
- Support clarification on ADA document compliance - the Department of Justice is in the process of developing regulations to provide specific guidance to the entities covered by the ADA, however they have yet to provide a final standard / set of regulations. Organizations are mostly using (WCAG 2.0) as a guide.



Proposed 2022 Legislative Priorities

TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY

- Seek Grants and Legislative Appropriation Support for funding of a major capital project to install a redundant subaqueous wastewater line connecting Longboat Key to the Manatee County treatment plant on the mainland.
- Support legislation and funding that recognizes and addresses the implementation of adaptation strategies related to sea level rise concerns.
- Support State funding for beach nourishment.
- Support increased funding for planning and construction of transportation related improvements to address Longboat Key's traffic congestion and ingress/egress issues including:
 - Implementation of the Barrier Island Traffic Study recommendations to address significant seasonal traffic issues;
 - Evacuation route protection; and
 - Safety enhancements for Gulf of Mexico Drive pedestrian crossings.
- Support a State-wide approach to the monitoring and inspection of multi-story, multi-family, residential buildings, especially in coastal areas.
- Support legislation that provides for local control of issues on the waterways within the jurisdictional limits of a municipality.
- Support a State-wide unified approach to improve water quality, eliminate or minimize harmful algal blooms, and improve monitoring and research coordination.
- Support changes to existing State law relating to vacation rentals that permit grandfathered local governments to modify existing short-term vacation rental regulations.
- Support the expanded use of virtual /remote meeting technology by local governments for public meetings and related quorum requirements.
- Review the 2021 OPPAGA report on the challenges of being in two counties and consider ways to address issues including inefficiencies, duplication of service, and taxation.
- Oppose legislation that pre-empts local governments' home rule authority, including legislation relating to local impact fees and local home-based occupation regulations.
- Support the preservation and expansion of existing state sponsored municipal funding sources including local business tax, communications services tax, tax-exempt municipal bonds, tourist (bed) taxes and gas taxes that support municipal infrastructure maintenance, repair and replacements.
- Support long term efforts to identify sustainable transportation funding for local governments including alternatives to gas tax revenues as part of the transition to electric vehicles.

2022 FLC Legislative Action Agenda

Priorities

Communications Services Tax Reform

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS reforming the Communications Services Tax in a manner that is revenue neutral; provides for a broad and equitable tax base; provides for enhanced stability and reliability of an important revenue source for municipalities; and provides for a uniform taxing method. Reform should promote a competitively neutral tax policy that will free consumers to choose a provider based on tax-neutral considerations.

Economic Development Incentives

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation and policies that encourage coordination among Enterprise Florida, the Department of Economic Opportunity, other state agencies and cities to promote local economic development by providing increased funding, technical assistance and increased collaboration between the state and cities on offering incentives that maximize economic development opportunities for retention, expansion, and attraction, and building sustainable economic resiliency.

Short-Term Rentals

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that restores authority to local governments for the regulation of short-term rental properties as necessary for quality of life, public safety and a fair lodging marketplace. The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation clarifying that existing, grandfathered municipal short-term rental ordinances can be amended without penalty. The Florida League of Cities OPPOSES legislation that preempts municipal authority as it relates to the regulation of short-term rental properties.

Transportation Funding

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation:

- Directing the Florida Department of Transportation to establish a grant program to provide financial assistance for the installation of publicly available electric vehicle charging infrastructure on public or private property
- Providing technical assistance for the development and adoption of local or regional plans for charging infrastructure and associated equipment
- Identifying additional transportation revenue to support innovative infrastructure and transit projects to meet the surging transportation demands driven by dramatic growth throughout Florida.

Tree Protection

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation to close loopholes and create standards in current law exemptions from municipal tree ordinances that have caused litigation and abuses, including the clear-cutting of land pre-development and the removal of healthy trees that present little, if any, risk to persons or structures. Current law should be amended to apply only to developed single-family residential property, identify industry-appropriate standards for assessing tree risk and identify necessary documentation.

Policy Positions/Other issues of importance

Local Business Tax Preservation

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that preserves general revenues collected from the local business tax. These revenues are used to fund essential municipal services such as public safety, and constructing and maintaining roads and bridges, public parks and open spaces. Maintaining a diversified revenue base also strengthens the fiscal stability of municipalities and improves their respective ability to serve citizens and businesses.

Annexation

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that facilitates the municipal annexation of unincorporated areas while protecting private property rights and respecting municipal boundaries.

Cybersecurity

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation dedicating state resources for the development and enhancement of municipal cybersecurity by providing funding for technical assistance, threat assessments, employee training, infrastructure improvements and data protection, including the protection of exempt and confidential information such as law enforcement personnel information and security plans for government buildings and other key critical infrastructure.

Affordable Housing

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that requires all money from the Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Fund be used only for Florida's affordable housing programs targeted to meet the needs of workforce housing, including low income, very low income and disabled persons, for both home ownership and rental unit availability.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislative action to address growing concerns about PFAS in soil and water, including coordinating with the Environmental Protection Agency to establish science-based cleanup target levels, providing resources for testing and research, public education and risk assessment guidelines, establishing liability protection for entities that have legally used PFAS for fire suppression or have passively received PFAS, and developing cost-effective and risk-based corrective strategies for PFAS.

End of Agenda Item