



# Town of Longboat Key

## 2022 Annual Report



**Premier Community, Exceptional Service**



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## The 2022 Town Commission

The Town has a Commission/Manager form of government. Seven Commissioners are elected for three-year terms. Elections are held annually as terms expire. Each year, the Town Commission selects a Commissioner to serve as the Mayor. The Town has five Commission districts and two At-Large Commission seats. All Commissioners are elected Town-wide. The Town Manager is appointed by the Commission and administers the daily operations of the Town through appointed department heads.



**Left to right (back row):** Mike Haycock, Commissioner At Large; Sherry Dominick, Commissioner District 1; Penny Gold, Commissioner District 2; Debra Williams, Commissioner District 4;

**Left to right (front row):** Maureen Merrigan, Vice Mayor & District 5 Commissioner; Ken Schneier, Mayor & District 3 Commissioner; B.J. Bishop, Commissioner at Large.

### Vision

Longboat Key is a beautiful place to live, work, and visit where the natural assets of a barrier island combine with cultural and recreational amenities, visionary planning, and proactive leadership to enhance your way of life.

### Mission

To vigorously maintain and preserve Longboat Key’s status as a premier residential and visitor destination that supports the historic balance between residential, recreational, tourism, and commercial attributes, through a commitment to long-term and short-term planning excellence and measurable results.



# Message from the Town Manager

I am honored to provide the 2022 Town of Longboat Key Annual Report, one of my final tasks as my time with the Town winds down. It has been another busy but productive year.

In January 2022, we initiated our third Citizen Satisfaction survey. The overall results indicated that 99% of respondents rated the overall quality of life on Longboat Key as “excellent” or “good.”

The Utilities Undergrounding Project is nearing completion. Final switch orders, conversions, and FPL work to remove the existing wires and poles will occur into the first half of 2023. Overall the project remains on schedule and under budget.



Tom Harmer

We were also able to work with Verizon to improve cell coverage on the island and are in current discussions with AT&T to enhance their system.

In 2022, we successfully hosted nine events on the Town Center property, including three concerts, three markets, and an art festival. Construction began on Phase 2 of the Outdoor Venue at the Town Center including the addition of the privately funded Karon Family Pavilion. We also received a \$1M commitment from Sarasota County to start the planning for a new community center/library on the site.

A number of studies are being completed as we close out 2022. They include the GMD Corridor Study, Broadway roundabout design, the Sea Level Rise Study, and the drainage studies in Sleepy Lagoon and Buttonwood Harbour.

Financially, we continue to maintain an excellent AA+ rating from S&P Global Ratings and were awarded a Certificate of Excellence for our annual audit for the 40th year. The Town was able to reduce the operating property tax millage this year by 5.9%.

During the month of September, Hurricane Ian made landfall on the west coast of Florida causing relatively minor damage here on the island, a few days of disruption with an evacuation order, and water, sewer and power shut downs, but overall, the Town experienced only minor damages. It highlighted how fortunate we were as the storm made landfall farther south than first forecasted.

These and other accomplishments are highlighted in this report in addition to a high-level snapshot of the revenue, expenses, and Capital Improvement Plan from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022 (FY22). Finally, the report also provides a look at our 2023 initiatives and legislative priorities.

It is my fifth and final year serving as your Town Manager and I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the current and former Town Commission, Department Heads, and all Town staff for their support and efforts toward maintaining and safeguarding the outstanding quality of life that the citizens of Longboat Key have come to expect. I hope you enjoy looking back on 2022. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you over the past five years.



# Strategic Plan

# Capital Improvement Program

## Strategic Plan Goals



Community Character, Fiscal Sustainability, Environmental / Resiliency, Infrastructure, Services

### Top Commission Priorities

- \* Complete outdoor Town Center venue Phase 2 improvements, including stage (FY23).
- \* Advance concept of a community center with a public library, adult education, and a multipurpose space on the south parcel at Town Center. Evaluate parking (FY23).
- \* Advance GMD corridor plan concept. As part of the study, evaluate future plans for pedestrian crossings (FY23).
- \* Establish funding methodology for canals and long-range navigational maintenance program (FY23).
- \* Seek State and Federal appropriations to offset costs for a sub-aqueous wastewater line and other major capital projects (FY23).
- \* Pursue FDOT action to improve conditions of multi-use trail along GMD (FY23).
- \* Advance planning with Sarasota County for Community Center Library (FY23).
- \* Seek a unified public transit system on the island (FY23).

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the Town of Longboat Key is a community plan for short- and long-range physical development. It is intended to link the community's comprehensive vision plan with a fiscal plan and provide a mechanism for estimating capital requirements; planning, prioritizing, scheduling, and implementing projects; developing revenue policies for proposed improvements; budgeting high priority projects and keeping the public informed. Capital project funds are multi-year budgets. Amounts unexpended and open Purchase Orders are carried over to the following year budgets.

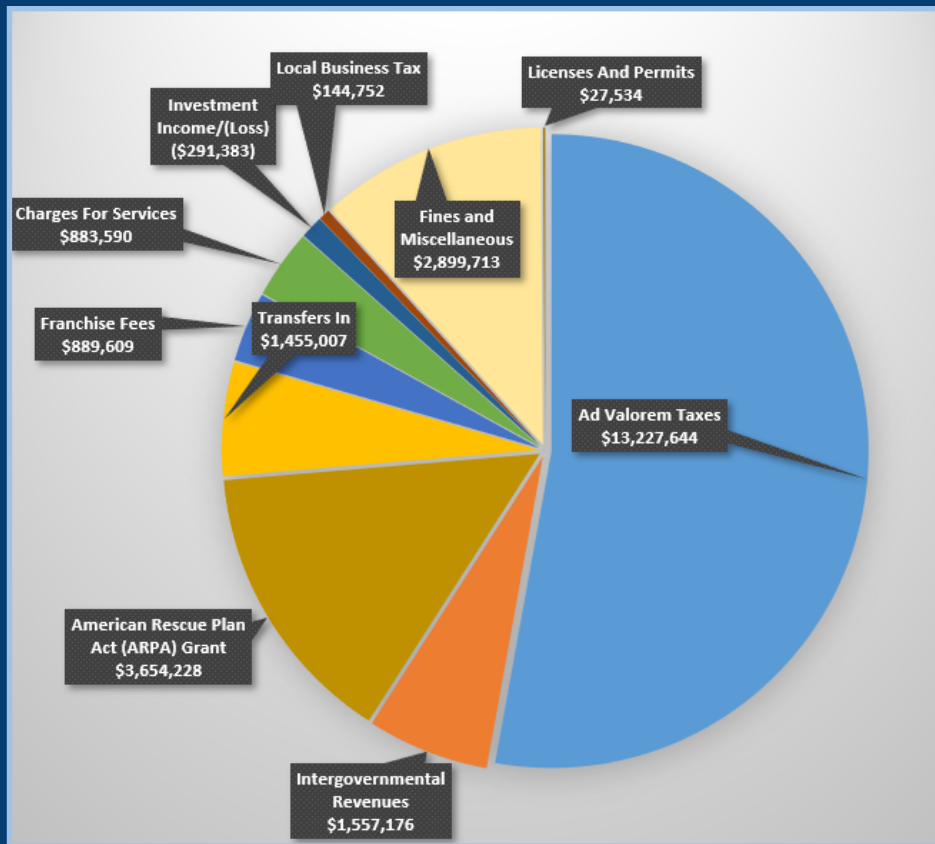
Description	FY22 Budget
General Fund Ad Valorem Tax	\$ 1,264,093
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 75,000
Sarasota Infrastructure Fund	\$ 687,835
Law Enforcement Fund (LETF)	\$ 25,000
Miscellaneous Grant Fund	\$ 27,718
Manatee Infrastructure Fund	\$ 275,498
Facilities (Fire Station) Capital Fund	\$ 541,708
Streets Capital Fund	\$ 1,362,969
Land Acquisition Fund	\$ 1,132,023
Beach Capital Fund	\$ 20,582,511
Canal Fund	\$ 843,776
Parks & Recreation Capital Fund	\$ 245,567
GMD Undergrounding	\$ 18,929,757
Neighborhood Undergrounding	\$ 14,930,990
Building Fund	\$ 32,000
Utility Capital Fund	\$ 6,557,557
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 67,514,002</b>



# FY22 Financial Information

The charts on the following pages represent General Fund pre-close, unaudited revenue, operating and capital expenditures for FY22. The Town of Longboat Key's fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30.

Revenues	2022 Actuals
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$13,227,644
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$1,557,176
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant	\$3,654,228
Transfers In	\$1,455,007
Franchise Fees	\$889,609
Charges For Services	\$883,590
Investment Income / (Loss)	(\$291,577)
Local Business Tax	\$144,752
Fines and Miscellaneous	\$2,899,713
Licenses And Permits	\$27,534
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,447,870</b>



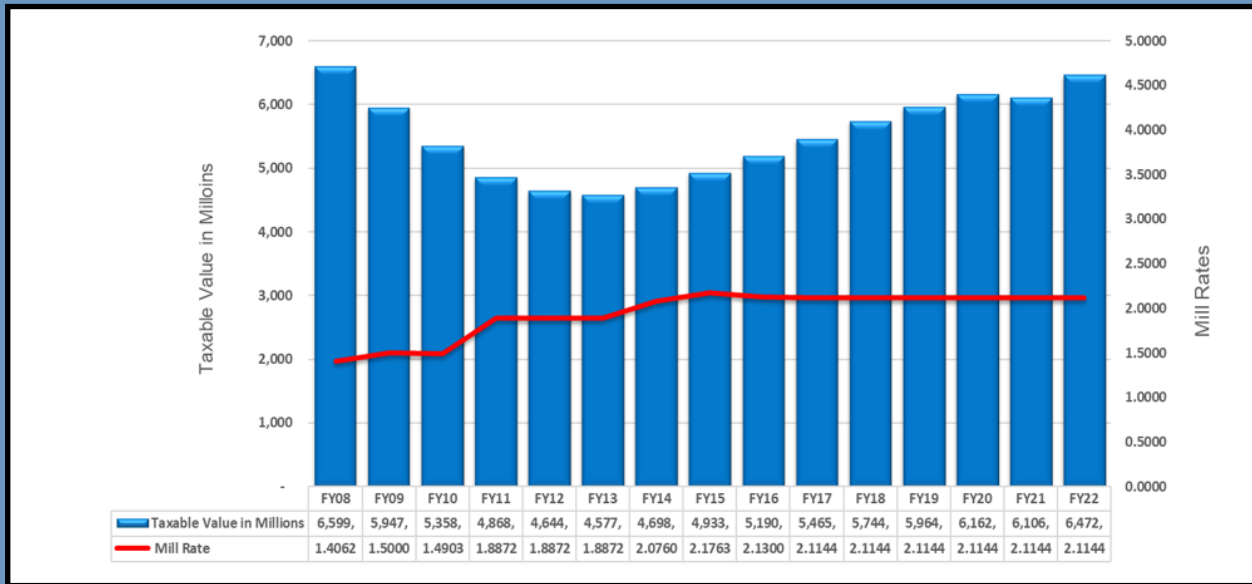
# Revenue



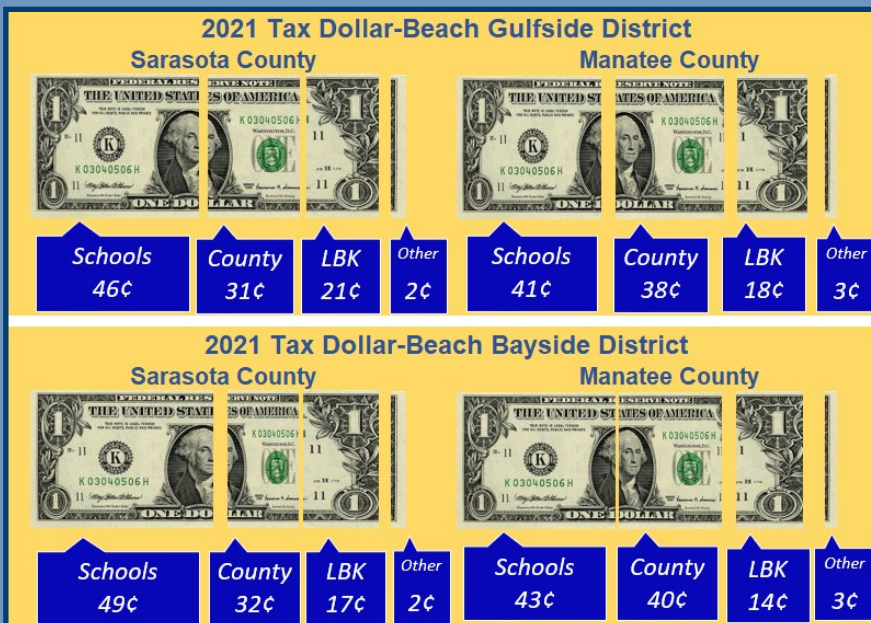
# Your tax dollars at work

## Assessed Valuations / Millage Rates / Property Tax

The value of all taxable property is assessed as of January 1 of each year. Sarasota and Manatee County Property Appraisers provide the Town with preliminary estimates of taxable values on or before June 1 of each year. Certification of the tax rolls occurs on July 1 of each year. Due to the recession, taxable values declined every year from 2009 through 2013 and showed the first sign of improvement in 2014. The combined certified assessed value on July 1 was \$6,472,621,158 increasing 5.99% (5.17% Sarasota County and 6.36% Manatee County).



The chart above shows a fifteen-year history of taxable values since 2008.

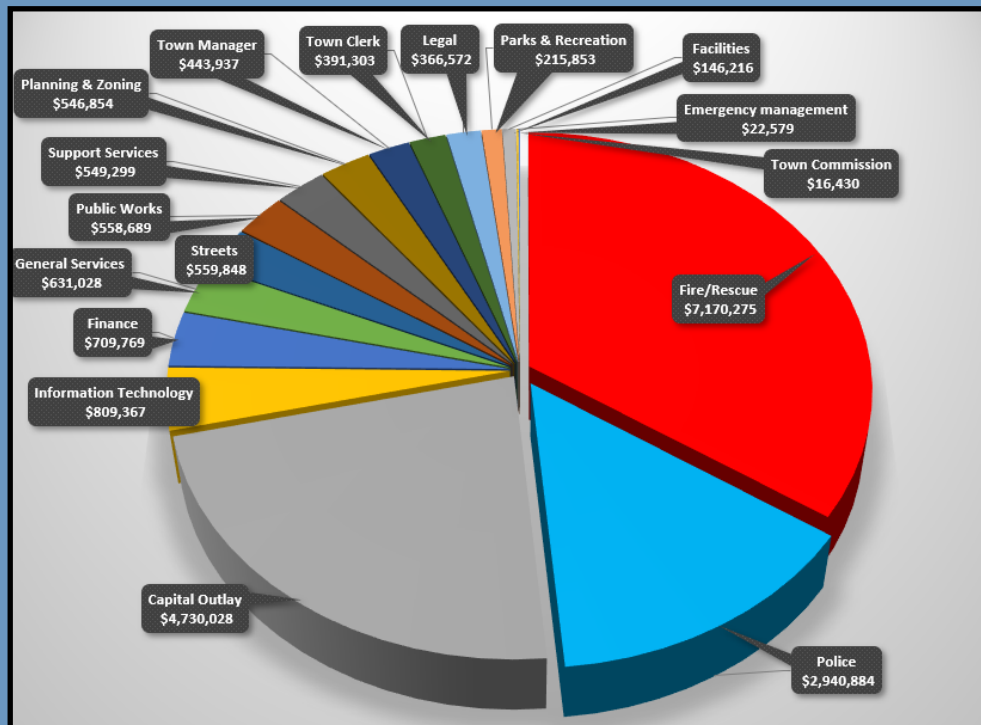


The charts on the left illustrate what your tax dollar supports depending on where you reside on Longboat Key and within which County.



# Your tax dollars at work

Expenditures FY22	2022 Actuals (unaudited)
Fire/Rescue	\$7,170,275
Police	\$2,940,884
Capital Outlay	4,730,028
Information Technology	\$809,367
Finance	\$709,769
General Services	\$631,028
Streets	\$559,848
Public Works	\$558,689
Support Services	\$549,299
Planning & Zoning	\$546,854
Town Manager	\$443,937
Town Clerk	\$391,303
Legal	\$366,572
Parks and Recreation	\$215,853
Facilities	\$146,216
Emergency Management	\$22,579
Town Commission	\$16,430
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$20,808,931</b>



**Expenditures**



# 2022 Accomplishments

- Maintained AA+ Rating from S&P Global.
- Obtained Award (40th) for a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).
- Adopted a debt management policy.
- Completed Utility Rate study and implemented 5 Year Rate increase for long-term needs.
- Collected \$2.69 million from Manatee County for beach renourishment.
- Implemented automated credit card payments for utility bills.
- Retained Class 3 ISO Building Code Effectiveness Rating.
- Fire Department retained Class 2 Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating.
- Purchased a new fire/rescue beach vehicle.
- Updated fire inspection fees.
- Acquired a services contract for enhanced monitoring of on-line residential rentals.
- Acquired new electronic plan review software.
- Completed the Town's Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report.
- Developed a Zoning Code user-guide.
- Adopted Public Bathing/Motor Boats Prohibited areas adjacent to Greer Island.
- NPDES & CRS (Stormwater) Program audited.
- Updated Code Enforcement Chapter, Procurement Chapter, the Flood Control Ordinance, Sound Ordinance, and the Telecommunications Ancillary Equipment & Pole Spacing Ordinance.
- Verizon Small Cell Wireless enhancements approved.
- Approved St. Regis- Building Permits.
- Digitized 116,058 Town records.
- Held Annual Community Open House in Bayfront Park.
- Conducted 2022 Citizens Academy of Government.
- Completed the Gulf of Mexico Drive (GMD) Complete Streets Corridor Plan.
- Conducted short-term sand spit removal project at the eastern tip of Greer Island.
- Secured FDOT commitment to enhance Country Club Shores and Bayfront Park mid-block RRFB crossings to pedestrian hybrid beacons and enhanced North Shore Road crossing with in-pavement LED lighting.
- Started construction of the Town Center Outdoor Venue Phase 2 project including the donor-funded "Karon Family Pavilion."





# 2022 Accomplishments

- Completed Joan M. Durante Park boardwalk repairs.
- Received a \$2.7M Innovation Grant from FPL.
- Received \$123,000 donation from Ms. Irene K. Hess to add artificial turf to big dog park at Bayfront Park.
- Substantial completion of the Town's portion of the island wide undergrounding project. Working with the contractor and FPL on Phase 2, 3, and 4 energizing to completion.
- All Hurricane Ian related debris picked up within 30 days of storm.
- Initiated condition assessment on existing sub-aqueous force main pipeline.
- Received additional \$800,000 State appropriation to add to the \$1.25 million previous State allocation for force main preservation (lining) project on mainland. Lining project planned to begin construction December 2022.
- Finalized construction documents and technical specifications for Country Club Shores Asbestos Cement Pipe Replacement Project. Project to bid in 2023.
- Completed Lift Station "E" major wet well rehabilitation.
- Initiated process for the Police Department to become an accredited agency.
- Implemented a de-escalation simulator program within the Police Department.
- Replaced four Police patrol vehicles.
- Completed Ante-Chambers AV redesign.
- Implemented DocuSign to increase efficiency for signature processes.
- Successfully facilitated nine events held at Town Center.
- Received \$3,654,228 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to be used for sub-aqueous wastewater line and sea level rise related projects.
- Adoption of Smoking Prohibitions in Town Parks and Beaches.
- Completed North Shore Beach Access beautification.



# Looking Ahead

## 2023 Projects and Initiatives

- Close out of Undergrounding Project.
- Development of Assessment Funding Program for Canal Dredge Maintenance.
- Seeking modification to Sarasota County Interlocal Agreement for additional 6th penny on Tourist Development Tax.
- Continue collection and oversight of Major Grants/Contributions:
  - FEMA – Hurricane Ian Recovery
  - Sub-aqueous Force Main \$2,050,000
  - Town Center Stage \$860,736
  - Barancik Foundation – Police Accreditation \$274,850
  - Rotary Dog Park Artificial Turf \$123,000
  - Broadway Roundabout Design \$150,000
  - WCIND Grants \$111,429
- Complete Comprehensive Plan amendments process by Spring of 2023.
- Property Maintenance Code Update to incorporate the model International Property Maintenance Code.
- Implement statutory requirements to recertify buildings 3-stories or greater for structural integrity by end of fiscal year 2023. Implementation includes public outreach plan.
- Implement Residential Rental Registration program.
- Continue Town Code updates including exemptions to Sound Ordinance (natural & home equipment sounds) & Sign Code (flag definition).
- Provide review and recommendations on Town’s Parks and Open Space Land Acquisition funds by end of fiscal year 2023.
- Evaluate use of LiDAR data for 3D modeling of Town buildings utilizing State LiDAR database. The intent is to use this data to help confirm existing conditions as part of the Town’s built conditions certification program.
- Coordinate annual advisory board updates to the Town Commission.
- Continue to digitize Town Records.
- Finalize design of Gulf of Mexico Drive (GMD) and Broadway Street Roundabout. Pursue external construction funding with Manatee County and FDOT.
- Finalize Gulf of Mexico Drive (GMD) Complete Streets Corridor Plan and coordinate improvements with upcoming FDOT projects.
- Complete construction of initial dredge for Canal 1A and Greer Island Spit Management Plan.
- Complete construction of Town Center Outdoor Venue Phase 2 site work and donor-funded “Karon Family Pavilion.”



## 2023 Projects and Initiatives continued...

- Continue coordinating with Sarasota County Libraries to advance design of a Community Center/ Library on Town Center Phase 3 south parcel.
- Complete New Pass Groin tightening project.
- Complete construction of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Town Hall Window, Roof and Generator Project, as grant schedule and budget allow.
- Pursue grant opportunities for Sleepy Lagoon, Buttonwood and potential Village drainage improvements.
- Pursue resiliency action grants and develop applicable seawall code amendments in accordance with Comprehensive Adaptation Plan (Sea Level Rise study) recommendations.
- Finalize condition assessment and consider recommendations (if any) on existing sub-aqueous force main pipeline.
- Complete lining project on mainland portion of sub-aqueous force main.
- Obtain final U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit and State lands approval for redundant sub-aqueous force main under Sarasota Bay.
- Bid and begin construction of Country Club Shores Asbestos Cement Pipe Replacement Project.
- Continue to pursue a single, unified transit/mobility-on-demand solution for the island between Manatee County and Sarasota County.
- Continue to work with and encourage FDOT to improve the condition of the multi-use trail on the east side of Gulf of Mexico Drive.
- Work with Federal and State lobbyists, grant experts, FDOT and the two counties to pursue relevant resiliency, utility and roadway external funding opportunities to conduct projects.
- Perform an energy audit of Town facilities.
- Conduct 2023 Citizens Academy of Government.
- Assess peak and off-peak season traffic trends using outside data.
- Police Department enter into the Accreditation Contract to formally start the process to achieve accreditation within one year.
- Acquire a new 17' Zodiac Vessel to be added to Police Department Marine Fleet fully funded through WCIND Grant.



# 2023 Legislative Priorities

1. Seek Grants and Legislative Appropriation support for funding of a major capital project to install a redundant sub-aqueous wastewater line connecting Longboat Key to the Manatee County treatment plant on the mainland.
2. Support legislation and funding that recognizes and addresses the implementation of adaptation strategies related to sea level rise concerns.
3. Support State efforts to address the untenable increasing insurance rates in Florida.
4. Support a State-wide unified approach to improve water quality, eliminate or minimize harmful algal blooms, and improve monitoring and research coordination.
5. Support State funding for beach nourishment.
6. Support adoption of intergovernmental coordination requirement for development approvals and events along State Roads to mitigate adverse impacts to adjacent jurisdictions.
7. Support increased funding for planning and construction of transportation related improvements to address Longboat Key's traffic congestion and ingress/egress issues including:
  - a. Implementation of the Barrier Island Traffic Study recommendations to address significant seasonal traffic issues;
  - b. Evacuation route protection; and
  - c. Implementation of GMD Corridor Plan Complete Streets recommendations, including Safety enhancements for Gulf of Mexico Drive pedestrian crossings.
8. Support changes to existing State law relating to vacation rentals that permit grandfathered local governments to modify existing short-term vacation rental regulations.
9. Support the expanded use of virtual / remote meeting technology by local governments for public meetings and related quorum requirements for local governments that are subject to a declared state of Emergency.
10. Oppose legislation that pre-empts local governments' home rule authority.
11. 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.
12. 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.

## Get Involved

The Town of Longboat Key values the participation and input of its residents. You can play a part by checking our website and learning more about our services, attending Commission meetings, volunteering, or by applying for a position on one of our advisory boards or committees.



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