

## 2019 POLICY & LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – RESULTS

### FEDERAL PRIORITIES

#### FUNDING FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS

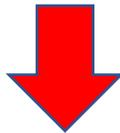
Advocate for real federal funding to build our critically needed multi-modal transportation and transit infrastructure.



The annual Transportation Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill – known as T-HUD – was released May 22, 2019 and approved the next morning by the House Committee on Appropriations THUD subcommittee. The annual spending bill contains good news for transportation with some programs receiving an increase in funding over last year. It provides solid funding for transit Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program and the competitive Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program. The bill also allocates new resources for research into emerging technologies and priorities assistance for vulnerable populations.

#### OFFSHORE DRILLING -

Oppose any change to the existing federal or state laws that relate to offshore drilling off the Florida coast in the Gulf of Mexico.



Florida voters may have spoken out against offshore drilling in 2018. But Explore Offshore, a group created by the American Petroleum Institute (API), is pushing to expand the practice throughout U.S. waters, including the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic. President Donald Trump has pushed to ease those restrictions. But waters surrounding Florida have, for now, remained off-limits to drilling. The voter-approved Amendment 9 banned offshore drilling in state waters, which extend 3 to 10 miles off Florida's coast, depending on location.

#### COASTAL MANAGEMENT –

Advocate for state and federal funding towards beach nourishment and pollution abatement.

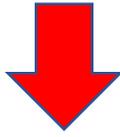


\$50M appropriated in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Charlie Christ towards beach nourishment.

## STATE PRIORITIES

### TOURISM –

Support and facilitate increased tourism throughout the state and the Tampa Bay region. Maintain the Florida Sports Foundation facilities capital budget of \$12M.



VISIT FLORIDA funding cut to \$50M for the year and will sunset on June 30, 2020. 44 staff members have lost their jobs. Need to advocate for recurring funding, a 3-5 year review cycle, return funding to original levels.

### RED TIDE MITIGATION AND PREVENTION

Support critical, scientific research initiatives focused on developing and testing red tide mitigation technologies.



State voted to appropriate \$3M per year for six years to Red Tide research and mitigation, the lion share of this money going to the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota. Congressman Charlie Crist appropriated \$10M in the U.S. House of Representatives specifically for Red Tide research and mitigation. He has stated the intent is for all that money to go publicly funded entities engaged in Red Tide alleviation.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT –

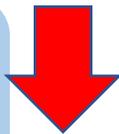
Increase funding of programs administered by Pinellas County Schools and local technical institutions that are forced on workforce development specifically Pinellas Technical College (PTC) programs and trade development programs.



HB 7071, the Workforce Education bill, created the “Strengthening Alignment between Industry and Learning to 60” (SAIL to 60) Initiative, designed to increase the percentage of working-age adults who hold a high-value postsecondary certificate, degree or training experience to 60 percent by 2030. Requires Department of Education to aid in increasing public awareness of apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship opportunities. Reconstitutes the Higher Education Coordinating Council as the Florida Talent Development Council, revising its membership, and requiring the Council to develop a strategic plan. Created the Florida Apprenticeship Grant Program to provide competitive grants to expand and enhance apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs.

### AFFORDABLE WORKFORCE HOUSING -

Oppose the use of money from the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund for any other purpose other than housing.

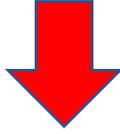


Governor DeSantis' \$91 billion budget left the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund intact, but the Legislature pushed back, appropriating \$125 million of the \$332 million that were available. In the end \$200.6 million went to housing – and \$115 million of that will go to the Florida Panhandle for Hurricane Michael victims.

In the last 20 years, governors and legislators have raided roughly \$2.2 billion from the Sadowski funds to balance the budget. Last year, for example, they raided \$182 million for school security. Since 2012, they've made \$1.2 billion worth of “sweeps,” as Tallahassee calls them.

With property values rising impressively over the last decade, the state's affordable housing crisis has worsened. And this year the Legislature weakened the ability of local governments to require that developers include affordable housing in their projects. Now consider that 44 percent of the state's families are poor or live paycheck to paycheck, according to the United Way of Florida's recent report. For the working poor, stable housing would reduce the chances of falling into poverty.

## HEALTHCARE –



House Speaker Oliva's pet project, House Bill 21 passed, eliminating the existence of the Certificates of Need (CON) program, administered by the AHCA, which requires certain health care facilities like hospitals and nursing homes to obtain authorization from the state before building new facilities or expanding services. Paves the way for what BayCare calls "the wild west" in medical care, allowing for facilities to choose patients and denying healthcare to those who aren't rich.

## ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS -

Stop unscrupulous contractors and attorneys from victimizing Florida homeowners at their most desperate hour.



Lawmakers passed House Bill 7065, one of two pieces of insurance industry-supported legislation – the other being its companion Senate Bill 122 – that Florida's insurance regulator and industry and consumer advocates say would help stem the property insurance claims abuse that is leading to higher rates for consumers. Both bills tackle the number one issue that AOB reform advocates say is fueling the abuse: Florida's one-way attorney fee statute, *Insurance Journal* previously reported. While Florida Insurance Commissioner David Altmaier in a statement called Florida unique for its long coastline, increasing population and complex insurance market, he added that Florida also has a unique attorney fee structure relating to AOB agreements. Altmaier stated the current one-way attorney fee structure incentivizes abuse litigation in Florida's insurance market.

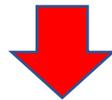
## EDUCATION -



House Bill 7071 passed, which expands apprenticeship programs, adds career planning support for students as early as middle school, and offers to replace a science graduation credit with a computer science course. Also, requires all school districts to offer a financial literacy course. Establishes degree articulation agreements between colleges and universities.



Senate Bill 7030 expands the school guardian program to allow trained teachers in certain school districts to volunteer to carry weapons.



Senate Bill 7070 creates a scholarship program for private schools for families of four who make roughly \$77K per year or less, using public money.

## ARTS & CULTURE -

Restore Florida's full investment in the Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs matching grants to fuel economic growth and quality of life.



\$21M is in the Governor's proposed budget to fund the Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs 2019-20 matching grants. Included are \$2.9M to fully fund all 132 Culture Builds Florida Matching Grants, \$12.3M for Cultural and Museum Matching Grants (only 29% of the 478 recommended grant amounts), and \$5.9M for Cultural Facilities Matching Grants. All are subject to veto at the Governor's discretion.

## REGIONAL PRIORITIES

### REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION -

Advocate for the development of multi-modal transportation options, such as bus rapid transit, waterborne transportation, road infrastructure, and development of emerging technologies to build a regional system that can solve today's congestion problems and is ready for the challenges of the coming decades.



The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority was one of the region's biggest winners in the budget. The newly configured agency will get \$4.8 million. Earlier budget conferences offers to put funding at \$2.5 million, which the agency was already **thrilled to get.**

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Increase the funding of programs administered by Pinellas County Schools and local technical institutions that are focused on workforce development specifically Pinellas Technical College (PTC) programs and trade development programs.

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

We urge the Pinellas County Economic Development to include Clearwater and the rest of North Pinellas in its efforts to attract new business.

### HEALTHCARE



House Bill 23 establishes a regulatory framework for telehealth.

## CLEARWATER PRIORITIES

### IMAGINE CLEARWATER –

Support the City's efforts to get this project done.



Michael Delk replaces Micha Maxwell as the point person for the Imagine Clearwater project and the master plan development efforts for the bluff.

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT / AFFORDABLE HOUSING –

We urge the City of Clearwater to continue streamlining the process involved in starting and opening businesses in Clearwater.



The Economic Development and Housing Development working on a revamp of their website to provide more and better information regarding opportunities in the city. New website expected in July or August.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Take a more active role in workforce and business development.