

Board of County Commissioners 2012 Legislative Priorities

Technical Institute Funding **	Manatee County SUPPORTS job creation, retraining and retention through the continued pursuit of a performance-based funding formula for technical schools that will bring all school districts up to 95 percent of the funding model.
Pretrial Release	Manatee County SUPPORTS maintaining the ability without further restrictions to provide non-monetary and risk assessment pretrial release services that ensure the safety and welfare of local communities by preventing new offenses and ensuring those appear as obligated.
Juvenile Justice	Manatee County SUPPORTS the full implementation of F.S. 985.686(6) which stipulates that counties will provide input to the Department of Juvenile Justice regarding the counties' total costs for juvenile detention. Manatee County also SUPPORTS the purpose of the JJDP State Advisory Group and respectfully requests a member of Circuit 12 Juvenile Justice Board be appointed to the Committee to represent the region.
Port Manatee/Transportation **	Manatee County SUPPORTS acceleration of the Port Manatee Connector Road construction in order to better accommodate larger incoming shipments that will result from the Panama Canal expansion. Manatee County also SUPPORTS doubling Enterprise Florida's international budget and ratifying regional trade agreements (specifically for Port Manatee with Panama, Colombia and South Korea) in order to meet the goal of doubling international trade in the next five years. Manatee County OPPOSES raids of the Transportation Trust Fund to subsidize other areas of the state budget.
Beach Renourishment	Manatee County supports the continuation of a dedicated state funding source for beach renourishment at or above statutory levels. Manatee County supports legislation that protects the sovereign immunity of counties with regard to beach mitigation liability where a county conducts beach renourishment according to federal and state regulatory requirements.
Taxation **	Manatee County SUPPORTS a requirement for all remote vendors (including Internet retailers) to collect and remit Florida's state and local option sales taxes. Manatee Council of Governments also SUPPORTS a thorough review of Florida sales tax exemptions and exclusions and OPPOSES revenue and expenditure caps (TABOR-like proposals) that impose legislative or constitutional restrictions on local authority to determine the local tax burden or local financial requirements to services and quality of life.

Secondary Priorities

Library Funding **	Manatee Council of Governments understands the dire fiscal constraints the state is facing, but OPPOSES further reductions to the public library system, which would jeopardize the vital federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds Florida receives annually.
Offshore Oil Drilling and Exploration **	Manatee County OPPOSES all oil and gas drilling in the state waters in the Gulf of Mexico and SUPPORTS a constitutional amendment for the 2012 ballot that would ban oil drilling in Florida's near shore waters.
Vessels and Waterways **	Manatee County SUPPORTS renewed state funding of derelict vessel removal. Manatee County SUPPORTS legislation that provides public access to waterways. Manatee County SUPPORTS continued state and local regulation of vessels, mooring fields, bulkheads and seawalls, floating vessel platforms and sea grasses in order to protect water quality. Manatee County SUPPORTS greater county authority to regulate vessels in navigation outside of mooring fields. Manatee County OPPOSES further attempts to preempt local government authority to regulate vessels.
Driver's Education Funding	Manatee County supports allowing counties greater flexibility in administering Dori Slosberg Driver Education Act funds collected for driver education programs.
SHIP Funding	Manatee County SUPPORTS removing the cap on the Sadowski trust fund and allocating the full amount of dedicated documentary tax revenues for state and local affordable housing programs. Manatee County also SUPPORTS investing in affordable housing to create jobs in home repair, hardening homes, retrofitting and constructing affordable rental units, and lowering energy costs to make housing more affordable.

** Indicates support from Manatee County Council of Governments which is comprised of Manatee School Board, the Township of Longboat Key and the Cities of Anna Maria, Bradenton, Bradenton Beach, Holmes Beach and Palmetto.



Secondary Priorities (continued)

To Inform Families First	Manatee County SUPPORTS legislation that would require drivers to register emergency contact numbers when renewing their drivers licenses.
State Parks	Manatee County SUPPORTS state funding to keep state parks open to the public. Manatee County is willing to work with Florida Department of Environmental Protection Agency officials to explore all possibilities and discuss cooperative agreements in order to keep Terra Ceia Preserve, 2,000 acres of mangrove forests, freshwater and saltwater wetlands, and Gamble Plantation, the only surviving plantation house in South Florida, open to the public.
Physician Immunity	Manatee County SUPPORTS sovereign immunity for physicians treating patients in the emergency room.
Basin Boards	Manatee County has serious concerns over the loss of local input in the decision-making process for how to invest SWFWMD property-tax revenue for water projects such as flood control, water supply and drainage. Manatee County SUPPORTS the current Basin Board boundaries as defined in Florida Statute 373.0693. Manatee County supports the creation of an advisory board within the Basin areas comprised of District Governing Board members and local representation to ensure local input is included when Water Management District funding priorities are set.
Numeric Nutrient Standards	Manatee County SUPPORTS efforts by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to establish numeric nutrient standards which are developed using science and scientific methods based on site-specific conditions and local knowledge. Manatee County actively participates in three National Estuary Programs (Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay and Charlotte Harbor) and SUPPORTS their efforts to provide the Department criteria that has been developed by these programs and proven to be successful.
Online hotel taxes	Manatee County SUPPORTS legislation that enhances the collection of existing Tourist Development Tax revenue not currently remitted by online travel companies. Manatee County opposes legislation that would permanently exempt online travel companies' room sales from TDTs.
Growth Management	Manatee County SUPPORTS the role of regional planning councils to analyze issues, to resolve problems and to sharing solutions related to growth management. Manatee County SUPPORTS a thorough review of the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) process to eliminate duplication in regulations to regain a competitive edge in job creation.
FRS Reform	Manatee County OPPOSES measures that would require local governments to return to the state or otherwise forfeit any savings realized from reduced Florida Retirement System employer contributions enacted by the Legislature and approved by the Governor in 2011.
Home Rule	Manatee County SUPPORTS the statewide Keep it Local Florida movement which is committed to preserving local control and ensuring local taxpayers have the greatest say in how they are governed.
State-owned lands	In the event Florida's Water Management Districts deem certain lands to be surplus to their core missions, Manatee County SUPPORTS giving local government the right of first refusal to accept for use consistent with previous management efforts such lands which were acquired with public funds for a public purpose.

