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Lake Lee Leon Levy Liberty Madison Manatee Marion Martin Miami-Dade Monroe Nassau Okaloosa Okeechobee Orange Osceola Palm Beach Pasco Pinellas Polk Putnam St. Johns



2006 Legislative Priorities Program

Florida Association of Counties



St. Lucie Santa Rosa Sarasota Seminole Sumter Suwannee Taylor Union Volusia Wakulla Walton Washington

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

State and County Leaders,

It is with great honor that I present to you the Florida Association of Counties' (FAC) 2006 Legislative Priorities Program. Florida's county officials have come together and worked tirelessly to develop a unified legislative agenda that benefits all counties. The FAC Legislative Priorities Program outlines statewide issues important to our shared constituency.



The program includes a description of FAC's legislative priorities for the 2006 Session and the Association's Guiding Principles. These principles underscore our commitment to protecting local government authority and frame our position on hundreds of other legislative issues that will be considered during the upcoming Legislative Session.

Florida's county commissioners, staff and the Florida Association of Counties look forward to working with you during session. Should you have any questions about particular issues or if we can be of assistance, please contact Chris Holley, FAC Executive Director, or Palmer Mason, FAC Legislative Director.

Best wishes for a productive and successful session!



Commissioner Welton Cadwell, Lake County
FAC President

MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) is to preserve and promote democratic principles by working to keep appropriate authority at the level of government closest to the people, and to increase the capacity of Florida counties to effectively serve and represent the citizens of the state through legislative action, education of public officials, and enhancement of public awareness about the role and functions of county government."

FINANCE, TRANSPORTATION & ADMINISTRATION

HOME RULE IMPACT FEE AUTHORITY: OPPOSE efforts to diminish or eliminate county home rule authority to impose impact fees.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION: OPPOSE revisions to the Homestead Exemption that diminish the fiscal capacity of Florida's counties or that substantially shift the burden of the property tax. **SUPPORT** referring any proposals to revise the homestead exemption to the Century Commission and the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission to ensure the proposals receive sufficient study and deliberation in order to ascertain the full impacts to the equity, fairness and revenue-raising ability of the ad valorem tax. **SUPPORT** reasonable revisions to the statutory application of the Save Our Homes assessment cap to ensure those homeowners whose structures were destroyed by the hurricanes are treated equitably.

GROWTH, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & AGRICULTURE

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: SUPPORT retaining the full amount of dedicated documentary tax revenues toward state and local affordable housing programs.



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

MEDICAID REFORM: The Medicaid program is recognized nationally as a partnership between federal and state governments to provide medical assistance to certain individuals and families with low incomes and resources. Reforms should recognize the unique role that counties play both



as payers and as providers in the Medicaid program. In order for Medicaid reform activities to be successful, counties must be integrally involved as partners in the development of reforms to ensure that they effectively meet the needs of county citizens.

Unlike many states, Florida has required counties to contribute financially to the Medicaid program, subsidizing the state's share. This current policy leaves counties vulnerable each year to potential cost shifts when there is a state budget deficit or shortfall.

FINANCING ISSUES:

SUPPORT the state's efforts in opposing changes to the funding formula for the Medicaid program between the federal and state government that would reduce the federal share to Florida.

SUPPORT legislation that allows the state to finance and promote the objectives of the Medicaid program without shifting additional costs to county government.

SUPPORT executive and legislative efforts to maximize intergovernmental transfers to help draw down additional federal funding and legislation that stipulates that local funds that are used for intergovernmental transfers enhance the state's Medicaid program rather than replace monies that are already provided by the state.

OPPOSE efforts to impose additional costs on local government to compensate for lost federal funding, if intergovernmental transfers are disallowed by the federal government.

SUPPORT legislation that provides the financial infrastructure for the state to sustain Medicaid non-emergency patient transportation services by using a methodology rate process for distribution of funds to counties that does not shift financial responsibility of these services to the local level.

PROGRAM ISSUES:

SUPPORT legislation that fully maintains and preserves critical mandatory and optional Medicaid services such as the Medically Needy program without imposing additional costs on local governments.

SUPPORT Medicaid reform that considers the uniqueness of each of Florida's counties.

SUPPORT efforts to ensure that County Health Departments are able to provide primary care and other health care services.

OPPOSE any legislation that eliminates statewide application of mandatory or optional Medicaid services for eligible recipients.

SUPPORT effective external choice counseling and case management that ensures Medicaid service recipients receive the level and intensity of services that meets their needs and promotes wellness.

SUPPORT external quality assurance monitoring and measures that hold managed care plans and provider service networks accountable for appropriate care.

SUPPORT modifications to Medicaid's drug formulary that ensure access to medically necessary prescription drugs, including, but not limited to access to medically needed psychotropic medications.

COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: SUPPORT maintaining state general revenue funding for county health departments, and **OPPOSE** any state reductions to the county health department trust funds.

PUBLIC SAFETY

JUVENILE JUSTICE DETENTION FACILITY: In an effort to sever county funding from the state function of juvenile detention services, **SUPPORT** surrendering county revenues, under a revenue formula that can approximately capture the amount of each county's share of juvenile predisposition detention, in exchange for a full repeal of the juvenile detention cost sharing policy adopted by the Legislature in the 2005 Special Legislative Session. Alternatively, if a repeal cannot be accomplished or such a revenue formula cannot be devised, **SUPPORT** legislation that implements juvenile detention alternatives and revises the "Detention Risk Assessment Instrument" to divert children from detention facilities. Furthermore, **SUPPORT** working with the state in determining the proper responsibility of the state and counties in relation to care and services to Florida's juvenile population. **SUPPORT** legislation that repeals Chapters 2004-263 and 2004-473, Laws of Florida (s.985.2155, Florida Statutes), which mandates counties fund the cost of predisposition (pre-trial) detention of juveniles. **OPPOSE** legislation that transfers any of the operational and service responsibilities of the state's Department of Juvenile Justice to counties.

JUVENILE JUSTICE FUNDING: SUPPORT increased state funding for prevention, diversion and intervention programs for at-risk juveniles. **SUPPORT** increased state funding of juvenile facilities for the predisposition detention and incarceration of juveniles. **SUPPORT** full state funding of predisposition detention costs for counties meeting the statutory definition of "fiscally constrained" and other counties identified for state funding during the 2005 Legislative Session.



2005-2006

Executive Committee



President
Commissioner
Welton Cadwell
Lake County



President-elect
Commissioner
Susan Latvala
Pinellas County



1st Vice President
Commissioner
Teresa Jacobs
Orange County



2nd Vice President
Commissioner
Randy Hatch
Suwannee County



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 Commissioner Gordon Goodin, Vice Chair Santa Rosa
 Commissioner John Cooper, Vice Chair Bradford

Growth, Environmental Planning & Agriculture Policy Committee

Commissioner Jane von Hahmann, Chair Manatee
 Commissioner Ro Cuchens, Vice Chair Walton
 Commissioner Catherine Hanson, Vice Chair Lake

Health & Human Services Policy Committee

Commissioner Ilene Lieberman, Chair Broward
 Commissioner Cynthia Chestnut, Vice Chair Alachua
 Commissioner Bill Williams, Vice Chair Gulf

Public Safety Policy Committee

Commissioner Jeff Koons, Chair Palm Beach
 Commissioner Jennifer Flinn, Vice Chair Columbia
 Commissioner Gary Wheeler, Vice Chair Indian River

Urban & Rural Caucus Chairs & Vice Chairs

Urban Caucus

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 Councilmember Dwight Lewis, Vice Chair Volusia
 Commissioner Paul Mercier, Vice Chair Sarasota

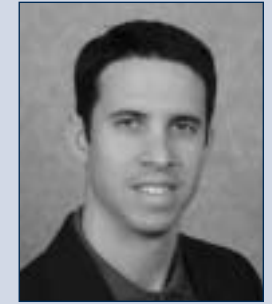
Rural Caucus

Commissioner Ronald Neads, Chair DeSoto
 Commissioner Buddy Lamb, Vice Chair Dixie
 Commissioner Ed Brimner, Vice Chair Wakulla

FAC LEGISLATIVE STAFF



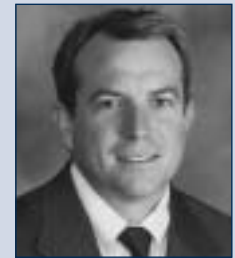
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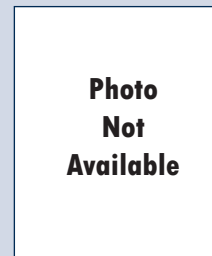
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Bob McKee / Finance & Taxation

Ad Valorem Taxes	BMc	Homestead Exemption	BMc
Appropriations (generally)	BMc	Impact Fees	BMc/EP/GD
Auditing	BMc	Intangibles Tax	BMc
Cell Tower Siting	BMc	Interim Service Fees	BMc
Communication Services Tax	BMc	Local Option Sales Tax	BMc
Consolidated Financial Statements	BMc	Mandates	BMc
County Budgets	BMc	Partial-Year Ad Valorem Assessments	BMc
County Revenue-Sharing	BMc	PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes)	BMc
Electronic Commerce	BMc	Public Service Tax	BMc
Finance	BMc	Sales Tax	BMc
Financial Reporting Billing	BMc	Save Our Homes	BMc
Financial Statements	BMc	Save Our Seniors	BMc
Fiscal Impact Analysis	BMc/EP	Small County Kicker	BMc
Franchise Fees	BMc	Special Assessments	BMc
Gas Taxes	BMc/EP	State Administrative Charges	BMc
General Appropriations Act	BMc	Taxes	BMc
Half-cent Sales Tax	BMc	Telecommunications	BMc
		Tourist Development Taxes	BMc
		TRIM (Truth in Millage)	BMc
		Trust Funds	BMc
		Utility Taxes	BMc

Eric Poole / Emergency Management, Growth Management & Transportation

Affordable Housing	EP	Administrative Procedures Act (Chapter 120)	GD
Airports	EP	Annexation	GD
Billboards	EP/GD	Article V	GD
Building Codes	EP	Cabinet Issues	GD
CDBG (Community Development Block Grants)	EP	Charter Counties	GD
Community Development/Redevelopment	EP	Civil Rights	GD
Comprehensive Plans	EP	Clerks of Court	GD
DRIs (Developments of Regional Impact)	EP	Collective Bargaining	GD
Emergency Management/Preparedness	EP	Comparative Fault/Tort Reform	
Functional Classification	EP	(Sovereign Immunity)	GD
Growth Management	EP	Conflict Cases	GD
High Speed Rail	EP	Constitutional Amendments	GD
Land Use	EP	Constitutional Initiative Petition	GD
Level of Service Standards	EP	Court Reporters	GD
Light Rail	EP	Courts	GD
Mass Transit	EP	Elections	GD
Mobile Homes	EP	Eminent Domain	GD
Motor Vehicles	EP	Employment	GD
MPOs (Metropolitan Planning Organizations)	EP	Ethics	GD
OCIPs (Owner Controlled Insurance Program)	EP	Ex Parte Communications	GD
Outdoor Advertising	EP/GD	Gift Disclosure	GD
Product Approval (Building Codes)	EP	Guardian Ad Litem	GD
Regional Planning Councils	EP	Hearing Officers/Special Masters (Courts)	GD
Rule 9J-5	EP	Home Rule (Constitutional Powers)	GD
School Concurrency	EP	Human Rights	GD
State Comprehensive Plan	EP	Immigration	GD
Strategic Intermodel System (SIS)	EP	Insurance	GD
Transportation	EP	Judges	GD
Truck Weights	EP	Judicial	GD
Urban Sprawl	EP	Jurors & Witnesses	GD
Zoning	EP	Labor Relations	GD
		Minimum Wage	GD
		Presumption - Benefits	GD
		Public Defenders	GD
		Public Records	GD
		Revision 7 Implementation	GD
		Sovereign Immunity	GD
		Special Disability Trust Fund	GD
		Special Districts	GD/EP
		State Attorneys	GD
		Sunshine Law	GD
		Supervisor of Elections	GD
		Unemployment Compensation	GD

Ginger Delegal / Courts, Elections, Sovereign Immunity, Eminent Domain & Other Constitutional Issues

Veteran's Employment	GD
Whistleblowers	GD
Workers' Compensation	GD

Heather Youmans / Health & Human Services

After-School Programs	HY
Aging	HY
AIDS/HIV Programs	HY
Assisted Living Facilities (ALF)	HY
Behavioral Health Care	HY
Child Abuse Exams	HY
Child Abuse/Child Welfare	HY
Child Support Enforcement	HY
Children's Services	HY
Communicable Diseases	HY
Community Health Centers	HY
County Health Departments	HY
CSBG (Community Services Block Grants)	HY
Day Care Centers	HY
Disproportionate Share Program (DSH)	HY
Drug Rehabilitation/Treatment	HY
Elderly	HY
Emergency Medical Services	HY
Environmental Health Fees	HY
Health Care	HY
Health Insurance	HY
Homeless Programs	HY
Hospital Liens	HY
Hospitals	HY
Human Services	HY
Indigent Health Care	HY
Kidcare Program	HY
Long Term Care	HY
Managed Healthcare	HY
Medicaid Transportation	HY
Medically Needy Program	HY
Mental Health	HY
Nursing Homes	HY
Perinatal Care	HY
Public Health	HY
Social Services	HY
Substance Abuse	HY
Transportation Disadvantaged	HY
Upper Payment Limit (UPL)	HY
Veteran's Services	HY
Welfare Reform	HY
Workforce Development	HY

Jeff Porter / Administration & Public Safety

911 Emergency Response	JP
Americans with Disabilities Act	JP
Animal Control	JP
Base Realignment & Closure (BRAC)	JP/EP
Bid Preferences	JP
CCNA (Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act)	JP/GD
Cemeteries	JP
Code Enforcement	JP
Community Corrections	JP
Construction Contracting	JP/GD
Construction Retainage	JP/GD
Contractor Licensing	JP
Corrections	JP
County Commissioner Salaries	JP
County Probation/Community Control	JP
Criminal Justice	JP
Domestic Violence	JP
Drug Control	JP
Economic Development	JP
Enterprise Florida	JP
Fines & Forfeitures	JP
Florida Retirement System (FRS)	JP
Historic Preservation	JP
Jail Standards	JP
Journeyman	JP
Juvenile Justice	JP
Leasing County Jail Beds	JP
Libraries	JP
Minority Business Enterprises	JP
Pawn Shops	JP
Payday Lenders	JP
Port Security	JP
Pre-trial Release	JP
Prisoner Health Care	JP
Public Guardianship	JP
Purchasing	JP
Risk Management	JP
Seaports	JP
Sentencing Guidelines	JP
Service of Process	JP
Sheriffs	JP
Title Loans	JP
Traffic Cameras	JP
Unlicensed Contractors	JP

Diana Grawitch / Environment, Agriculture & Utilities

Agriculture	DG
Air Pollution	DG
Aquatic Plants	DG
Asbestos Abatement & Removal	DG
Biomedical Waste	DG
Brownfields	DG
Coastal Management	DG
Delegation—Environmental	DG
Desalination	DG
Ecosystem Management	DG
Everglades Restoration	DG
Florida Communities Trust (P2000 Bond Series)	DG
Florida Forever	DG
Flow Control	DG
GIS/GPS	DG
Hazardous Waste	DG
Land Acquisition & Management	DG
Landfills	DG
Manatees	DG
Mosquito Control	DG
NPDES (Stormwater & Wastewater)	DG
Permitting—Environmental	DG
Pesticides	DG
Private Property Rights	DG/GD
Public Service Commission	DG
Radon	DG
Recycling	DG
Septic Tanks	DG
Solid Waste	DG
Stormwater	DG
SWIM (Surface Water Improvement & Management Funding)	DG
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)	DG
Underground Storage Tanks	DG
Utilities	DG
Wastewater	DG
Water Management Districts	DG
Water Quality	DG
Water Supply	DG
Wellhead Protection	DG
Wetlands	DG

Updated as of 12/13/2005

2005-2006 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

HOME RULE

County officials are dedicated to the preservation of democratic principles, specifically the notion that the government closest to the people is the appropriate authority to serve the needs and requirements of the community. Home rule is the right of the people to determine and implement a public purpose at the grassroots level. Home rule power is conferred to Florida counties by Article VIII, Sections 1(f) and 1(g) of the Florida Constitution (1968), and by Section 125.01, Florida Statutes. The preservation of this fundamental democratic concept is essential to the operation of county governments in Florida. Accordingly, the Florida Association of Counties is dedicated to maintaining the integrity of county home rule power, both administrative and fiscal, which allows counties to develop and implement community-based solutions to local problems.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

A state directive that compels local governments to provide a service, program, or benefit without providing the appropriate monies or a funding source is regarded as an unfunded mandate. County officials recognize that some state mandates are justified because they achieve agreed upon statewide policy goals. However, many, if not most, mandates on counties are imposed without the consensus of local governments or the resources for implementation. Mandates drain the financial lifeblood from county governments and impede their ability to adequately deliver the fundamental services required by law. Mandates also compromise a county's ability to provide discretionary services requested by the local community. Thus, the Florida Association of Counties opposes any state or federal actions that limit the ability of local elected officials to make fiscal and public policy decisions for the citizens they represent. Furthermore, counties support the establishment of an agreed upon course of action whereby state and county elected officials deliberatively evaluate the appropriate funding and delivery of intergovernmental service responsibilities between counties and the state.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The strength and vitality of local and state economies are built upon the foundation of infrastructure and services provided by county government. Furthermore, our economic prosperity rests on the stability of community leadership and the tools that are made available to county officials. Lastly, our community's "quality

of life" requires even more cooperation and teamwork between public and private sectors. Therefore, counties need flexible tools to develop economic strategies that target local strengths, enhance and expand employment opportunities, and maintain adequate infrastructure. While economic development occurs primarily at a local and regional level, it is imperative that the state assists local communities by providing its resources through incentives, marketing and technical assistance. Accordingly, incentives at the state and local level should be based on need and provide for a return on public investments.

REVENUE FLEXIBILITY

The ad valorem tax is authorized to Florida counties by Article VII, of the Florida Constitution, and implemented by general law. Within limitations, the Constitution authorizes counties to levy up to 10 mills on all taxable property for county purposes. This tax is the primary revenue source for the operation of county government. However, the revenue generated by this tax has not kept pace with the demands and requirements of modern government in a rapidly growing state. As a result, counties have to resort to other tax and non-tax revenue sources to meet their demands. The Florida Association of Counties is dedicated to protecting the integrity and fairness of the ad valorem taxing authority, as well as that of the other locally imposed revenue sources. Also, FAC encourages the creation or enhancement of alternative public financing mechanisms to meet the ever-increasing demands on county government service delivery.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The impact of growth and development in Florida during the last 30 years has brought significant benefits and costs to county government. Given Florida's substantial growth during this period, the Florida Association of Counties supports a comprehensive planning framework with state oversight, regional coordination, and minimum local requirements. At the same time, this planning framework must recognize that many local land use decisions result in little to no impact on state and regional interests. Furthermore, because Florida's communities are remarkably diverse, this planning framework must also allow maximum flexibility to Florida's counties to address unique local concerns and conditions. Thus, to the greatest extent possible, the state's comprehensive planning framework must defer to local decision-making and include an incentive-based approach to better growth management.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, cont'd

While FAC supports a more limited state role in local planning matters, it also supports one of the more significant provisions of the Growth Management Act, concurrency. This provision, which requires that infrastructure facilities and schools be in place concurrent with the impacts of new development, is an essential local tool for managing growth and development. To that end, efforts should be made to ensure that concurrency is not weakened through additional exemptions and waivers, but remains flexible enough to ensure a county can implement its provisions in a manner that reflects its vision and resource capabilities.

FAC supports the right of county officials to responsibly perform their planning, police power, and other functions to address local issues at the local level. County officials must have the ability to make reasonable decisions for the advancement of the local community on zoning, comprehensive planning, and infrastructure issues without being subjected to prohibitive claims for damages for infringement on private property rights. Additionally, and consistent with counties' home rule powers, county officials must have the latitude to develop and impose revenue sources that allow growth to pay its fair share.

Conservation and protection of our natural resources is critical to managing growth, promoting economic development, and maintaining a healthy environment to ensure a high quality of life for county citizens. Accordingly, and in keeping with home rule authority, the Florida Association of Counties supports the right to adopt local environmental regulations to protect a community's unique natural resources.

Finally, increased demands on Florida's water supply are forcing many diverse interests to work with county government to plan the future of water policy in Florida. In an effort to achieve the best possible result, county government should continue to expand partnerships with the agricultural community, urban water users, regional government agencies, and environmental organizations to encourage water conservation, water resource, and water supply development projects. The primary goal of such water resource planning efforts should be ensuring resource availability for all reasonable beneficial uses, consistent with the protection of water and related natural resources.

FINANCE & TAXATION

The backbone of good government is financial accountability. For public officials to be accountable to taxpayers, the decision to tax should occur at the same level of government where the decision to enact a new program is made. County governments have a responsibility to raise the necessary revenues to finance a wide variety of critical, basic public services. Counties need a revenue base that adequately finances the services and programs required by the state, and the programs and services needed locally. If counties are to succeed in meeting their responsibilities, an adequate and fair local tax policy that is commensurate with the many responsibilities of modern county government must be developed.

HUMAN SERVICES

County officials recognize the importance of adequately providing for quality human services to protect and assist citizens in need. Counties have demonstrated this commitment by providing preventive services, medical assistance, social and aging services, and housing assistance. While most human service programs and the laws that govern these programs are established by federal and state governments, many of these services are being provided through community-based services at the local level.

As a critical link in the federal/state/county human services partnership, counties must be included in formulating and implementing policies that protect the health, safety, and welfare of all the citizens of the state; allow for flexibility within communities to achieve the desired level of services based on local needs and priorities; and encourage the integration and coordination of human services.

Additionally, emergency medical services (EMS) are a vital role of county government. FAC supports county commissions maintaining authority to issue certificates of public convenience and necessity (COPCN) at the county level to ensure countywide uniformity of the EMS system.

Counties support expanding health care access and believe that efforts to refine and enhance state and local programs that provide access to affordable health cares are essential.

In addressing critical social services needs related to child welfare and long-term care, FAC strives to increase state funding for child protective and dependency

HUMAN SERVICES, cont'd

case services and other state-related programs. Furthermore, counties need the capacity to define local systems of care and increase funding flexibility by removing budget categories so that monies can be directed locally to meet community needs.

FAC supports enhancing the state funding for elder and long-term care services and directing existing funding from institutional care to community-based care programs such as Community Care for the Elderly, Home Care for the Elderly, Medicaid Waiver, Alzheimer's Disease Initiative, Senior Centers and the Assisted Living Waiver programs, respectively.

Given the varying capacity and funding capabilities of counties, the Florida Association of Counties supports adequate federal and state funding to ensure uniformity in the human services continuum.

PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY

Protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizenry are of paramount importance to county officials. County governments have a long tradition of ensuring the public's safety and security through operating county emergency management centers, providing fire and rescue services, and assisting in funding the state's court system, sheriffs' offices, juvenile programs, victims' assistance, and the jail system in each county.

Florida's citizens and visitors look to county government as the first line of defense to ensure their communities are safe and protected in times of natural and man-made disasters, terrorism, emergencies, and public health threats. It is imperative for state policy to maintain county government control of Emergency Management Systems during such emergencies and public health threats. It is equally important that, as Florida's population continues to grow, that the state provide a dedicated funding source for hurricane shelter space.

It is only through a county partnership with the other levels of government that a full-scale comprehensive and coordinated approach may be taken to address crime and public safety problems. It is of utmost importance to maintain and seek out open lines of communication between all parties involved to ensure the public's safety and security. Adequate resources must be in place so counties are in the

strongest position to protect their communities. Increased funding for security enhancements are needed to support measures which include, but are not limited to, airports, seaports, public buildings, public health infrastructure, and preparedness training for emergency personnel. Increased federal and state funding is essential to ensure that effective public safety systems are provided throughout Florida.

Since 1972, statutory changes and case law have expanded county court-funding responsibilities to include an ever-increasing multitude of costs. Those costs include providing office space for judges, public defenders, and state attorneys, expert witness fees, court appointed counsel costs, and many other related expenditures. Accordingly, the Constitutional Revision Commission proposed Revision 7 to require the State of Florida to fund a larger portion of the state court system, allowing counties to more ably meet local needs. That constitutional revision was approved by the Florida voters in 1998.

Since 1998, the Florida Legislature has been implementing the constitutional revision, having completed that initial process on July 1, 2004. Some elements of the state court system have remained a county responsibility. For some of those responsibilities, the Legislature has provided some revenue sources but these sources are grossly inadequate. The revenue from ad valorem taxes still funds a significant portion of the county's mandated share of the operation of the state court system.

The counties' long-held policy is that funding of the state court system is the responsibility of the state. County funding of the state's courts causes ad valorem taxes, intended to fund programs truly local in nature, to be used for state programs over which counties have no control or accountability. Accordingly, the Florida Association of Counties opposes the use of ad valorem taxes to fund the state's judicial responsibilities and supports the continued implementation of Revision 7, which provides for a more equitable manner of court funding.

Adopted: December 2, 2005

Florida Association of Counties

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