

**2018 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE
ACTION PLAN
&
2018 GUIDING PRINCIPLES**



**ADOPTED DURING
2017-2018 FAC Legislative Conference**

November 15-17, 2017
Hyatt Regency Sarasota
Sarasota County, Florida



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Summary: FAC 2018 Legislative Action Plan

Finance, Tax and Administration Policy

- FTA-PP-1: Communications Service Tax: SUPPORT** modernizing the Communications Service Tax in a manner that is: revenue neutral; that simplifies administration and collection of the tax; provides for a broad and equitable tax base; provides for enhanced stability and reliability; provides the opportunity for market-based application.
- FTA-PP-2: Modification of RAO Administrative Grant Funding: SUPPORT** reducing the match requirement from 100% to 50% for the Regional Rural Development Grants Program and increasing the appropriation from \$150,000 to \$250,000 for each of the three Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAO) designated by Governor's Executive Order 16-150.
- FTA-PP-3: Rural Infrastructure Fund Appropriation Modification: SUPPORT** increasing the annual appropriation for the Rural Infrastructure Fund to \$10 million annually.
- FTA-PP-4: Brownfield Act: SUPPORT** creating clear guidance for the award of a brownfield designation and the local authority to decline to award the determination if the site does not meet the statutory criteria.
- FTA-PP-5: Public Records - Emergency Management: SUPPORT** legislation offering public records exemptions to counties which benefit the county's ability to provide and administer services to citizens.
- FTA-PP-6: Article V Funding: SUPPORT** legislation allowing counties more flexibility in the use of funds generated by the discretionary \$65.00 cost on criminal and traffic cases provided in Section 939.185, F.S. and legislation deleting the requirement that counties must increase Article V expenditures 1.5% over the previous year's expenditures.

Growth Management, Agriculture, Transportation & Environmental Policy

- GATE-PP-1: Beaches and Shores: SUPPORT** the creation of a new dedicated and recurring statutory funding source for beach renourishment projects which accurately reflects the increase in participating programs and future beach and inlet project funding needs. **SUPPORT** the revision of statutory criteria for the annual ranking of beach projects for state cost sharing; specifically, the inclusion of criteria that prioritizes dune restoration, where feasible, as an investment in beach protection



and preservation, and also recognizes economic benefits and cost effectiveness, the reduction in storm damage, and the ability to leverage federal dollars.

GATE-PP-2: Real Property in Flood Zones: SUPPORT a statutory change to Section 163.3178, F.S. that clarifies for state and local officials how risk reduction is evaluated in special flood hazard areas (SFHA), as shown on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).

Health and Safety Policy

HS-PP-1: Corrections Contraband Articles - Cell: SUPPORT legislation that strengthens the safety and security of county detention facility staff and the inmates that they are responsible for by listing portable communication devices as contraband.

HS-PP-2: Emergency Management Notification: SUPPORT legislation that would enhance the accessibility of emergency management notifications via cell/mobile devices.

HS-PP-3: Distracted Driving: SUPPORT legislation that would make distracted driving, more specifically texting while driving, a primary offense in Florida.



Summary: FAC 2018 Guiding Principles - Finance, Tax and Administration

Taxation and Funding of Local Government

County governments have the responsibility to provide not only core public services, but also to provide the infrastructure and services that form the foundation of local and state economies. Adequate revenue must be raised to fund these local needs, while also providing for services and programs that are mandated by the state. 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. The mechanisms for financing county services should be able to adapt to emerging technology, changing economic circumstances, and should be structured to address the ever-increasing demands on county government service delivery.

- FTA 1. The Florida Association of Counties is dedicated to protecting the integrity, functionality and fairness of local ad valorem taxing authority, as well as that of the other locally available revenue sources.
- FTA 2. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that consider impacts to state revenues shared with counties for the provision of local services and is opposed to permanent modifications to state shared revenue sources or related funding formulas that would significantly impact the counties' ability to continue to fund local services.
- FTA 3. The Florida Association of Counties supports tax reform measures that simplify administration and provide an economic boost to Florida's taxpayers while at the same time considering and minimizing the collective and cumulative negative impact on local revenues, including state shared and local discretionary revenue sources that are critical to local governments.
- FTA 4. The Florida Association of Counties supports measures that enhance the effectiveness of existing local revenue sources to meet current and future public service demands.
- FTA 5. The Florida Association of Counties supports the comprehensive Payment In Lieu of Taxes programs that offset the impact of lands acquired by Federal, State, or other tax-exempt entities. PILT programs should be funded in a fashion, so as not to diminish the fiscal capacity of small counties. Additionally, the Florida Association of Counties supports the adjustment of PILT payments to accommodate the increased value and/or the valued use of the property by the purchasing entity.
- FTA 6. The Florida Association of Counties recognizes the unique fiscal challenges of Florida's rural counties and state-designated fiscally constrained counties. The Association is



dedicated to preserving established programs that provide critical resources for essential programs and infrastructure needs of these counties.

Economic Development

Economic prosperity depends on communities with dependable basic services, but also where the quality of life encourages businesses and individuals to flourish. Maintaining and enhancing the standards that Floridians expect and deserve will require more innovative cooperation between the 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.

FTA 7. The Florida Association of Counties supports measures that empower local governments and provides resources to work with community partners towards the creation of quality jobs, more vibrant Florida communities, as well as an enhanced level of national and global competitiveness.

FTA 8. The Florida Association of Counties supports legislation and appropriation that enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of the state and local government partnership in economic development through the greater use of targeted strategic investments in infrastructure and programmatic enhancements designed to induce sustainable economic activity resulting in a consistent positive return on investment for both state and local governments.

FTA 9. The Florida Association of Counties supports state and local policies, programs, and funding mechanisms that not only preserve, but enhance as well, the Florida tourism and film industries.

FTA 10. The Florida Association of Counties supports enhancing programs to increase funding for rural infrastructure, job growth, and workforce development policies and efforts to reduce the digital divide and expand internet access to underserved areas through industry partnerships and collaboration with local stakeholders .

FTA 11. The Florida Association of Counties supports enhancing the ability for Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAOs) to advance local rural economic development initiatives through allocation of additional resources.

Administration

The power to administer county government can be found in the State Constitution and the Florida Statutes. However, the system of shared governance between the state and counties, and its political subdivisions, is critical to the successful administration of local services in the most



efficient and effective manner. Decisions regarding statewide administrative policy must accurately reflect the ability of the state and counties to utilize resources in an optimal manner to provide and produce essential public services.

- FTA 12. The Florida Association of Counties supports that policies related to retirement, workers' compensation and other administrative systems be based on sound and accurate data analyzed with consideration for state and local fiscal impact, fairness and accessibility for state and local employees, as well as, predictability and stability relative to market forces for the long-term effective management of state and local financial plans.
- FTA 13. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that enable local governments to comply with public notice and legal advertisements requirements through the application of various available mediums of technology to achieve an ideal balance between fiscal efficiency and public effectiveness.
- FTA 14. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies which allow for competitive and efficient procurement procedures in order to streamline the development process for county projects.

Accountability and Transparency

The foundation of a strong democracy is a public that is educated and informed about the decisions of its government. Accessible and accountable county governments are more responsive to the needs of their citizens and result in more engaged and satisfied constituents. Counties work to uphold the trust of their voters and taxpayers by maintaining open and accessible meetings and records; providing timely, informative, and accurate public information; and adhering to the highest standards of administrative and fiscal transparency.

- FTA 15. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that promote ethical standards for public officials that are fiscally reasonable, consistent throughout all levels of government, and that do not inhibit the efficient and effective administration of local services
- FTA 16. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that promote access to public records in a manner that is not frivolous; that upholds fiscal responsibility; that does not prevent the efficient and effective administration of local services; and allows for exemptions to protect the safety and security of individuals providing or receiving critical public services.



- FTA 17. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that promote the provision of accurate and accessible administrative and fiscal public information in a manner that is fiscally responsible, publicly comprehensible, technologically efficient, and that does not constrain the effective administration of local services.
- FTA 18. The Florida Association of Counties is dedicated to preserving, when at all possible, the link between the programs and services provided by counties with the decisions related to the funding for these programs and services, in an effort to maximize the manner and source of accountability of public officials to the citizenry.

Intergovernmental Relations

Florida's elected county commissioners are ultimately answerable to their voters for the provision of programs and services and associated funding decisions. Since Florida's citizens conferred home rule power to counties with the ratification of the 1968 Constitution. County officials have been dedicated to the preservation of democratic principles, specifically that the government closest to the people is the appropriate authority to serve the needs and requirements of the community. County governments reflect the communities that they serve and, particularly in a state as large and diverse as Florida, the needs and values of these communities vary widely between counties.

- FTA 19. The Florida Association of Counties is dedicated to maintaining the integrity of county home rule power which allows counties to develop and implement community-based solutions to local problems, without State limitations or mandates.
- FTA 20. The Florida Association of Counties opposes any state or federal unfunded mandates and preemptions that ultimately limit the ability of local elected officials to make fiscal and public policy decisions for the citizens to whom they are accountable.
- FTA 21. The Florida Association of 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.
- FTA 22. The Florida Association of Counties opposes the dilution of decision-making ability of local county commissioners/councilmembers with regard to the funding of the local duties of other constitutionally proscribed county officers.



- FTA 23. The Florida Association of Counties supports the provision of adequate state funding for constitutionally proscribed county officers that are required to perform duties on behalf of the state.
- FTA 24. The Florida Association of Counties opposes the use of local revenue sources to fund the state's judicial responsibilities.

Summary: FAC 2018 Guiding Principles - Growth, Agriculture, Transportation & Environmental

Growth Management

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 expected future growth and because Florida's communities are remarkably diverse, Florida's counties must have flexibility in planning decisions to address unique local concerns and conditions. County officials must have the ability to make reasonable decisions for the advancement of the local community on zoning, comprehensive planning, transportation, and infrastructure issues without being subjected to prohibitive claims for damages for infringement on private property rights.

- GATE 1. The Florida Association of Counties supports comprehensive policies that reduce a county's risk to the impacts of coastal and inland flooding.
- GATE 2. The Florida Association of Counties recognizes and supports the critical role Regional Planning Councils play in supporting communities by coordinating intergovernmental solutions to growth problems on greater-than-local issues, providing technical assistance to local governments.
- GATE 3. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that provide a mechanism to ensure the extra-jurisdictional impacts from large-scale development projects are adequately addressed within the impacted counties prior to development approval.
- GATE 4. The Florida Association of Counties supports retaining the full amount of dedicated documentary tax revenues to fund state and local affordable housing programs.
- GATE 5. The Florida Association of Counties supports the development and maintenance of dedicated funding of the Florida Forever Grant Program and Florida Communities Trust which provide recreational opportunities for parks, open space, greenways and trails to help meet growth challenges and protect natural resources.



- GATE 6. The Florida Association of Counties supports the development and maintenance of dedicated funding the Rural and Family Lands Protection Act to allow for the purchase of rural easements to prevent the subdivision and conversion of such land into other uses.
- GATE 7. The Florida Association of Counties supports the distribution of land management appropriations to local governments in proportion to the percentage of public conservation lands managed within local jurisdictions.
- GATE 8. The Florida Association of Counties supports legislation that prohibits unilateral extension of an existing Community Redevelopment Agency without the concurrence of the creating body.

Transportation

FAC believes that Florida's transportation system is a vital component in building and sustaining communities, moving people and goods, and developing competition at local and regional levels, and on a national scale. Florida's counties play a critical role in the state's transportation system. Florida's counties should be recognized as major partners in the maintenance and development of Florida's transportation infrastructure and provided levels of funding and authority that adequately reflect their role in the state's transportation system.

- GATE 9. The Florida Association of Counties supports funding for all modes of the state and local transportation infrastructure network.
- GATE 10. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies and funding that encourage and facilitate more efficient and effective use of regional transportation solutions.
- GATE 11. The Florida Association of Counties supports critical state funding for the Small County Road Assistance program (SCRAP).
- GATE 12. The Florida Association of Counties supports continuing enhanced state funding for the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP).
- GATE 13. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies providing for Strategic Intermodal System funds to be used on roads and other transportation facilities not designated on the SIS network if the improvement relieves congestion on the SIS.
- GATE 14. The Florida Association of Counties opposes any effort to divert revenues from the state transportation trust fund for non-transportation purposes.



Environment

Conservation and protection of Florida's natural resources is critical to managing growth, promoting economic development, and maintaining a healthy environment to ensure a high quality of life for Floridians.

- GATE 15. The Florida Association of Counties supports the allocation of matching funds to county governments to purchase environmentally sensitive and endangered lands.
- GATE 16. The Florida Association of Counties supports a comprehensive state climate change action plan, with energy policies and other initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases and to address ecosystem sustainability, long term water supply, flood protection, public health and safety, and economic prosperity.
- GATE 17. The Florida Association of Counties supports state and federal recognition of adaptation and mitigation as critical to any climate change plan, and the funding necessary to assist local governments in developing and implementing these initiatives.
- GATE 18. The Florida Association of Counties supports streamlining the permitting and regulatory processes for solar product manufacturers, installers, and consumers, and further supports reducing burdensome regulations that hinder solar market penetration.
- GATE 19. The Florida Association of Counties supports the ability of counties to utilize electricity produced at county-owned facilities at other adjacent and non-contiguous county-owned properties without penalty, or in the alternative, be able to sell surplus power at market rate.
- GATE 20. The Florida Association of Counties supports state designation of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Conservation Area.
- GATE 21. The Florida Association of Counties supports maintaining funding of the Small County Consolidated Grant Program, and maintaining the waste tire fee as a dedicated revenue source for funding mosquito control, solid waste and recycling programs.
- GATE 22. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that provide appropriate resources and incentives to local governments to achieve statewide recycling goals, and further supports comprehensive recycling initiatives that encourage increased participation of the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.



Water

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.

- GATE 23. The Florida Association of Counties supports the allocation of matching funds to county governments to restore impaired springs, estuaries, lagoons and other waterbodies in accordance with state policy and local needs.
- GATE 24. The Florida Association of Counties supports state funding for water quality improvement projects designed to reduce nutrient pollution in Florida's impaired waterbodies, recognizing that multiple sources contribute to nutrient loading, including, but not limited to, wastewater and septic systems, industrial, agricultural, and residential water use.
- GATE 25. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that enhance regional and local financial capacity to address water supply development with allocation flexibility in all available funding sources.
- GATE 26. The Florida Association of Counties supports the funding of the Water Protection and Sustainability Program within the Department of Environmental Protection for the development of alternative water supplies, water quality improvement projects, and comprehensive water infrastructure needs.
- GATE 27. The Florida Association of Counties supports the "Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices" as a basic level of water quality protection, with more stringent protections authorized to address water bodies in need.
- GATE 28. The Florida Association of Counties supports the economically, technically and environmentally feasible use of reclaimed water with incentivized infrastructure investment and reliable distribution including reuse service areas and prioritized irrigation and nonpotable uses.
- GATE 29. The Florida Association of Counties supports state legislation to prohibit new well stimulation activities, including hydraulic fracturing (fracking).



GATE 30. The Florida Association of Counties opposes efforts to increase offshore drilling activities.

Summary: FAC 2018 Guiding Principles - Health and Safety

Health and Human Services Policy

County officials recognize the importance of adequately providing for quality health and human services to protect and assist citizens in need. 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.

- HS 1. The Florida Association of Counties supports allowing for flexibility in the delivery of health and human services within communities to achieve the desired level of services based on local needs and priorities.
- HS 2. The Florida Association of Counties supports expanding health care access and believe that efforts to refine and enhance state and local programs that provide access to affordable health care are essential.
- HS 3. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that increase access to acute care behavioral health services for individuals and families.
- HS 4. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that increase supportive housing, jail diversion, and employment and education initiatives for people with mental health, substance abuse issues, behavioral health issues and/or disabilities.
- HS 5. The Florida Association of Counties supports diverting, medically assisting, or treating the mentally ill outside of the criminal justice process through alternative programs, such as Crisis Intervention Teams.
- HS 6. The Florida Association of Counties supports Medicaid reform initiatives to ensure that persons with substance abuse and mental health treatment needs are appropriately served.
- HS 7. The Florida Association of Counties supports the implementation of discharge protocols and/or procedures for hospitals, correctional facilities, and mental health facilities when releasing homeless persons.



- HS 8. The Florida Association of Counties supports the development of policies that would allow local governments to work with the state and federal government to serve target populations: the chronically homeless, veterans, and families and children, with emphasis on children aging out of the foster care system.
- HS 9. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that promote continued coordination with the state's Council on Homelessness, specifically as it recommends policies and practices in support of the Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness.
- HS 10. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that lessen fragmentation, inefficient operation, and costly duplication of transportation disadvantaged services.

Health and Human Services Funding

While most health and 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. Given the varying capacity and funding capabilities of counties, adequate federal and state funding to ensure uniformity in the human services continuum.

- HS 11. The Florida Association of Counties supports, when feasible, directing existing funding from institutional care to community-based care programs.
- HS 12. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased funding for core and crisis mental health services, including beds, statewide.
- HS 13. The Florida Association of Counties supports life-saving interventions, including medication-assisted treatment, residential treatment, twelve-step recovery and detoxification programs, and diversions from the criminal justice system.
- HS 14. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased funding of the Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program with recurring dollars in a trust fund.
- HS 15. The Florida Association of Counties supports sustainable matching state funds to counties that have received both planning and implementation Reinvestment Grant funds.
- HS 16. The Florida Association of Counties supports a system for distributing Low Income Pool dollars that ensures IGT-donor counties are able to direct the federal matching dollars generated by their local IGT contributions to best meet the health care needs



- of their constituents, rather than having those dollars redistributed throughout the state.
- HS 17. The Florida Association of Counties supports adequate funding for the Community Care for the Elderly Program, which provides cost efficient diversion from nursing home placement for impaired elders.
- HS 18. The Florida Association of Counties supports funding Graduate Medical Education programs to meet the healthcare needs of the state and its local communities, with an emphasis on programs that provide for specialties in need, as well as the development of physicians to practice in medically underserved areas.
- HS 19. The Florida Association of Counties supports funding for the Florida Healthy Start and Healthy Families program.
- HS 20. The Florida Association of Counties opposes policies that further shift state Medicaid costs to counties.
- HS 21. The Florida Association of Counties supports the continued evaluation of the county-state Medicaid cost-share arrangement, taking into consideration the impacts of state policies designed to contain growth in Medicaid costs, including statewide Medicaid managed care and diagnosis related group reimbursement for hospitals.
- HS 22. The Florida Association of Counties supports increasing state general revenue funding for county health departments (CHDs), and opposes any state reductions to the CHD Trust Funds.
- HS 23. The Florida Association of Counties supports maintaining a coordinated system of CHDs that is centrally housed within the Department of Health (DOH).
- HS 24. The Florida Association of Counties supports preserving the ability of CHDs to provide primary care and direct patient care services, particularly in communities without adequate substitutes or alternative providers for these services.
- HS 25. The Florida Association of Counties supports a dedicated state funding source for homeless programs.
- HS 26. The Florida Association of Counties supports the continuation of the Medically Needy program.



- HS 27. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that allocate state funds to hire Veterans Services Officers in counties in order to increase services and federal benefits for Florida veterans.
- HS 28. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that protect the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) trust fund, as well as dedicated state funding for the TD program, including funding to address unmet TD needs in rural areas.

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Providing for public safety is one of the core functions of county governments. Counties provide for safety through support of first-responder services from sheriffs' offices, ambulance services, fire and rescue, and emergency management centers that protect the public during natural or man-made disasters, terrorism, emergencies, and public health threats.

- HS 29. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that maintain and enhance established trauma care funding, including incentives for the development of new trauma centers.
- HS 30. The Florida Association of Counties opposes policies that shift the state's financial responsibility for the trauma system to counties or divert trauma care funding for purposes other than those intended by the existing legislation.
- HS 31. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that protect the ability of counties to provide for coordinated, countywide systems of emergency medical services, and not limit the ability of ambulance and other emergency medical transportation providers to be reimbursed for their services.
- HS 32. The Florida Association of Counties opposes sentencing of state inmates to county jails, but supports counties' ability to contract with the Department of Corrections for housing state inmates.
- HS 33. The Florida Association of Counties supports funding for capital improvements to county courthouses and other court-related facilities, including jails.
- HS 34. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies designed to prevent human trafficking, protect victims, prosecute human traffickers, and create partnerships across all levels of government, the private sector, and state agencies to provide training opportunities for local government employees and their agents to recognize the signs of human trafficking including government inspectors, law enforcement, criminal justice, health care, transportation and public transit, educational partners, and employees working with vulnerable populations.



- HS 35. The Florida Association of Counties opposes policies that would shift funds or impede counties from building and maintaining an interoperable radio communication system as authorized by statute.
- HS 36. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased funding for locally-operated crime analysis laboratories.
- HS 37. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies and funding targeted at enhancing the quality of volunteer firefighting services in rural and unincorporated communities.
- HS 38. The Florida Association of Counties supports the provision of state matching funds for all disaster-related / emergency management projects deemed eligible and approved by FEMA including, but not limited to, backup generators for facilities for elders.
- HS 39. The Florida Association of Counties supports continued state funding for county EOCs to ensure each is able to meet the minimum structural survivability and operational space criteria established by the state and federal government.
- HS 40. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies and funding that provide enhanced training and education opportunities for County Emergency Management employees.

Criminal Justice System

Florida's counties also play a critical role in state's criminal justice system, providing prevention, pre-trial, and reintegration services, juvenile programs, victims' assistance, and jail funding throughout the state. Success of such programs hinges on a comprehensive and coordinated approach across local agencies, jurisdictions, and with state and federal partners. When determining appropriate programming and funding, Florida's counties work to encourage improved outcomes for system participants and communities while also seeking cost reductions and efficiencies. Public safety and criminal justice services continue to have increased funding needs, however, as counties and their public safety partners face new and evolving threats to the safety and welfare of their communities and counties must be empowered to adequately address funding of necessary services. Furthermore, considering the interconnected nature of many of these threats, increased federal and state funding is essential to ensure that effective public safety systems are provided throughout Florida.



- HS 41. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies preserving counties' ability to provide risk assessment pretrial release services that prevent new offenses and ensures appearance as obligated.
- HS 42. The Florida Association of Counties opposes policies limiting the discretion of the first appearance judges.
- HS 43. The Florida Association of Counties opposes policies that restrict pretrial services to only indigent defendants.
- HS 44. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that reduce county jail expenses, including juvenile and adult diversion programs.
- HS 45. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that provide Medicaid eligibility for persons incarcerated in county jails while waiting disposition of their cases and to ensure that existing Medicaid benefits are not terminated during incarceration.
- HS 46. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies and initiatives which reduce juvenile detention through prevention, civil citation, treatment, and rehabilitation services.
- HS 47. The Florida Association of Counties supports state investments in juvenile facilities to improve the conditions of secure confinement for detained youth without such costs being shifted to the counties.
- HS 48. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that ensure that adequate safety, supervision, and facility maintenance is provided at juvenile residential assessment centers and secure detention facilities.
- HS 49. The Florida Association of Counties supports state funding of Juvenile Assessment Centers throughout Florida to strive to achieve equal treatment of youth offenders.
- HS 50. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that increase judicial oversight and authority for charging and sentencing juvenile defendants as adults without creating additional county service requirements.



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&
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APPENDIX

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FAC'S POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The core mission of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) is to help counties effectively serve and represent Floridians by strengthening and preserving county home rule through advocacy, education and collaboration. FAC provides county officials with an array of legislative activities to carry out this mission.

FAC's Policy Development Process

The Florida Association of Counties has a deliberative, consensus building policy development process. The goal is to solicit and develop policy proposals and guiding principles on legislative issues affecting county government. Through participation in four standing legislative policy committees, and two caucuses, county officials identify, discuss, and ultimately vote on issues to be in FAC's Legislative Program. The four standing legislative policy committees include the following:

Finance, Tax and Administration (FTA)

The **FTA** committee primarily focuses on issues related to taxation, local revenue, state shared revenue, economic development, local fiscal administration, local administrative and management issues, and intergovernmental relations (constitutional officers).

Growth Management, Agriculture, Transportation & Environmental (GATE)

The **GATE** committee primarily focuses on issues related to Development, Planning and Zoning, Affordable Housing, State and Regional Transportation. Water Quantity and Water Quality, and Utilities and Energy.

Health and Safety (HS)

The **HS** committee primarily focuses on issues related to Behavioral and Mental Health, Healthcare and Human Services Funding and Policy, Emergency Medical Services, Law Enforcement and Corrections, and Emergency Management.

Federal Policy Committee

FAC maintains and facilitates a **Federal Policy Committee** to address similar policy issues encountered at the state level but that are initiated at the federal level.

Each policy committee includes one presidentially appointed Chair and Vice Chair, and several presidentially appointed Policy Leaders. These roles collectively serve as the Committee Leadership for the respective policy committees.

FAC policy committees are referred to as "committees of the whole," meaning that committee participation, as well as voting, is open to any interested county commissioner who is in attendance at the policy committee meetings that take place during conference. County staff persons are encouraged to participate in discussion and provide input, but are not permitted to vote.

Each policy committee has one FAC staff point person, who will coordinate Committee Leadership calls, policy committee meetings, and provide education on issues within the committee's purview.

FAC Policy Proposals

Policy proposals are single-purpose statements addressing a specific and relevant issue or piece of legislation. Submitted proposals must address an issue of statewide, regional, or significant and widespread impact and cannot promote individual county or project appropriations. Individual counties or commissioners, or FAC were permitted to submit policy proposals during the summer of 2017.

FAC's Guiding Principles

FAC's guiding principles have been revised and re-purposed to serve as the association's long-term platform. This platform will serve to provide ongoing direction and guidance to members and staff with regard to advocacy on multiple issues over a prolonged period of time. Thereby allowing FAC to focus its annual workplan on more short-term and immediate actions and priorities.

Pre-Policy Conference - Summer 2017

County Commissioners, statewide, were invited to submit statements and/or issues addressing a specific issue or piece of legislation. These submissions were vetted by staff to make sure that the proposals addressed an issue of statewide, regional, or significant and widespread impact. Staff made recommendations to each policy committee with regard to the disposition of each submittal. In turn, each policy committee debated the merits of all proposals and made recommendations on their disposition to be considered at FAC's 2017 Policy Conference in Osceola County, Florida.

Policy Conference - September 2017

During the 2017 Policy Conference, each committee held an open meeting to review and debate policy proposals within their respective jurisdiction. The meetings were open to the general membership of FAC and each proposal was voted upon by all commissioners. Proposals were either tentatively adopted, deferred for further discussion at the 2017 Legislative Conference in Sarasota, Florida, or not adopted.

FAC staff proposed a new set of guiding principles to be considered by the general membership of the association. The guiding principles, as proposed by staff, represent a long-term plan of issues that the association will advocate on for on behalf of its membership. The guiding principles were tentatively adopted and then submitted to the entire membership for a three-week period in October for comments and proposed revisions.

Legislative Conference - November 2017

During the 2017 FAC Legislative Conference the general membership of FAC will be able to discuss, debate and vote on the final 2018 Legislative action plan and guiding principles for the association.

Legislative Executive Committee (LEC) - 2018 Legislative Session

The LEC is comprised of the following members: the FAC Executive Committee; the Chairs and Vice Chairs of each policy committee; and the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Rural and Urban Caucuses. During the course of the legislative session, the LEC meets weekly via conference call and is responsible for any revision, modification, deletion or addition to the policy statements adopted by the membership, and may make interim policy decisions as needed.

2017-2018 FAC POLICY AND CAUCUS CHAIRS, VICECHAIRS, & POLICY LEADERS

Finance, Tax & Administration

Laura Youmans, Staff
Brian Sullivan, Staff

Chip LaMarca, Broward County, Chair

Carolyn Ketchel, Okaloosa County, Vice-Chair

Jack Richie, Highlands County, Policy Leader
Carl Zalak, Marion County, Policy Leader
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