

2016 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

APPROPRIATIONS:

(Note: Florida Legislature Passes \$82 Billion Budget - \$256 Million **VETOED**.)

✓ **Pasco County Legislative Priorities - Water and Stormwater Project Funding Requests**

- Central Pasco County Beneficial Water Reuse \$1.7M – **NOT FUNDED**
- Crews Lake Natural System Enhancement \$1.2M – **NOT FUNDED**
- Timber Oaks \$3.3M – **NOT FUNDED**

Not on our Legislative Priorities List:

- **VETOED** Heritage Lake Estates Conservation Easement Flood Protection **\$1.5M** (1589A p. 237)
- **VETOED** Heritage Lake Estates Conservation Easement Flood Protection **\$1.5M** (SECTION 71 p. 427) (Ch. 2014-151 Section 15)
- Dade City Stormwater Retrofit **\$400,000** (1600A p. 240)

(NOTE: 211 Water Projects were funded for a total of \$80,964,005.)

✓ **Pasco County Legislative Priorities - Transportation Funding for MPO Priority List**

- S.R. 56 at I-75/Interchange (Diverging Diamond) CST \$10.9M – **NOT FUNDED**

✓ **Pasco County Legislative Priorities – Restore Solid Waste Management Trust Fund**

- **NO ACTION** However, CS/SB 922 (CS/HB 987): Solid Waste Management **PASSED** The bill establishes a waste tire abatement program and provides for funding of the program. Five percent of the 37 percent of funds from the SWMTF designated for the solid waste management grant program to be used for a waste tire abatement program.

✓ **Pasco County Legislative Priorities – Incentivize business participation in apprenticeship programs**

- **NO ACTION** However, AmSkills Program **\$300,000** (124 p. 35) (They were asking for \$500,000.)

✓ **Pasco County Legislative Priorities – Parks and Trails – Continue to fund the C2C Trail**

- The Coast to Coast Connector was selected in December by the Florida Greenways and Trails Council as the top priority trail to receive funding from the Shared-Use Non-Motorized Trail Network, or SUN Trail to complete the remaining gaps to this trail that will span 275 miles. Last year Governor Scott allocated \$25 million for the SUN Trail every year for the next five years.
- The next priority for the SUN Trail Network to receive funds will be decided March 31, 2016, and the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail, which includes the Starkey Trail in Pasco County, is being considered.

- ✓ **Pasco County Legislative Priorities – Continue to fund the Performing Arts/Convention Center**
(Note: This will no longer be tied to the County, and will not have the Convention Center component.)
- **VETOED** PHSC - Construct Performing Arts Education Center **\$11M** (21 p. 7) (To date they have received \$26M.)

Projects not on our Legislative Priorities, but impact Pasco County:

- Lighthouse for the Blind Pasco/Hernando **\$100,000** (52 p. 12)
- **VETOED** Moore-Mickens Education Vocation Center **\$250,000** (111 P. 30)
- Pasco Regional STEM School/Tampa Bay Region Aeronautics **\$750,000** (111 p. 30)
- **Pasco County Sheriff Child Protective Investigations** **\$6,641,374** (331 p. 75) (This is an increase of \$400,000. They were seeking \$650,000.)
- BayCare Behavioral Health Community Action Treatment (CAT) teams **\$750,000** (382 p. 82)
- BayCare Behavioral Health - Veteran Intervention Program **\$485,000** (388 p. 84)
- Veterans Alternative Retreat Program **\$250,000** (388 p. 85) (Veterans Alternative was seeking \$669,100. They estimate this project will cost \$2,007,300.)
- **Pasco Elderly Nutrition Kitchen** **\$250,000** (419B p. 89) (Feeding Pasco’s Elderly 501(c) 3 organization was seeking \$500,000.)
- Land O’ Lakes State Veterans’ Home **\$450,000** (580 p. 111)
- **Pasco Mobile Medical Unit** for homeless medical and legal services outreach **\$150,000** (946 p. 161)
- PAR Adolescent Intervention Center (PAIC) **\$650,415** (1168 p. 185)
- Pasco Association of Challenged Kids Summer Camp **\$36,000** (1170 p. 186)
- Bridging Freedom **\$700,000** Recurring Funds, and **\$500,000** Federal Grants Trust Fund (To provide individualized, holistic, therapeutic safe homes for children traumatized by child sex trafficking.) (1283 p. 200)
- US Highway 19 Multi-Modal Trail Overpass **\$750,000** (1906 p. 277) (City of New Port Richey projects this project will cost \$3,750,000. The City will fund \$3M.)
- Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services’ Non-Custodial Parent Employment Program **\$750,000** (2178 p. 306) (3 Counties are impacted by this amount.)
- **State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP)** – State Housing Trust Fund \$135,500,000 (2224 p. 314) (Pasco County will receive \$3.1 Million; this is a \$900,000 increase from last year.)
- Pioneer Museum - Dade City **\$53,500** (3077a p. 399)
- **VETOED** Historic Captain Jeffries House Restoration – Zephyrhills **\$75,000** (3077a p. 399)
- Felony and/or misdemeanor pretrial or post-adjudicatory veterans’ treatment intervention programs **\$150,000** (3158 p. 410)

LEGISLATION:

- ✓ **Pasco County Legislative Priorities – 2016 Local Bills**
- HB 847: Pasco County (Repeal Chapter 99-166) – **PASSED**

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- HB 419: Highlands Road and Bridge District, Pasco County - **PASSED**
- ✓ **Pasco County Legislative Priorities – Oppose Private utility relocation cost shift**
- CS/SB 416 (HB 461): Location of Utilities – **PASSED** - The bill was amended to stop the shifting of costs to counties for relocating private utilities in a public right of way.
- ✓ **Pasco County Legislative Priorities – Give local governments discretion with non-residential platting** (PEDC Issue)
- To address this, language was amended onto CS/SB 1646 (CS/HB 1325): Economic Development - **DIED** - The bill died in last committee of reference when they ran out of time before they could take a vote on it in the final days of the session. (Section 35. Subsection (18) of section 177.031 “Subdivision”.)
- ✓ **Pasco County Legislative Priorities – Establish a cap on growth in individual county Medicaid costs**
- **NO ACTION**
- ✓ **Pasco County Legislative Priorities – Juvenile detention 50-50 cost share**
- CS/SB 1322 (HB 1279): Juvenile Detention Costs – **PASSED** - Under the 50/50 model passed in SB 1322 counties will save more than \$11 million annually on its shared juvenile detention costs. Pasco County will see a savings of **\$266,732.26**.

Some of the bills Tracked during the 2016 Legislative Session:

(Note: There were over 40 bills that contained preemptions, unfunded mandates or attempts to cap local property taxes.)

- **CS/HB 191 (CS/SB 318): Regulation of Oil and Gas Resources – DIED** - The bill would have regulated hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") and preempt "all matters relating to... exploration, development, production, processing, storage and transportation" of oil and gas.
- **CS/CS/CS/HB 221 (CS/CS/CS/SB 1442): Out-of-Network Health Insurance Coverage – DIED** – The bill would have capped county emergency transportation fees. Based on the calculation with the cap, this would be a loss of 11% or \$1, 521,848.31 for Pasco County.
- **CS/HB 347 (CS/CS/SB 324): Utility Projects – PASSED** – The bill establishes a new financing mechanism – “Utility Cost Containment Bonds” – available to an intergovernmental authority to finance or refinance, on behalf of a municipality, county, special district, public corporation, regional water authority, or other governmental entity (including the authority itself), related to water or wastewater service. The Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) is the only intergovernmental authority that currently meets the criteria to provide financing under the bill. **REMOVED** – An amendment giving local governments the authority to use eminent domain laws to acquire private water utilities failing to serve their customers adequately. (Addressing Summertree situation.)
- CS/CS/CS/HB 491 (CS/CS/CS/SB 534): Water and Wastewater – **PASSED** - Chapter 2012-187, Laws of

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Florida, created the Study Committee on Investor-Owned Water and Wastewater Utility Systems (Study Committee) to “identify issues of concern of investor-owned water and wastewater utility systems, particularly small systems, and their customers” and to research possible solutions. The Study Committee submitted a report containing its recommendations on February 15, 2013. This bill adopts several of the Study Committee’s recommendations for legislative action.

- CS/SB 516 (HB 745): Special Districts – **DIED** – The bill would have required each special district to operate an official website. This meant they would have needed to provide this information on the County Website.
- CS/CS/CS/HB 517 (CS/CS/SB 742): Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for Life Support or Air Ambulance Services – **DIED** – The bill would have mandated county COPCNs ordinances, and created a methodology granted to an applicant appealing the decision of the BOCC.
- CS/CS/CS/HB 589 (CS/CS/SB 1052): Environmental Control - **PASSED** - **STOPPED** language limiting local governments' ability to establish flow-control ordinances. Flow control ordinances are used to ensure that waste disposal plants receive enough of the waste generated in an area to cover their capital and operating costs.
- CS/SB 584 (CS/HB 929): Peril of Flood – **DIED** – The bill would have established a \$50 million annual local government flood risk reduction matching grant program within the Division of Emergency Management.
- **CS/SB 620 (HB 315): Medical Examiners** – **DIED** – This bill would have prohibited counties from charging fees for cremation approval certificates. (Pasco County is currently charging a fee of \$25. During Fiscal Year 14/15, we performed a total of 3,824 cremation approvals. That equates to **\$95,600** in cremation approval billing revenue for Pasco County Government during the fiscal year.)
- CS/CS/HB 675 (872): Federal Immigration Enforcement – **DIED** – This bill would have required mandatory holding of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees. The proposals were misguided and unnecessary, and based on inaccurate information.
- CS/CS/HB 1015 (CS/CS/SB 1222): Millage Rates – **DIED** – This bill would have required counties to calculate maximum millage rates based on actual taxes levied in the prior year plus a growth factor. In addition, it would have required a super majority or unanimous vote to pass a rate increase.
- CS/CS/SB 1192 (HB 1387): Waste Management – **DIED** – This bill would have precluded a local government from preventing a private company from listing separately on the company’s invoice for solid waste collection, disposal, or recycling any governmental taxes or fees, including any franchise fees. Amends provisions regulating local government competition with solid waste collection companies to include disposal and recycling.
- CS/HB 1263 (SB 1618): Real Property – **DIED** – This bill would have required county water and sewer districts that impose a lien provide an internet-based procedure to furnish the property owner an estoppel certificate listing the total amount due from the owner. Notice of the internet-based procedure must be recorded in the official records and failure to record the notice constitutes a waiver of the lien.

- **CS/SB 1288 (HB 1169): Emergency Management – PASSED** - Adds a definition of the term “activate” in the State Emergency Management Act (Chapter 252). Passed with an amendment that added the transport of essential commodity provisions of HB-775. With this amendment the County would now be required to let people into areas we might be trying to secure during an emergency situation.
- **CS/SB 1430 (CS/CS/HB 1195): State Technology – DIED – STOPPED** a provision requesting all local governments to submit annually every application, interface, data sets/points and transmitting formats. Basically a complete inventory of all local government's technology to the Agency for State Technology. It is unclear why local governments were required to provide such information to AST since AST has no oversight authority over local government entities.
- **HB 7099 (CS/SB 1520 (CS/CS/HB 1203): Tourist Development Taxes): Taxation – PASSED** – The bill contains a provision that pertains to the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) which permits up to 10% of TDT funds to be used for emergency services, including law enforcement in a coastal county.
 - Permanent Sales Tax Exemption for Manufacturing Equipment - HB 7099 makes permanent the sales tax exemption for machinery and equipment used in manufacturing, agricultural post-harvest activities, and by metal recyclers.
 - Back-To-School Sales Tax Holiday - The legislation creates a three-day “back-to-school” sales tax holiday for clothing and footwear costing \$60 or less, and school supplies costing less than \$15 from August 5, 2016 to August 7, 2016. Among other tax relief measures HB 7099 also provides a sales tax exemption for sales of food and drink by veterans service organizations.