

DEPT-4



Legislative Affairs Update

August 13, 2019



2019 Wins



- \$700,000 Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative (LRPI)
 - \$270,000 targeted for the Martin County Culpepper Ranch Phase II Berm Project
- Over \$400M for Everglades Restoration
- \$50M targeted for water quality improvements
 - \$25M to address septic to sewer/wastewater treatment projects
- \$40M for alternative water supply
- \$25M to combat blue green algae and red tide
- \$50M for Beach Management Funding Assistance
- \$5.5M for Florida Coastal Resilient Coastline Initiative
- \$33M for Florida Forever
- \$125,000 for Old Martin County Courthouse Restoration Grant Funding

Challenges



- VISIT Florida
- Everglades Funding Momentum
- Reoccurring septic-to-sewer state funding
- Unfunded Mandates
- Home Rule

2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
Martin County Board of County Commissioners



Martin County's Guiding Principles

The ability to maintain home rule and avoid unfunded mandates are central to Martin County's federal and state legislative priorities and advocacy needs, as outlined below. These goals are championed by both Martin County and the Florida Association of Counties (FAC).

Each year Martin County works alongside FAC and, for the 2018 State Legislative Session, Martin County **SUPPORTS**, in general, FAC's legislative policy statements.

HOME RULE

Home rule power is conferred to Florida counties by Article VIII, section 1(f) and 1(g) of the Florida Constitution (1968), and by section 125.01, Florida Statutes. The Martin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is dedicated to the preservation of this fundamental democratic concept that protects the right of the people to determine and implement a public purpose at the grassroots level.

Martin County **SUPPORTS** the efforts of local communities to incorporate in accordance with Chapter 189.042 F.S.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

While some mandates are justified because they achieve agreed upon policy goals, many, if not most, mandates are imposed without the consensus of local governments or resources for implementation. Mandates drain the financial wellbeing from county governments and impede their ability to adequately deliver fundamental services required by law.

Martin County **SUPPORTS** 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.

Martin County **OPPOSES** any state or federal actions that limit the ability of local elected officials to make fiscal and public policy decisions on behalf of the citizens they represent.

Martin County **SUPPORTS** the establishment of an agreed upon course of action, whereby elected officials collaboratively evaluate the appropriate funding and delivery of intergovernmental service responsibilities between the county and state or federal governments.

Martin County **SUPPORTS** tax reform measures that simplify administration and provide an economic boost to taxpayers while at the same time considering and minimizing cumulative negative impacts on local revenues, including state shared and local discretionary revenue sources that are critical to local governments in providing community services.

Martin County's State Delegation



Senator
Gayle Harrell
District 25



Representative
Mary Ann Mager
District 82



Representative
Tobin Orentlicher
District 83

Appropriations Requests

Septic to Sewer Conversion

\$4,000,000

REQUEST funding for Martin County's Septic to Sewer Conversion Program.

While excessive discharges from Lake Okeechobee, along with local stormwater runoff, are both threats to the health of our waterways, septic systems are also part of the problem. Leaching of septic tank effluent into the groundwater from septic systems, especially in high density residential neighborhoods and those close to the water, is another contributing factor.

The reduction and elimination of septic systems is one way we can proactively improve the health of our local waterways, including the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon.



Fig. 1. Martin County Septic Project Site Map. Analytes measured at each site are color-coded as indicated by the key: DN = dissolved nutrients, AL = algae, PF = phytoplankton, SAV = submerged aquatic vegetation, SUC = sewerage and septicage. Martin County Department of Health Enterococcus monitoring stations are identified as white letters: LF = Leighton Park, RB = Roosevelt Bridge, SP = Sandpiper Park, and SS = Stuart Sandbar.

Appropriations Requests

▲ East Fork Creek Stormwater Treatment Area **\$1,200,000**

REQUEST funding for the construction of a water quality alternative treatment project.

Savannas South Weir **\$450,000**

REQUEST funding for the design and construction of an operable water control weir structure at Jensen Beach Boulevard and Warner Creek to provide habitat restoration within Savannas Preserve State Park and to reduce flooding in the downstream Warner Creek watershed.

Appropriations Requests

Biosolids

SUPPORT establishing a pilot project program for funding new, state of the art wastewater technologies to improve recovery and afford more efficient use of human wastewater biosolids.

Excess nutrients from land application of human waste from wastewater treatment effluent, termed "biosolids," reach surface waters as a result of rainfall runoff and continue to increase the occurrence of chronic harmful algal blooms (HABs).

PalMar

SUPPORT state funding for PalMar land acquisition. Acquisition of PalMar would enhance Martin County and the South Florida Water Management District's ability to protect the area's natural resources, provide outdoor recreational opportunities, and to assist in the restoration of the federally designated "Wild and Scenic" Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River.

Appropriations Requests

Indian River Lagoon - South

SUPPORT continued dedicated funding for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and **SUPPORT** long-term funding commitments to finance the completion of the projects on the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS), with a priority given to the Indian River Lagoon-South (IRL-S) Project including funding for the C-23/24 and C-25 reservoirs and STAs. **SUPPORT** the land acquisition of the Natural Lands Component of IRL-South, which includes 90,000 acres of wetland restoration.

The Indian River Lagoon-South Restoration Project, part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), was authorized to address the damaging effects of pollution and unnaturally large freshwater discharges and local basin runoff on our ecologically vital water bodies and its impact to our public health and safety. The IRL-S Project employs a regional approach to address the Martin and St. Lucie County portions of the lagoon. *The IRL-S Project will greatly reduce polluted freshwater discharges into the St. Lucie River and the Indian River Lagoon.*



Appropriations Requests

Indian River Lagoon - South

SUPPORT continued dedicated funding for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and **SUPPORT** long-term funding commitments to finance the completion of the projects on the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS), with a priority given to the Indian River Lagoon-South (IRL-S) Project including funding for the C-23/24 and C-25 reservoirs and STAs. **SUPPORT** the land acquisition of the Natural Lands Component of IRL-South, which includes 90,000 acres of wetland restoration.

The Indian River Lagoon-South Restoration Project, part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), was authorized to address the damaging effects of pollution and unnaturally large freshwater discharges and local basin runoff on our ecologically vital water bodies and its impact to our public health and safety. The IRL-S Project employs a regional approach to address the Martin and St. Lucie County portions of the lagoon. *The IRL-S Project will greatly reduce polluted freshwater discharges into the St. Lucie River and the Indian River Lagoon.*



Appropriations Requests

Beach Nourishment



SUPPORT a dedicated annual funding source of a minimum of \$50 million from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, the recognized funding source for the beach program, or any other funding sources identified by the legislature for statewide beach nourishment and inlet management projects to replace the historical doc stamp allocation and trust fund.

Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRL NEP)

SUPPORT the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program's legislative priorities.

Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative

SUPPORT continued funding of projects identified through the LRPI; a partnership of governmental agencies brought together for the common goal of the restoration and enhancement of the Loxahatchee River.

Additional Priorities

Amendment to Tree Trimming Protections

SUPPORT amending HB 1159 from the 2019 Legislative Session titled, "Private Property Rights". Amending language will include clarification of what is designated as "residential property", will protect champion and heritage trees, and will clarify the meaning of certified arborist and what trees may be deemed a "clear and present danger to persons and property".

Community Redevelopment Agency Statutory Authority

OPPOSE legislation aimed at limiting, dismantling or reducing funding for Community Redevelopment Agencies.

VISIT Florida

SUPPORT full funding at \$75 million for VISIT Florida. **SUPPORT** the reauthorization of VISIT Florida.

Arts Council Funding

SUPPORT the restoration of legislative funding for arts and culture in Florida.

Dedicated Coral Reef Funding

SUPPORT dedicated funding for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to restore the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Tract.

Florida Resilient Coastlines Program

SUPPORT dedicated funding for resources to prepare Florida's coastal communities and habitats for the effects of climate change, especially rising sea levels.

Harbor Branch Blue-Green Algae Research

SUPPORT Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute's blue-green algae research efforts.

Additional Martin County Legislative Policy Statements

- **Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):** **SUPPORT** state funding for research.
- **Residential Suppression Systems:** **SUPPORT** legislation that mandates the implementation of home fire sprinklers and **SUPPORT** the priorities of the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition.
- **Tobacco:** **SUPPORT** legislation that raises the minimum age for tobacco usage to 21 years old.

