

ST. JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Funding for Florida Forever

Support a minimum of \$3000 million in funding for Florida Forever, the state's premier conservation and recreation lands acquisition program, and renew the state's commitment to conserve Florida's unique natural and cultural heritage. Five years ago, 75% of Floridians voted to Constitutionally mandate one-third of the real estate document stamp revenue to fund land conservation.

Funding for Preservation Agricultural Land

Support legislation to assist counties in the purchase of "Development Rights" which will ensure farm land will remain in permanent agricultural use and reduce regulations restricting farmers' ability to market products. Agriculture has more than \$400 million annual economic impact to St. Johns County. Our county lost 33% of working croplands from 1997-2007.

Maximize use of Land Acquisition Trust Monies

Support the county's efforts to utilize Land Acquisition Trust monies to protect habitats, beaches and water sources. St. John's County is endowed with 42 miles of beaches and home to many wetlands, conservation lands and other natural amenities accessible to the public.

Funds for Expansion of St. Johns County Public Transit System

Support legislation that will increase funds to the Transportation Trust and oppose efforts to divert funds from the trust fund. The county's growing population dictates expanding public transportation to employment areas and collaborate on more regional routes.

Protection of Local Government Revenues and Statutes

Oppose any legislation which would further erode local governments from capturing revenue in the form of ad valorem values, impact fees, concurrency compensation and user fees. This revenue is critical to provide necessary programs and services for residents and to meet unfunded mandates.

Local governments should be allowed to regulate Short-term and Vacation Rentals and Plastics

Rescind Florida statutes which preempt cities and counties from regulating short-term and vacation rentals because local governments know what is best for their communities. Local jurisdictions need the ability to enact local zoning provisions to ensure quality of life of its citizens, including the use of plastics and styrofoam.

Support Repeal of HB 7103 Provisions & Restore Citizen Rights to Participate in Local Planning

This legislation passed in the late hours of the last session without benefit of hearings or committee input and deals a mortal blow to growth management in Florida. Citizens who challenge development orders and lose must pay legal fees for both sides. State law already gives judges the authority to require citizens filing frivolous challenges to pay the other side's legal fees.

Support Meaningful & Comprehensive Legislation to Further Limit Water Pollution

Enact legislation to address the sources of nutrient pollution, especially from septic tanks, biosolids, sewage spills, fertilizer and other runoffs which seep into groundwater and water tables. Nutrients are widely recognized as the major driver of algae proliferation.

Sea Level Rise Infrastructure Funding

Support funding to assist coastal communities in assessing vulnerabilities and risks associated with sea level rise and help develop plans and approaches for mitigation.