



Collier County 2013 State Legislative Priorities

*The Board of County Commissioners on behalf of Collier County citizens advocates for the overall principles of preserving the **Home Rule** authority of local governments; opposing state **Preemption**; opposing **Unfunded Mandates**; and protecting against **Trust Fund Diversions**.*

- A. Public Safety Center on Alligator Alley** – Oppose changes to the existing statute that provides both construction and operational funding for the proposed Public Safety Center being constructed by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) at Mile Marker 63.
- B. Beach Funding & Maintenance** – Advocate for increased funding for beach renourishment and maintenance for coastal counties; beaches continue to be the State of Florida’s economic engine and tourism industry driver, attracting visitors and creating jobs. In the FY 2012-2013 FDEP Beach Management budget, \$14.8 million was “allocated to the seven (7) highest prioritized projects.”
- C. Offshore Drilling in Gulf of Mexico** – Support permanently prohibiting offshore oil and gas drilling in Florida territorial waters, which are within nine (9) geographic miles from the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Support state demands that the federal government exert rigorous oversight of any current and future drilling outside state waters and insist no monetary limitations for any drilling mishap are set.
- D. Revenue & Expenditure Caps (TABOR)** – Oppose legislative or Constitutional restrictions on county authority to determine local tax burden or local financial commitments to services and quality of life. Specifically, oppose state legislation mandating local governments cap revenue and expenditures.
- E. Impact Fees** – Support home rule authority over administration of Collier County’s existing impact fee program. In 2012, no significant stand-alone legislation passed regarding impact fees. In 2011, SB 410 passed as a response to

litigation regarding HB 227 of 2009. The bill reenacts the section of law that created the preponderance of evidence standard of review for local governments in cases challenging the imposition or amount of an impact fee.

F. Libraries – Support State Aid to Libraries and cooperatives like the Southwest Florida Library Network (SWFLN). Full funding for Library multi-type cooperatives is about \$1.5 million. That amount was passed by both Senate and House in FY 2012, but vetoed by the Governor. The funding is used to provide a variety of services that support library services to all types of libraries in Florida. The Collier local coop ‘SWFLN’ provides staff training, support for delivery of library materials for Inter-Library Loan, etc.

G. Transportation Disadvantaged Program – Support continued restoration of funding by the Florida Legislature of the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) program and assure that the additional \$10 million committed in 2012 (SB 1998) for funding in FY 2013-14 is secure. The county is no longer the provider of Medicaid non-emergency transportation services, but continues to serve as the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for all other TD services. In the 2012 Legislative Session, the Legislature provided an additional \$5 million for TD services statewide. In 2012, Collier County received: Trip and Equipment Grant **\$679,971**, FTA Grant **\$254,781**, and local funding **\$2,528,100**. The total 2012 budget: **\$3,462,852**

H. Florida Building Code – Support review and simplification of the Florida Building Code as a means to promote business expansion and job growth.

New Issues:

- **Synthetic Drugs** – Support, like FAC, expanding the controlled substance schedule to include new versions of synthetic formulas that copy the effects of illegal drugs. Support prohibiting certain types of packaging and marketing of any products claiming to mimic the effects of illegal drugs. Known as synthetic marijuana, spice, bath salts, and a myriad of other names, these substances are being sold at local service stations and convenience stores, can be highly addictive, unpredictable, and attractive to youth and young adults. Marketed with packaging and affordable price aimed at youth. Effects vary as mixtures are inconsistent.

The most recent bill, House Bill 1175 of 2012, lists 142 synthetic stimulants currently on the controlled substance schedule. The Collier County Sheriff's Office and Drug Free Collier held a joint session in August 2012 to educate the community and provide information.

- **Procurement** – Support, as FAC does, legislation amending the Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA) to establish an optional (alternative)

process for state and local entities to consider cost in the award of professional services agreements. Bills were filed last session, Senate Bill 246 and House Bill 155, seeking to amend the CCNA statute to include a “Best Value” option when competitively bidding professional services while also maintaining the current CCNA option for agencies to utilize at their own discretion.

- **No Kill Animal Shelters** – Oppose mandating No Kill Animal Shelters statewide, which according to FAC, is a movement spreading across Florida county by county. Central to its mission, Domestic Animal Services (DAS) in Collier County wholeheartedly supports all responsible efforts to first and foremost *save animal lives*. This is reflected through extensive efforts to reunite stray animals with their owners, adopt them to new homes, or place them with rescue groups. However, agencies are concerned that proposed legislation would substantially increase animal care costs associated with program administration and additional hold times mandated in the previously proposed legislation. Further, proposed law could inadvertently result in less humane treatment of animals through increased overcrowding at shelter facilities, increased risk of exposure to contagious infectious diseases, and placement with illegitimate rescue organizations.
- **Pensions** – As FAC’s policy statement reads: Oppose any Florida Retirement System (FRS) benefit changes that result in an increase in the FRS county and county employee contribution rates. Support requiring all legislation that potentially results in an increase in the FRS contribution rate to be analyzed and evaluated to determine the direct fiscal impact of proposed changes to all local governments and the state to be eligible for consideration.
- **Medicaid** – Encourage the state to overhaul the system and pursue an equitable method of collecting payments owed from counties on behalf of residents and patients. Addressing and cleansing of data must assure billing invoices disbursed are accurate.

Enacted Legislation & Issues to Monitor:

- **Transportation** – *Oppose diverting the Transportation Trust Fund to non-transportation projects; \$200 million was transferred in 2012 from the Transportation Trust Fund into general state spending; oppose regionalization of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO’s).*
- **Growth Management** – *Monitor any new Growth Management legislation, including Permitting, Transportation Concurrency, Proportionate Share.*
- **Property Insurance** – *Senate Bill 408 passed in 2011, made numerous changes to property insurance that intended on lowering the regulations for insurance companies, stimulating competition, and attracting more insurers back to Florida.*
- **Non-Judicial Foreclosures** – *Continue to oppose any foreclosure legislation that threatens residents’ due process and property owner rights.*

- ***Pretrial Detention & Release Programs*** – Continue to oppose legislation altering pretrial programs; increased jail populations result; bills are supported by growing bail bond industry and expected to return. The Collier Sheriff's Office and Court Administration are also opposed to the proposed bills.
- ***Regional Planning Councils*** – Monitor the funding of RPC's statewide.