



Collier County 2016 State Legislative Priorities

Issues of Major Importance to Advocate:

1. **Inland Oil Drilling & Fracking** – The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) has requested assistance from the Collier County Legislative Delegation to support legislation that improves and strengthens state rules and regulations governing oil well drilling activities. The BCC agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to jointly develop and support regulatory reforms in this industry is still valid.
2. **Human Trafficking** – Continue working with the Collier County Sheriff's Office to add measures to the 2012 Florida Human Trafficking Law that improve and strengthen current legislation. The Sheriff has proposed improved victim services, including both a juvenile and a separate adult residential treatment with detox services, trauma counseling, drug counseling, process addiction counseling, legal services and life skills coaching. He also advised regional commanders to provide coordination and access to training.
3. **Bike and Pedestrian Safety** – Collier County will continue to work with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One Secretary Billy Hattaway and the Florida Legislature to increase bike and pedestrian safety.
4. **University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS)** – Collier County supports the **\$3.5 million** budget request made by UF/IFAS and the South Florida Ag Council to the Florida Legislature for continued funding of the Southwest Florida Research and Education Center.
5. **Economic Development Initiatives** – Collier County requests **\$5.5 million** from the Florida Legislature to support economic development initiatives.
 - A. Soft Landing Business Accelerator Network: Collier County supports additional state legislative support **at a \$3.5 million level** for Collier County's Soft Landing Accelerator Network and the Immokalee segment of the project. Of the total funding request, the Immokalee Food & Agribusiness will receive **\$2.2 million**; the Naples Accelerator Innovation Center will be allocated **\$1.3 million**. The funding will be used for the development, build-out, and equipment necessary for an applied food sciences laboratory and commercial kitchen and packaging facilities.

- B. Health and Life Sciences: Collier County requests **\$2 million** in state funding to be used in conjunction and collaboration with the Naples Soft Landing Accelerator Network, Florida Gulf Coast University Small Business Development Center (SBDC), University of Florida, Florida State University Immokalee Medical Center, Health Care Network of Southwest Florida, support establishment of an applied health and life sciences center and accelerator focused on the support and development of innovation companies, technologies and products in the area of the human genome, nutrigenomics nutraceuticals, and super foods.
6. **Uber** – Aligning with the Florida Association of Counties (FAC), Collier County supports maintaining the integrity of home rule power, which allows counties to regulate taxis, limousines, ride-sharing services, and jitneys for the purpose of public safety and consumer protection. Conversely, the county opposes any effort that preempts to the state the regulation of chauffeured limousines, limousine services, ride-sharing services, taxis, and drivers of chauffeured limousines, taxis, or ride-sharing vehicles.
7. **Article V** – Collier County supports additional funding for courts.

Funding Requests:

Collier County is requesting funding allocations from 2016 Florida Legislature appropriations for water quality projects identified as critical needs in the community. The following four (4) projects have been identified based on deliberate, measured review:

I. Water Projects:	Requesting:
A. Naples Park Phase II	\$ 1,650,000
B. Golden Gate City	\$ 700,000
C. Griffin Road	\$ 750,000
D. Haldeman Weir	\$ 500,000

Direct state advocacy efforts on behalf of Collier County to include additional support for legislative initiatives that increase opportunities for funding for local water resource projects with direct state support or additional funding through the FDEP and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

Issues to Monitor: The BCC, 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**.

1. **Gulf Consortium** – Support Collier County’s continued participation in the federal RESTORE Act directives, including the State of Florida’s Gulf Consortium. In the Transocean civil settlement, Collier County is eligible for more than \$900,000. The

federal court found British Petroleum (BP) to be “grossly negligent” in the Deepwater Horizon tragedy of April 2010.

Collier County will be submitting a Grant request for Restore Act funding via Component 2 – Comprehensive Plan Component. This will be a significant funding request to execute a comprehensive watershed improvement plan to restore historical watershed flow in the County, improve water quality and restore habitat. The State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for administration of the Restore Component 2 – Comprehensive Plan Component. They will provide the project evaluation and funding recommendations to the Governor. Lobbying support will be required to successfully secure this grant funding.

2. **Utility Relocation Expense moved to Local Governments** – Like the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and the Florida League of Cities (FLC), the county opposes legislation requiring counties to pay for the relocation of private utilities when such utilities are located within a county-owned right of way and must be moved to accommodate a county project.
3. **Tourism & Entertainment Incentives** – Protect the current level of funding to VISIT FLORIDA and support increased funding. Also, support Entertainment Incentives for TV, film.
4. **Growth Management & Impact Fees** – Continue to support growth management regulations and home rule authority over administration of Collier County’s existing impact fee program.
5. **Public Record Requests** – Request legislation adding to current public records law 119.07(1) a provision that includes Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT’s) and Paramedics as exemptions, like firefighters and law enforcement.
6. **Communications Services Tax (CST)** – Oppose any legislation that would reduce or eliminate the CST; support present CST collections. Loss of CST represents \$5 million annual impact to Collier County.
7. **Transportation** – Oppose diverting funds from the State Transportation Trust Fund to non-transportation projects. A total of \$10.1 billion was funded for transportation items for the current FY 2015-16, including \$9.3 billion for the Work Program. Also, pursue an increased return on dollars for Collier County, a long-time donor county. Collier County appreciates the efforts of FDOT which continually faces tremendous funding challenges in addressing the infrastructure needs of 67 Florida counties.
8. **Libraries** – Continue to support State Aid to Libraries and the Southwest Florida Library Network (SWFLN). Last session, there was about \$34 million in statewide allocations.
9. **Gaming** – Continue to monitor the new Seminole Gaming Compact being negotiated by Governor Rick Scott and the Seminole tribe. Support at least three (3) % government share of any future gaming proceeds to finance future infrastructure needs. The Seminole gambling casino in Immokalee has plans to expand vertically.

- 10. Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling** - Continue to 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.
- 11. Annexation of Isles of Capri and Collier Fire District into Greater Naples Fire Rescue District** – Collier County supports continued efforts to consolidate fire services within the unincorporated county, and supports the annexation of Collier Fire District (District One).