Manatee County's State & Federal Legislative Priorities and Appropriations Requests

Information in preparation for FY26 Cycle

Manatee County
FLORIDA

Legislative Priorities vs. Appropriations

Legislative Priorities:

- Key initiatives and issues for advocacy and legislation.
- Focus areas: infrastructure, public safety, healthcare, education, environment, housing, and economic development.
- Goal: Influence State/Federal lawmakers for supportive laws and funding.

Appropriations Requests:

- Formal funding requests for community projects.
- Submitted to State and Federal representatives for inclusion their respective budgets.
- Project areas: infrastructure, public safety, environment, healthcare, education, and community services.

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State Focus vs. Federal Focus

State Focus:

- Appropriations
- Legislative Priorities

Federal Focus:

- Appropriations
- Legislative Priorities are not as important at the state level
  - Less impact than State laws and regulations

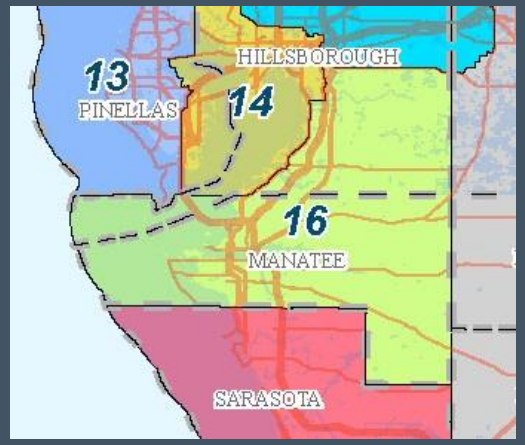
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Federal Level

Manatee County's Congressional Delegation



Congressman
Vern Buchanan (FL-16)
District encompasses all of Manatee County





Senator
Marco Rubio
Elected and serves Statewide



Senator
Rick Scott
Elected and serves Statewide

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Manatee County's Federal Lobbyists

BALLARD | PARTNERS



Dan McFaul

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Federal Appropriations Process

- Representatives solicit Community Project Funding (CPF) requests from State and local governments or eligible non-profits.
- These entities submit projects and funding requests.
- Projects are reviewed and narrowed down by the Representative to meet cap on requests (either based on money or total number of requests).
- Final list of requests are sent from the Representative to the appropriate committee for review and approval for inclusion in final budget bill.
- Final funding approval in the budget must pass the House and Senate and be signed by the President.
- Timeline for submitting Appropriations Projects for the FY26 is currently unknown.
- Dates will be released around the beginning of March 2025.

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The Federal Appropriations Timeline

March–April

Congressional Budget Resolution: The House and Senate Budget Committees draft a budget resolution, setting overall spending limits.

April–June

Appropriations Hearings and Markups: House and Senate Appropriations Committees hold hearings, draft, and "mark up" (edit) 12 appropriations bills.

June–July

Committee Votes and Floor Consideration: The Appropriations Committees vote on the bills, which then go to the full House and Senate for debate and amendments.

July–September

Conference Committees and Final Votes: Differences between House and Senate versions are resolved in conference committees. Each chamber votes on the final versions.

By September 30

Final Passage or Continuing Resolutions: Ideally, all 12 bills pass by the end of the fiscal year (September 30). If not, Congress may pass a continuing resolution to keep the government funded.

Manatee County FLORIDA

OUR DEADLINE: We should have our Federal appropriations and legislative priorities finalized by January 31st

Manatee County's FY24 Federal Appropriations Requests and Receipts

Project	Requested	Received
Gateway Greenway Rails to Trails	$2,900,000	$2,900,000
Construction of a Veterans' Service Center	$3,000,000	$2,800,000
Fort Hamer bridge construction	$3,000,000	$3,000,000
51st Street West extension	$3,000,000	$1,500,000
US 41/Lincoln Park Pedestrian Bridge Construction	$3,000,000	Unfunded
Pearce Drain Watershed Flood Mitigation	$3,000,000	Unfunded
Duette Rd Bridge Replacement	$3,000,000	Unfunded
44th Avenue East at Wood Fern Trail Traffic Signal Construction	$2,500,000	Unfunded

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What are other Counties getting? (FY23)

- **Cultural and Community Services**
  - Southside St. Petersburg Community Center (Pinellas) ($901,000)
  - City of Orlando Lake Nona Poitras Park (Orange) ($1,000,000)
- **Education**
  - Hillsborough County Public Schools arts education (Hillsborough) ($1,986,353)
  - Palm Beach State College (Palm Beach) ($1,000,000)
- **Environment and Infrastructure**
  - Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Project (Monroe) ($5,694,000)
  - CR 466A 4-Laning Final Phase Completion (Lake) ($3,612,000)
- **Health and Human Services**
  - Polk County behavioral health and mobile crisis services (Polk) ($1,000,000)
  - H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center (Hillsborough) ($3,000,000)
- **Public Safety and Law Enforcement**
  - Wakulla County Emergency Operations Center (Wakulla) ($3,000,000)
  - Sarasota Police Department Equipment Upgrade (Sarasota) ($300,000)

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State Level

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Manatee County's State Representatives



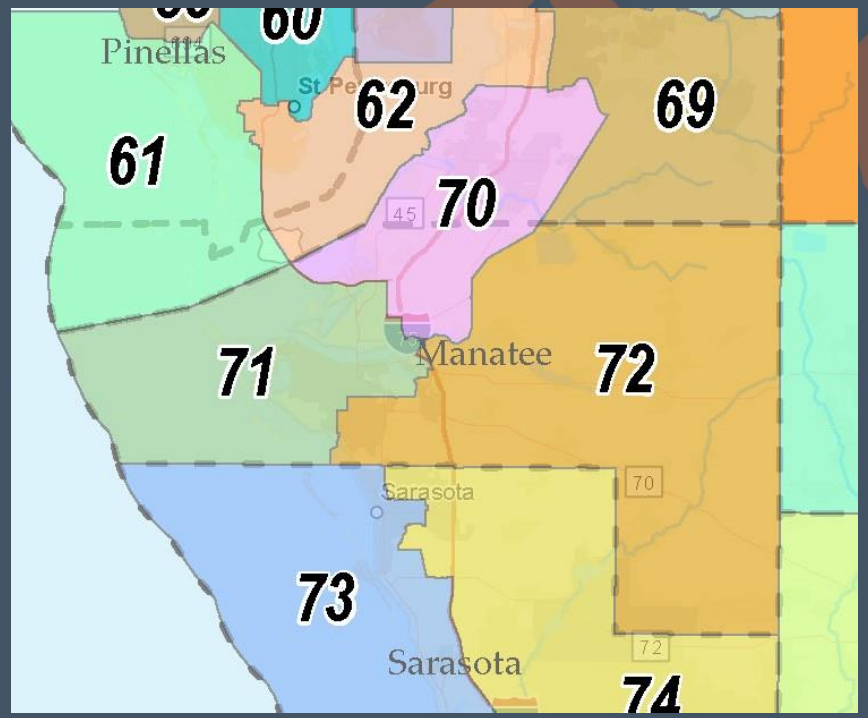
State Representative Michael Owen
District 70



State Representative Will Robinson
District 71



State Representative Bill Conerly
District 72



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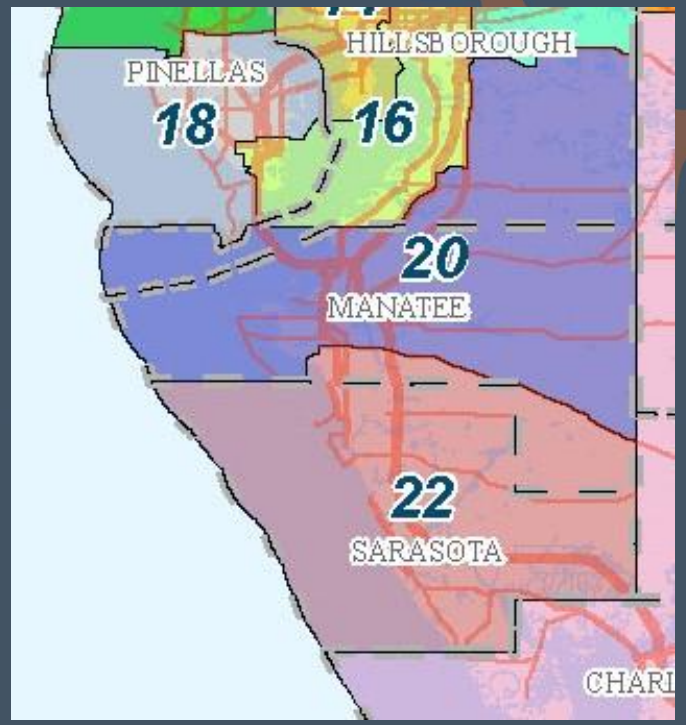
Manatee County's State Senators



State Senator
Jim Boyd
District 20



State Senator
Joe Gruters
District 22



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Manatee County's State Lobbyists

JOHNSTON & STEWART
GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES



Jeff Johnston



Amanda Stewart

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State Appropriations Process

- State Representatives and Senators solicit Appropriations Projects from local governments, private entity, or privately operated program.
- These entities submit projects and funding requests.
- Projects are sent for review by the Appropriations Committee for validation and approval for inclusion in final budget.
- Final budget must be passed by the House and Senate and signed by the Governor.
  - The Governor does have a line-item veto, and can veto specific funding in the budget, rather than the budget as a whole.
- Timeline for submitting Appropriations Projects for the 2025 Legislative Session is currently unknown.
- Dates will be released mid- to late-December.

Manatee County FLORIDA

The State Appropriations Timeline

January

Governor's Budget Proposal Released: The Governor submits a recommended budget to the Legislature.

March–May (Regular Legislative Session)

Committee Review & Budget Hearings: House and Senate Appropriations Committees review the Governor's proposal and hold budget hearings.

April–May

Appropriations Bills Drafted and Amended: The House and Senate each draft and amend their appropriations bills, then vote on them.

May

Budget Conference Committees: Differences between House and Senate versions are resolved in conference committees, and the final budget is voted on.

Late May–June

Governor's Review and Vetoes: The budget goes to the Governor for final review and potential line-item vetoes.

July 1 New Fiscal Year Begins: The approved budget takes effect, funding state programs for the new fiscal year.

Manatee County FLORIDA

OUR DEADLINE: We should have our Federal appropriations and legislative priorities finalized by January 10th.

NOTE: This timeline varies by year.
Even numbered years = Leg. Session runs Jan. to Mar.
Odd numbered years = Leg. Session runs Mar. to May

Manatee County's FY24 State Appropriations Requests and Receipts

Project	Requested	Received	Vetoed
Moccasin Wallow Road Expansion Segment 5	$10,000,000	$6,000,000	No
State Road 64 PD&E Study	$1,200,000	$1,200,000	No
44th Avenue East Connection	$10,000,000	$1,000,000	No
Fort Hamer Permitting & Construction	$10,000,000	$2,000,000	Yes
Fort Hamer Bridge 4-Lane Design	$10,000,000	$3,000,000	Yes
51st Street West Extension	$10,000,000	$0	N/A

Manatee County FLORIDA

What are other Counties getting? (FY23)

- **Cultural and Community Services**
  - U.S. Space Walk of Fame Museum, Inc. (Brevard) ($55,941)
  - Tallahassee Little Theatre, Inc. (Leon) ($36,302)
- **Education**
  - Florida Gateway College (Columbia) ($23,026,152)
  - The College of the Florida Keys ($11,171,485)
- **Environment and Infrastructure**
  - Electric Vehicle Grant Program (Duval) ($2,700,000)
  - Hernando County Canal Management Feasibility Study (Hernando) ($100,000)
- **Health and Human Services**
  - Broward County Medication-Assisted Treatment Program (Broward) ($275,000)
  - Citrus Health Network (Miami-Dade) ($455,000)
- **Public Safety and Law Enforcement**
  - The Florida Law Enforcement Education Initiative (Broward) ($1,250,000)
  - Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Administrative Complex (Santa Rosa) ($750,000)

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Appropriations Ideas

High Priority

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Veteran Connections Hub

- A comprehensive resource center dedicated to serving veterans and their families in Manatee County.
- Provide a multitude of services, ranging from career building and mental health support to entrepreneurial training and community building activities.
- Amount Requested: $5,000,000



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Reservoir Expansion

- The County is evaluating options to increase the supply yield to meet projected future potable water demands.
- The County is considering purchasing a parcel of land along Gilley Creek that may be suitable for the construction of a reservoir.
- Amount Requested: $10,000,000 for design of the project
- Total Project Cost: $185,195,000

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Watershed Management Plans

- Also referred to as Stormwater Mitigation plans.
- The County is seeking funding for new Watershed Management Plans involving Lake Manatee/Upper Manatee River and Myakka River.
- Amount Requested: $4,500,000
- Total Project Cost: $4,500,000

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51st Street West

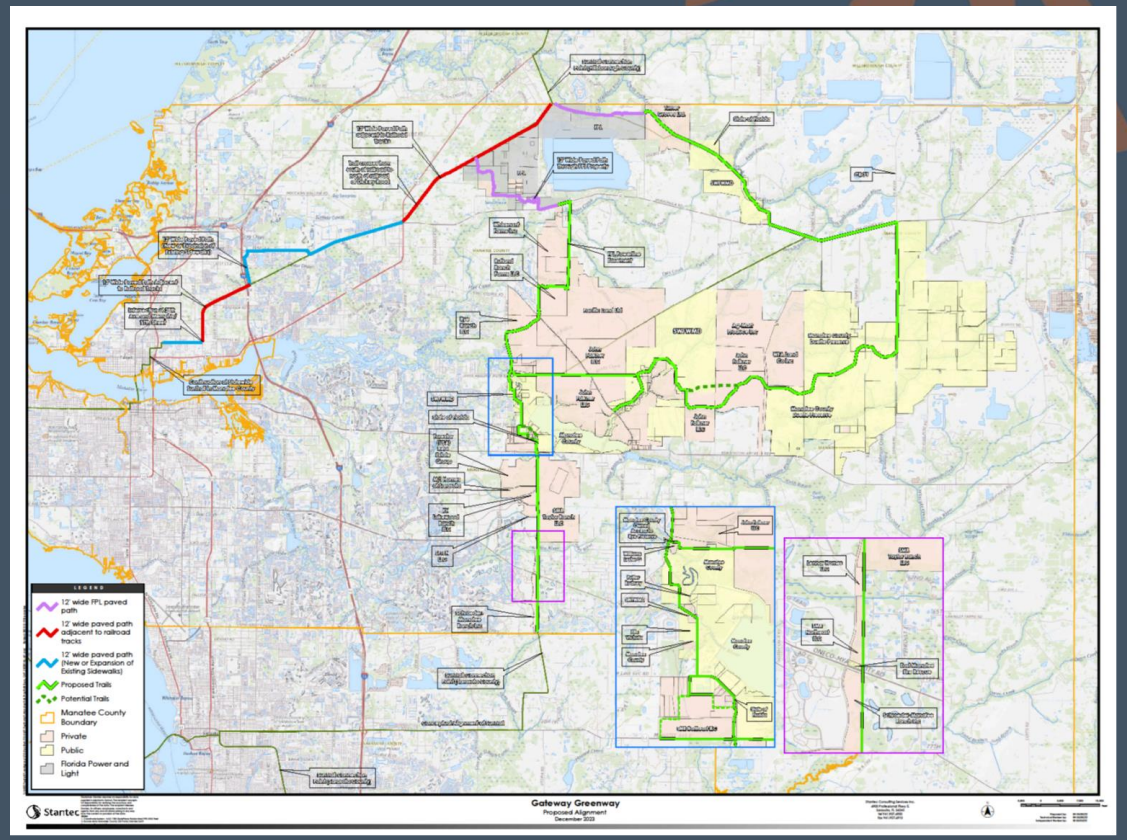
- Support construction of the first two lanes of a future four-lane road.
- The 51st Street West project is new construction of two lanes of a future four-lane thoroughfare between El Conquistador Parkway and 53rd Avenue West.
- The road will improve connections to employment centers, educational opportunities, tourism destinations, sports performance venues, and beach resorts.
- Amount Requested: $10,000,000
- Total Project Cost: $35,100,000



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Gateway Greenway Trails

- Design and construction budget for segments of Manatee County's Gateway Greenway Multipurpose Trail system.
- This trail system is a vital component of the multi-county, non-motorized Gulf Coast Trail, stretching from Hernando County to Collier County.
- Amount Requested: $3,000,000
- Total Project Cost: $4,100,000



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Medium Priority

State Road 64

- Design of State Road 64 roadway capacity improvements.
- The expected improvement is widening of 7.75 miles of SR 64 from two-lanes to four-lanes with project limits extending from near Lorraine Road to Verna Bethany Road.
- SR 64 traverses Manatee County east-west, and it is an important facility for local and regional movement of people and goods due to its connections to Anna Maria Island, City of Bradenton and I-75.
- Amount Requested: $10,800,000
- Total Project Cost: $96,100,000



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Old Green Bridge/Fishing Pier Replacement

- The 2,100’ pier, has been a mainstay of the Manatee River front since 1987. It is currently seen a community asset by the County and the City of Palmetto, in whose jurisdiction it resides.
- Manatee County is responsible for operation and maintenance of the structure through demolition of the structure as a condition of the lease agreement with the State of Florida who actually owns the structure.
- Amount Requested: $10,000,000 for construction of a new structure.
- Total Project Cost: $18.2 – 26 million (demolition and construction)

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Washington Park

- Design and construction budget for portions of Washington Park in Palmetto.
- The southeast portion of Washington Park will be home to the park's recreational amenities, such as a central pavilion, a children's play area, and a multi-use field.
- Amount Requested: $3,000,000



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Sylvan Oaks Neighborhood

- This is a project to address street flooding in a low-income area.
- The issue is that the neighborhood's streets routinely flood, but the homes generally do not.
- The residents can have no or limited access and services for up to 48 hours following significant rain events.
- The neighborhood is located in a basin with an ongoing study to determine the street elevation needed to prevent flooding.
- Amount Requested: $6,500,000 for unfunded construction needs.

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Low Priority

Fort Hamer Road

- Design, permitting, and construction cost of Fort Hamer Road from Manatee River to Moccasin Wallow Road roadway capacity improvement.
- It is part of a corridor that spans the entire County and provides an important regional connection between Manatee, Sarasota, and Hillsborough Counties.
- Widening the road from 2 lanes to four from the Manatee River to Moccasin Wallow Road.
- Amount Requested: $10,000,000
- Ideal Project for Grants Funding

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Fort Hamer Bridge

- Design, permitting, and construction costs of Fort Hamer Bridge capacity improvements.
- The second bridge, which will be parallel to the existing bridge, will double the capacity of this essential North-South thoroughfare.
- This corridor plays an ever-increasing role as a parallel reliever for I-75 and provides regional connections between Manatee, Sarasota and Hillsborough Counties.
- Amount Requested: $10,000,000
- Ideal Project for Grants Funding

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Grants Opportunities

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Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Initiative

- **Purpose:** BRIC aims to support proactive investment in community resilience against natural disasters.
- **Funding Focus:** Provides grants for hazard mitigation projects that reduce risks from disasters like floods, hurricanes, and wildfires.
- **Community-Driven Approach:** Encourages projects that reflect local priorities and promote long-term resilience.
- **Eligibility:** Open to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to apply for project funding.
- **Types of Projects Funded:** Infrastructure improvements, flood control, wildfire reduction, retrofitting buildings, and other resilience-focused measures.

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Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program

- **Purpose:** The FMA program aims to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- **Funding Focus:** Funding prioritizes localized flood risk reduction, properties with severe or repetitive flood loss, and projects that improve community resilience.
- **Community-Driven Approach:** The program addresses community-specific needs, especially for low-income populations, etc., via including the communities as stakeholders alongside the grantee.
- **Eligibility:** Grantees must participate in and maintain good standing with the NFIP to be eligible for funding.
- **Types of Projects Funded:** Grants support community and individual flood mitigation projects, technical assistance, and management costs to lower flood risks and reduce NFIP flood claim payments.

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Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Swift Current Program

- **Purpose:** The Swift Current effort funds mitigation for buildings insured under the NFIP after a major flood-related disaster declaration to reduce future flood damage risks.
- **Funding Focus:** It prioritizes buildings with NFIP flood insurance and a history of repetitive or substantial flood damage.
- **Community-Driven Approach:** Funding is available only to states, territories, and tribal governments impacted by flood-related disaster events and meeting eligibility requirements.
- **Eligibility:** Property owners must have an active NFIP flood insurance contract and a record of significant flood damage to qualify.
- **Types of Projects Funded:** The program provides funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to support post-disaster flood mitigation projects.

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Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

- **Purpose:** The HMGP provides funding to SLTT (state, local, tribal, and territorial) governments to rebuild in ways that reduce future natural disaster losses.
- **Funding Focus:** Funding is allocated based on declared disaster assistance and is guided by a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- **Community-Driven Approach:** Funding is requested by governors or tribal chief executives during a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration and applies across the affected state, tribe, or territory.
- **Eligibility:** SLTT governments with FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plans and related disaster declarations are eligible to apply.
- **Types of Projects Funded:** Grants support mitigation planning, project management, and administrative costs, with local governments up to 5% of their HMGP award for management.

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Legislative Priorities Ideas

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Current State and Federal Legislative Priorities Ideas

Support

- Affordable Housing
- Affordable childcare
- Broadband
- Increased funding for Public Safety
- Economic Development initiatives
- Fill Gaps in Funding for Non-Profits (State)
- Housing empowerment initiatives
- Library Advisory Board governance
- Safe Children Coalition

Oppose

- Local Government preemption
- Regulatory burdens
- Increased taxes and fees
- Cuts to local services

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Public Works State and Federal Legislative Priorities Ideas

State

- SUPPORT: Index State and local motor fuel taxes to help offset effects of increased cost of transportation capital projects and operating activities funded with fuel tax revenue.
- SUPPORT: Funding transportation-related appropriation requests with sources that do not impact the transportation trust fund, e.g., fund member projects from the general fund.
- SUPPORT: Stormwater regulation reform to address design events and quantity & rate of discharge

Federal

- SUPPORT: Federal transportation funding legislation that increases formula fund allocations and reduces reliance on discretionary grant programs.

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Manatee Day in Tallahassee

- A delegation from Manatee County will visit Tallahassee for a day and show off what our county has to offer.
- Participants can include:
  - Manatee County Government
  - Cities and municipalities
  - Non-profits
  - Companies
  - Other entities that promote Manatee County
- Initial planning for this to be held in November 2025 for the 2026 legislative session.

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Next Steps

- Tallahassee and DC trips
  - Tallahassee: Tuesday, January 21st, 2025, to Thursday, January 23rd, 2025
    - Alternative date is second week of February
  - DC: late-February to mid-March, working with Dan McFaul to plan

- There will be a special meeting to finalize state and federal appropriations and priorities on January 7th, 2025.

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