THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION FOR PROVIDING THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FLAGLER COUNTY COMMUNITY TO VOCALIZE ITS REQUESTS FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION IN THE UPCOMING 2020 SESSION.

WE ARE BOTH PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY INSPIRED BY THE OUTPOURING OF OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AT THESE ANNUAL MEETINGS. THEY ARE TRULY A TESTAMENT TO FLORIDA’S DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND THE FLAGLER COUNTY COMMISSION IS PROUD TO BE A PART OF IT.

DURING CHALLENGING TIMES, IT IS CRITICAL FOR ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS TO CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER, TO DEVELOP AND EXECUTE THE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS REQUIRED. WE LOOK FORWARD TO OUR CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP AS WE NAVIGATE TOWARD THOSE SOLUTIONS THROUGH THE UPCOMING FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION.
REPRESENTATION

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICT 1 CHARLES ERICKSEN JR.
DISTRICT 2 GREGORY L. HANSEN
DISTRICT 3 DAVID SULLIVAN, CHAIR
DISTRICT 4 JOE MULLINS, VICE-CHAIR
DISTRICT 5 DONALD O’BRIEN

LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

SENATOR TRAVIS HUTSON (850) 487-5006
REPRESENTATIVE PAUL RENNER (850) 717-5024

2020 LEGISLATIVE DATES

- August 1, 2019: Deadline for filing Senate claim bills
- November 21, 2019: Flagler County Delegation Meeting
- November 22, 2019: Deadline for submitting requests for drafts of general bills and joint resolutions
- January 10, 2020: Deadline for approving final drafts of general bills and joint resolutions
- January 14, 2020: Regular session convenes. Deadline for filing bills for introduction
- February 29, 2020: All bills are immediately certified
- March 3, 2020: 50th day — Last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings
- March 13, 2020: 60th day — Last day of Regular Session
POLICY PRIORITIES 2020

1. Support the founding of a State University System presence in the City of Palm Coast by the University of North Florida

2. Support the Legislature Appropriation funding for the Public Library Construction Grant Program

3. Restore and Protect Florida’s Housing Trust Funds

4. Increase the Small County Consolidated Solid Waste Grant Population Cap

5. Support the Approval of the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund application for the Flagler Central Commerce Parkway Roadway Construction Project

6. Continue to Support Home Rule

7. Keep Aviation Fuel Taxes

8. Maintain Short Term Vacation Rental Legislation Status Quo
Sanitary Sewer Collection System for the Barrier Island North ~ Marineland to Hammock Dunes Bridge
Requested Funding: $ 8,000,000

West Flagler County Flooding and Environmental Mitigation Water Control Project (Phase I)
Requested Funding: $ 750,000

Flagler County Emergency Operations Center Hardening and Enhancements
Requested Funding: $ 3,700,000
**Policy**

1. **Support the founding of a State University system presence in the City of Palm Coast by the University of North Florida**
   
   This is the most important of the policy priorities brought forth for consideration, as it will have a positive effect on many regional stakeholders, and enhances the entire Northeast and Northcentral Florida Region. The long term ask is to encourage the Florida State University System Board of Governors, Florida Legislature, and Governor Ron DeSantis to support the establishment of a State University presence in the City of Palm Coast that will help satisfy regional workforce needs and train the graduates of the future by bringing world-class, industry-relevant educational opportunities to its residents throughout Flagler County and surrounding areas.

2. **Support the Legislature Appropriation Funding for the Public Library Construction Grant Program**
   
   Encourage the Legislature to appropriate the funding for the Public Library Construction Grant Program in which Flagler County is ranked #1. This will allow the County to construct a larger library and fill a much needed gap in the underserved southern part of our community.

3. **Restore and Protect Florida’s Housing Trust Funds**
   
   Urge the Florida Legislature to use ALL of Florida’s housing trust fund monies for Florida’s housing programs and stop the sweep of the housing trust funds.

4. **Increase the small county consolidated solid waste grant population cap**
   
   Increase the Grant’s population cap requirement criteria to match that of a REDI county, and help Flagler County continue to receive the needed grant dollars to continue to service our landfill solid waste management needs.

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Flagler County
Support approval of the City of Bunnell’s Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Enterprise Florida Grant application that will allow Flagler County to be able to optimize development of existing industrially zoned land, and help create an industrial park with completed infrastructure, which will increase the County’s business attraction and competitiveness that is critical for job creation.

Continue to encourage the State Legislature in seeking local government input on all legislative matters that have the potential of impacting local communities.

Keep Florida’s Aviation Fuel Taxes, with no further reductions, so that they continue to provide resources key to economic development and vitally important infrastructure improvements in our high growth state.

Maintain the Status Quo in regards to local government regulations for Short Term Vacation Rental legislation. Or at a minimum, carve out Flagler County from any changes in legislation.

Thank you
Post Hurricanes Matthew and Irma saw large portions of this area experience severe flooding. While flooding presents its own problems, these problems are compounded when the majority of properties flooded are on septic tanks. While some of these systems are operating properly and are the best available alternative for wastewater disposal, there are thousands of septic tanks that are old and failing, discharging nutrients at high levels in environmentally sensitive areas. Even those that are working properly still discharge some nutrients into the environment. When these systems flood, as in recent weather events, the systems do not work properly for the homes and unwanted environmental discharges increase.

This area is a major part of the water that drains towards the Matanzas inlet. This drainage, when coupled with the continued bacterial and untreated stormwater pollution and freshwater discharges, impacts and threatens the remaining Class II shell fishing waters in both Flagler and St. Johns counties. Lastly, the impact to Class III water quality standards throughout the region can be reduced by a prudent investment/partnership with Flagler County today, which will help prevent this region of Northeast Florida from becoming the next Indian River Lagoon Restoration effort costing hundreds of millions more.

This project would actually be a regional project between the City of Palm Coast and Flagler County, and ultimately the Town of Marineland. The City would provide the sewer main, laterals, and the system, while the County would have to work with residents on the project and implement mandatory connection. Both sides would need funding. The City would need funding for the infrastructure. The County would need funding to pay for the sewer main extension, lateral lines, connection charges to the City, and buy-down on the physical costs for residents to connect to the system. The sewer main extension, as well as the lateral lines that hook up to neighborhoods, are typically more difficult, more expensive, and provide the least environmental impact. The County would also need to finance homeowners’ portions of the costs through an assessment district over 10-15 years. The project could be done in multiple phases over time.

If funding is appropriated for Palm Coast and Flagler County to begin phase one of this project, it would be the first step towards the elimination of septic tank pollution from the barrier island and the environment and add a layer of storm hardening for residents in the area for future events.
Flagler County west of US 1 is predominately rural with a growing population of those seeking a quieter, slower, lifestyle, often in non-engineered subdivisions. Mixed in you will find cabbage & potato farms and cattle ranches, which together serve as a large portion of Flagler’s economic engine and reflect its historical roots. Both are expected to flourish in the coming decades and both are dependent on the common shared concerns of drainage/flooding, water usage/conservation, protection for wells from environmental impacts and septic systems, and impacts to nearby swamps, fragile wetlands/ecosystems and water bodies.

The current system of canals, ditches, and drainage has been created over more than 100 years through makeshift adjustment by landowners with relatively no engineering or any type of stormwater analysis. Portions of the storm-water systems of the City of Palm Coast and the City of Bunnell rely on being able to drain westward through several of these canal/creek non-engineered systems. Not having a planned/design system has led to flooding issues, fertilizer and pesticides issues with water bodies, and no overall method to evaluate any changes to the system or fix problems. In recent years, flooding has become more frequent and threatens farms and residents alike. Also, as the area grows, well water and septic tanks will become an even larger issue and eventually will lead to the need for some public water supply and treatment either due to over-usage, contamination, or some combination thereof.

To address this problem, the County is seeking to model the stormwater system and create a master plan to identify a series of project improvements to improve the system. Conceptually, the idea would be to build a series of large reservoirs to hold and treat the stormwater. This held water would help with flooding, clean up the stormwater and later be used as a surficial aquifer, allowing for the treatment of potable drinking water and taking pressure off of the ground water aquifer. This same method has been utilized in other areas such as the four-county Peace River Water Authority with the help of the Southeast Water Management District. To get this concept off the ground here, analysis and master planning is now needed.

Local financial support is not readily available as County property taxes cannot be used for this effort (City residents already pay for City stormwater services) and special assessment districts on agricultural property are severely limited by State law. It is hoped that with this seed money that projects would be developed and a variety of funding sources could be accessed to fix this problem.
(continued)

• • • This project is expected to be a long-term legacy project affecting the western half of the County for generations to come. It is hoped this will serve as a rural model of stormwater management for the State, while at the same time protecting a rural way of life for Florida and Flagler in particular.

If funding for Flagler County of $750,000 for Phase I of the Project is appropriated, it would allow the collection of data and analysis and allow the creation of a blueprint for west Flagler County to develop projects that reduce flooding, treat stormwater before discharge, and potentially provide potable drinking water for residents and alternative water supply for agricultural usage for decades to come.

3 FLAGLER COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER HARDENING AND ENHANCEMENTS • REQUESTED FUNDING: $ 3,700,000

The requested funding will be for fortifying and expanding the Flagler County’s Emergency Operations Center, which received damage from Hurricane Irma. This facility serves as both the primary countywide command and control center during a significant emergency or disaster, such as a hurricane; as well as a shelter for many of the emergency workers supporting our community during a disaster. This project includes $700,000 to harden the existing facility, through an upgrade and replacement of the existing roof system; as well as $3,000,000 to expand the facility by 7,500 square feet, resulting in improved delivery of emergency and disaster services to our entire community.

Thank you