



# **2025 PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

November 25, 2024



State Senator  
Gayle Harrell of  
District 31



State Representative  
Toby Overdorf of  
District 85



State Senator Erin  
Grall (Delegation  
Chair) of District 29



State Representative  
Dana Trabulsy of  
District 84

CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE STATE DELEGATION

# STATE PROGRAM

- Aligns with Strategic Plan and complements Federal Legislative Program
- Provides means to advocate for vital state funding sources for critical projects and programs
- Developed in consultation with staff from City of Port St. Lucie Contract Lobbyist – Gray Robinson



## 2025 STATE PRIORITIES

- Westport Wastewater Nutrient Reduction Improvement Project
- Prineville Deep Injection Well
- A-14 Land Acquisition and Stormwater Treatment Area
- Legislation to Support High-Performance Public Spaces
- Real-Time Public Safety Operations Center
- Marshall Parkway/I-95 Interchange Study
- Pedestrian Safety Enhancements
- Tradition Community Center Conceptual Planning/Design
- Land Acquisition for Neighborhood Green Space: Gatlin Parcel
- Southern Grove & City Jobs Corridor
- Corridor of Opportunity: Primavista Boulevard
- FRDAP Funding
- Historic Preservation Funding
- Support funding for state programs/grants
- Before and After School Care Funding in conjunction with St. Lucie Public Schools

# WATER QUALITY/WATER SUPPLY

## WESTPORT WASTEWATER NUTRIENT REDUCTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- **Request \$5,000,000**
- The Westport WWTF improvements include the headworks, secondary treatment units, denitrification filters, electrical and other equipment, and reduction of Total Nitrogen to 3 mg/l and Total Phosphorus to 1 mg/l to provide Advanced Waste Treatment standards and comply with Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). The reduction of nutrients in reuse water used for irrigation in the local area will help reduce formation of harmful algal blooms in the St. Lucie River estuary basin, a tributary to the Indian River Lagoon. The total estimated cost for this project is \$55,000,000.

## PRINEVILLE DEEP INJECTION WELL

- **Request \$5,000,000**
- Deep Injection Wells are a popular solution to manage the waste stream and meet environmental limits/regulations. The goal is to design and construct a new industrial class tubing-and-packer Deep Injection Well (DIW) at the Prineville Water Treatment Facility drilled to a depth of approximately 3,200 feet. This is a critical mitigation activity that directly addresses the repeated risk of hurricane and tropical storm related hazards that affect the plant's ability to reliably produce water while managing the plant's waste streams. The estimated cost of this project is \$15,000,000.

# WATER QUALITY/WATER SUPPLY

## **A-14 Land Acquisition and Stormwater Treatment Area**

- **Request \$1,500,000**
  - The City of Port St. Lucie seeks to acquire land from a willing seller and construct a 5.16-acre stormwater treatment area (STA) adjacent to its A-14 water control structure located on SW Darwin Boulevard at the E-84 Canal. The project aims to treat polluted stormwater runoff from a residential area upstream of the A-14 Water Control Structure before it is discharged into the St. Lucie River. The project will help to reduce nutrient pollution and prevent toxic algal blooms in the estuary. State funding will support local efforts that decrease nitrogen and phosphorus loads by 2,915.18 lbs./year (42%) and 711.35 lbs./year (64%).
  - Additionally, the City wishes to develop walking trails and recreational amenities that connect to the adjacent, city-owned parcel. The City has submitted an Indian River Lagoon Water Quality Improvement Grant that is pending, however the City is limited in its ability to develop a high-performance public space to maximize public benefits, given current grant restrictions.

# WATER QUALITY/WATER SUPPLY

## Legislation to Support High-Performance Public Spaces

### Request:

- Expand grant eligibility to recreational elements such as trails and park amenities when acquiring land for infrastructure and stormwater projects and stormwater amenities for park projects in order to create high-performance public spaces that maximize public benefits and provide enhanced value to taxpayers.
- Currently state and federal grant funding restrictions can limit the integration of such multifunctional uses due to siloed policies with singular purposes, focusing on solely stormwater or recreation. Such policy barrier presents a missed opportunity to address growth with innovation and collaborative projects.

# PUBLIC SAFETY

## REAL-TIME PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS CENTER

- **Request: Support for feasibility study/conceptual design**
- This project would include a dedicated Emergency Operations Center, Realtime Crime Center and Traffic Operations Center to advance City traffic operations, improve our ability to effectively respond to the 250,000 residents in the City/s 121 square miles and remain the safest large city in Florida.

## MARSHALL PARKWAY/ I-95 INTERCHANGE STUDY

- **Request: Support for study/conceptual plan**
- The Marshall Parkway/I95 interchange is a future interchange that requires studies, state approval and designated funding. The City supports advancing funding to begin to evaluate the interchange given the growing population.

## PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS

- **Request: \$2,700,000**
- This project includes connection enhancements that advance pedestrian safety, including improved crosswalks, signage, corridor realignment and sidewalk connections.



# PARKS & NATURAL LANDS

## TRADITION COMMUNITY CENTER CONCEPTUAL PLANNING/DESIGN

- **Request: Conceptual Design**
- The City of Port St. Lucie currently has two community centers in its 121 square miles and none in growing western Port St. Lucie. The planned Tradition Regional Park will provide the next community center in a subsequent phase. This request initiates the conceptual planning process. Community Centers are eventually planned for all areas of the City.

## LAND ACQUISITION FOR NEIGHBORHOOD GREEN SPACE: GATLIN PARCEL

- **Request: \$1,000,000**
- The City is exploring acquiring a 1.51-acre parcel located at 1094 SW Gatlin Boulevard in an area outside of any 10-minute walking distance to a park in an area with high-population density. Acquisition would preserve and expand the tree canopy and provide a future passive park that is adjacent to the City's drainage right of way.

# ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## **SOUTHERN GROVE & CITY JOBS CORRIDOR**

- **Request:** The City of Port St Lucie is seeking funding assistance for roadway and other infrastructure improvement projects in the City's current and future jobs corridors through available federal sources to advance job creation and economic development.
- The City's Jobs Corridor in Southern Grove is generating new jobs and opportunities in Port St. Lucie, a key priority of the City Council. The City is also seeking to develop job corridors in other locations of the City.

## **CORRIDOR OF OPPORTUNITY: PRIMAVISTA BOULEVARD**

- **Request:** Support for Conceptual Design
- The City is exploring land acquisitions and partnerships with St. Lucie Public Schools, the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County, Indian River State College, St. Lucie County and the St. Lucie County Economic Development Council (EDC) on maximizing the potential public benefits of the Primavista Boulevard. This project would support the design of public spaces that would provide more efficient and effective service delivery to taxpayers and provide greater opportunities for educational and economic advancement.

## PROGRAMS WE ARE SUPPORTING

- St. Lucie County's 2025 Legislative Program
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Work Program
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) State Beautification Funding (Keep Florida Beautiful)
- Florida Department of Commerce
- Indian River Lagoon-South and Everglades Restoration
- Before and After School Care

## SUPPORTING POLICIES AND PROGRAMS



- Florida League of Cities Legislative Action Agenda
- St. Lucie County's State Legislative Program

# 2025 STATE POLICY STATEMENTS

- Mobility Fees
- Attainable Housing
- Sovereign Immunity
- Public Records Exemption for Elected Officials
- Property Accessed Clean Energy
- Streamlined Permitting for Railroad Crossings
- Septic to Sewer Conversion
- County and Municipal Code Enforcement
- Funding for Cybersecurity Initiatives

# POLICIES WE ARE SUPPORTING

## Florida League of Cities

- Resolutions approved by the following Florida League of Cities Policy Committees: Finance, Taxation and Personnel, Land Use and Economic Development, Municipal Administration, Transportation and Intergovernmental Relations, and Utilities, Natural Resources and Public Works.

## Mobility Fees

- Support the continued ability of municipalities to utilize a mobility fee to ensure fees paid by new development in the City are spent in a timely manner within or adjacent to the City to provide mobility projects (improvements & services); to ensure the City can prioritize mobility projects that best meets the needs of the City; and to advance mobility projects.

## Attainable Housing

- The City supports efforts to mitigate the rising costs of housing for low-moderate income residents and workforce personnel.

## Sovereign Immunity

- The City opposes any changes to the \$200,000 (per person)/\$300,000 (per incident) caps for sovereign immunity

## Public Records Exemption For Elected Officials

- The City supports a public records exemption for the home addresses, dates of birth, and telephone numbers of elected officials.

# POLICIES WE ARE SUPPORTING

## Property Accessed Clean Energy

- The City of Port St. Lucie proposes an amendment to section 163.08, Florida Statutes, to clarify that “Any separate legal entity created pursuant to s. 163.01(7), must have the written consent of each county or municipality within which it intends to operate through an interlocal agreement before providing and financing qualifying improvements within that county or municipality.”

## Streamlined Permitting For Railroad Crossings

- The City supports increased cooperation between Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Florida East Coast Railroad (FEC) and local governments to facilitate streamlined permitting to ensure secure railway crossings.

## Septic To Sewer Conversions

- The City supports funding to encourage residents to convert from septic tanks to sewer systems to curb pollution that enters water bodies. Port St. Lucie would like to finalize one of the nation’s largest municipal septic to sewer conversions by assisting residents.

## County and Municipal Code Enforcement

- The City supports efforts to amend section 125.69, Florida Statutes, to allow for residents to submit anonymous code complaints to their local government.

## Funding for Cybersecurity Initiatives

- The City supports funding of the competitive grant program through the Florida Digital Service to fund cybersecurity initiatives in cities and counties

## 2025 STATE LEGISLATURE IMPORTANT DATES

- December 9-13, 2024: Interim Committee Week
- December 16, 2024: St. Lucie County Legislative Delegation Meeting
- January 13-17, 2025: Interim Committee Week
- January 20-24, 2025: Interim Committee Week
- January 24, 2025 5:00 p.m. All requests for drafts of general bills, memorials, and joint resolutions, including requests for companion bills must be submitted
- February 3-7, 2025: Interim Committee Week
- February 10-14, 2025: Interim Committee Week
- February 17-21, 2025: Interim Committee Week



# 2025 STATE LEGISLATURE IMPORTANT DATES

- February 28, 2025: 5:00 p.m. All drafts of general bills, memorials, and joint resolutions, including drafts for companion bills, must be approved to file in final form
- **March 4, 2025:** **Regular Session Convenes**
- March 25-26, 2025: Florida League of Cities Legislative Action Days
- April 19, 2025: Motion to reconsider made and considered the same day (Senate Rule 6.4(4)) All bills are immediately certified (Senate Rule 6.8)
- April 22, 2025: 50th day Last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings
- **May 2, 2025: 60th day** **Last day of Regular Session**



DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS?

November 25, 2024